STUDENT IDENTIFIERS

HERI uses the Student ID# for three purposes:

> • To link the responses of individual students to our follow-up surveys to their responses on the Freshman Survey, providing a longitudinal file by which changes in student activities, attitudes, and goals can be measured.
> • To allow institutions to merge data from the Freshman Survey to data they keep on the students throughout their college careers, allowing similar sorts of longitudinal analyses.
> • To help locate current addresses of students for the purpose of administering long-term follow-ups.

The CIRP surveys ask students to provide their "**STUDENT ID# (as instructed)**."

YOU MUST INSTRUCT YOUR STUDENTS WHICH STUDENT IDENTIFIER TO ENTER IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.

The Student ID field allows for up to 13 alpha or numeric characters. If your student identifier is less than 13 characters long, please instruct students to enter their identifiers starting with the **leftmost box**, leaving any unused boxes blank.

To maximize the utility of these data for institutional research purposes, we suggest that for paper administrations, you encourage students to provide their student ID in the field on the first page of the survey. For web administrations, we suggest you consider pre-populating the email file that you send to HERI with student IDs. Note that if a student fails to provide a student ID when he or she completes the survey instrument, you will not be able to merge his/her CIRP Freshman Survey data with data from other campus files. Further, we want to provide the most accurate match possible to ensure consistency with our follow-up surveys. This provides the best longitudinal data for institutions that would like to analyze data from multiple CIRP surveys.

Failure to give this instruction to students may result in the students entering no identifier at all, or different students entering different identifiers. Either of these outcomes would reduce the long-term value you can derive from the results of the survey.

Please note that significant errors in the Student ID field that require additional data cleaning by CIRP may be subject to an extra processing fee.