Privacy Policy

The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment web site is an information resource and service for the public, and its privacy policy applies to all pages of the web site (pages containing oira.auburn.edu or ir.auburn.edu).

1. Commitment to Confidentiality

The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment regards the security and confidentiality of data and information to be of utmost importance. Each employee is required to understand and abide by Federal and State guidelines, and by University and Departmental policies and procedures regarding confidentiality of data, including, but not limited to, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Each OIRA employee, consultant, student assistant or person granted access to data and information holds a position of trust and must preserve the security and confidentiality of information he/she uses. Access to University data and information systems by the aforementioned individuals is for the purpose of carrying out job responsibilities. Consequences for employees' breaching of confidentiality may result in sanctions, civil or criminal prosecution and penalties, employment and/or University disciplinary action, and could lead to dismissal, suspension or revocation of all access privileges.

2. Data Disclosure

The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment discloses information to the public on its web site and to parties within the institution, governing entities, and private companies as requested and deemed appropriate by the office. Data published on the web site includes aggregate statistical data that contains no personally identifiable information. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment adheres to guidelines outlined in FERPA regarding the disclosure of education records and directory information.

3. Surveys

Occasionally, the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment collects personal information from users through surveys and questionnaires. Participation in surveys administered by the office is voluntary. The choice to participate or not does not affect one’s relationship with Auburn University or OIRA.

3.1. User Authentication

Many surveys administered by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment incorporate various methods of user authentication. User authentication restricts survey access to a set of individuals who are pre-selected and invited to participate in the survey.
Selected individuals may receive an invitation via e-mail or printed letter, which includes instructions for completing the survey, the survey web address and optional information that may be used to uniquely identify each survey response.

Some surveys administered by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment allow participants to submit responses anonymously, while others identify the responses of individual users. Depending on the sample, non-anonymous survey responses may be combined with existing demographic, academic or personnel information regarding Auburn University students, alumni, faculty and staff for further analysis. Every survey conducted by the office will inform survey participants of how their responses are collected. OIRA assures the confidentiality of survey responses and will not release information that uniquely identifies the responses of any survey participant.

3.2. Security

OIRA ensures the security and confidentiality of survey data. A Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) Certificate with 40-bit encryption is utilized to secure survey web pages. SSL is a protocol that enables data to be encrypted before sending it across a network, which provides a high degree of confidentiality. The addresses of survey web pages begin with “https”, instead of “http”, which indicates the page is secure. Once submitted, all survey responses are stored in tables on a secure database server that is accessible only to authorized Auburn University staff.

4. Disclaimer

All reports published on the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment web site are provided for informational purposes only. Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the data published on the web site, it is not guaranteed. Information is subject to change without notice. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment is not responsible for damages or errors that may result from the usage of data published on its web site.

5. Contact

Please address any questions or suggestions regarding this privacy policy to the following:

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