Institutional Research Repository Access

# What is the Institutional Research Repository?

To help meet the needs for individuals engaged in deep-dive institutional research studies, a database called Institutional\_Research\_Repository (IRR) is available. The IRR holds a number of LionPath query data snapshots extracted each term. These frozen snapshots serve as standardized, unofficial data sources for University-wide analysis of student-related data which may not available through iTwo. The IRR also contains official data sources supplied by the Office of Planning and Assessment.

The IRR is **NOT** an operational data source. IRR data will not be updated daily or weekly. Users needing frequently updated data should use an alternative source such as iTwo, LionPATH queries, or LionPATH interface files. Approved users can connect directly to the IRR and avoid iTWO row limit and data exporting issues.

# Example IRR Research Projects

Typical projects that IRR is designed to support include, but are not limited to:

* University-wide student research
* Cohort retention studies
* Studies of student progression/flow
* Longitudinal student analyses

# Access to the IRR

University employees who wish to be considered for IRR access must meet the following qualifications:

* Have completed FERPA training.
* Have data warehouse access, or have completed and passed the data warehouse mandatory training (<http://ais.its.psu.edu/support/forms/warehouse-training/> )
* Have access to the SR Data Analyst set of LionPATH queries.

In addition, they should:

* Conduct analyses under the aegis of a University executive (e.g., vice president, vice provost, dean, chancellor).
* Conduct analyses used to inform University decision-making and planning in areas such as admissions, financial aid, curriculum, enrollment management, student retention, student life, staffing, facilities, and finance.
* Have experience and training in data analysis, particularly focusing on human subjects data.

# Skills Necessary to Utilize the IRR

Analysts using the IRR should have the following skills:

* Experience using relational databases (including the use of SQL)
* Experience developing queries and joining tables
* Experience using calculated fields in relational databases

Institutional Research Repository Access Request

1. Name:
2. Access ID:
3. Unit:
4. Supervisor:
5. Name of the executive for whom you will be performing analyses using the IRR:
6. Please describe your past experience using relational databases referencing the necessary skills above.
7. Please provide an example of the type of research you plan to conduct using the IRR.

Documentation is attached documenting requestor’s access to LionPATH SR Data Analyst queries. Access cannot be provided to the IRR without this prerequisite step.

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|  |  |
| User’s Signature | Date |
|  |  |
| Budget Unit Executive’s Signature | Date |

**To Submit:** Email this form to the Office of Planning and Assessment at [opa@psu.edu](mailto:opa@psu.edu).