Issues with the Graduate Assistants IPEDS HR Survey Report (NO LONGER AN ISSUE beginning with 2016-17 IPEDS HR SURVEY)

Beginning with the Fall 2016 HR IPEDS Survey, The IPEDS Graduate Assistants report (Part D) contains the following IPEDS occupational categories:

Teaching
Research
Other

The five USG BCATS that denote Graduate Assistants were assigned the following SOC categories (BCAT 909 is new for Fall 2016):

BCAT	BCAT_DESC	SOC_IPEDS_DESC
905	Graduate Assistant	Office and Administrative Support Occupations
906	Graduate Lab Assistant	Computer, Engineering, and Science Occupations
907	Graduate Research Assistant	Computer, Engineering, and Science Occupations
908	Graduate Teaching Assistant	Graduate Assistants - Teaching
909	Graduate Assistant (Hourly)	Office and Administrative Support Occupations

Beginning with the Fall 2016 report, these BCATS will now appear in the following categories on the report:

BCAT	BCAT_DESC	SOC_IPEDS_DESC
905	Graduate Assistant	Graduate Assistants - Other
906	Graduate Lab Assistant	Graduate Assistants - Other
907	Graduate Research Assistant	Graduate Assistants - Research
908	Graduate Teaching Assistant	Graduate Assistants - Teaching
909	Graduate Assistant (Hourly)	Graduate Assistants - Other

This new categorization should resolve the issues that this document described for past years' reporting.

For reference, below is a description of the issues that are now resolved. Issue no. 1 was resolved in Fall 2014, but issue no. 2 was still outstanding until this year. This means that BCAT 905 Graduate Assistants will no longer be left out of the survey, but will appear in the "Other" column. **No manual updates will be required.**

Former issues (now resolved):

We have had two issues with the Graduate Assistants report in the past 2 HR IPEDS reporting years:

1. Records with BCAT 905 have been left off the Graduate Assistants report since there is no category for them (the Graduate Assistant Survey does not include the Office and Administrative Support category), and consequently left out of the entire upload file. Institutions with these graduate assistants have had to manually input them into the appropriate categories in the upload data.

2. Records with BCAT 907 have been put in the Computer , Engineering, and Science category instead of the Graduate Assistants – Research category.

For Fall 2014 reporting, we have changed this report so that all the records with BCAT 907 will now be counted in the Graduate Assistants – Research category, regardless of the SOC category to which they map.

However, we have not found a solution for the first issue. Institutions have been determining which IPEDS categories to use for the general Graduate Assistant BCAT (905) based on their local practices, and since such identifiers (e.g., Department Codes) are local and not consistent across institutions, there is currently no known way of identifying the categories for all Graduate Assistants with BCAT 905.

Until we find a solution, institutions with these BCAT 905 Graduate Assistants will need to continue to update the IPEDS upload data manually.