

Skidmore College
Office of Institutional Research

Mission Statement

The Office of Institutional Research (OIR) at Skidmore College conducts research informed by the College's goals, aspirations, and strategic priorities to assist administrative and faculty leadership in planning, decision-making, resource allocation, and policy development. OIR studies and assessments support efforts to sustain and improve the academic excellence and operational effectiveness of Skidmore College.

The Office accomplishes its mission through the following.

A) External & Internal Reporting:

- a. **Reporting externally:** Collects, analyzes, and provides data to comply with mandatory regulations and enhance the visibility of the College. OIR ensures such work is used for internal understanding when possible.
 - i. Mandatory: Federal, State, and Accreditation (IPEDS, NYSED, Middle States, NCAA, etc.)
 - ii. Voluntary: Publisher guidebook surveys and associations (US News, Princeton Review, Common Data Set, etc.)
 - iii. Associations: Consortia and data-sharing agreements (HEDS, College Board, CICU, New York 6, etc.)
- b. **Reporting internally:** Maintains official enrollment numbers and fulfills requests including
 - i. College facts and IR website
 - ii. Ad hoc and routine requests from college constituencies (department review, grant applications, etc.)

B) Research Studies & Survey Research:

- a. Conducts specialized research studies in support of campus priorities and goals that inform the concerns of the senior administration, college committees, etc. Priority is placed on research that is useful rather than simply interesting to know. Examples include student success research, peer comparisons & benchmarking, decision support studies, occasional papers, department & program review assistance, ratings of teaching analyses, grant-related research and assessment, etc.
- b. Administers and coordinates all-College surveys and report findings (NSSE, Non-Returning Student Survey, HEDS Alumni Survey, climate surveys, COACHE, etc.). Administers the all-College Student Ratings of Courses and Teaching process

C) Institutional Effectiveness & Assessment

- a. Fosters a culture of assessment to inform decision-making, promote student success, and ensure operational effectiveness.
- b. In collaboration with the Faculty Director of Assessment provides support, guidance, and consultation to assist institutional leadership, administrative divisions, and academic departments and programs with assessment, assessment of student learning outcomes, general education outcomes, and administrative objectives.
- c. Guides, coordinates, and supports Middle States accreditation.