



WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Data Governance Program Charter

Office of Institutional Research & Effectiveness

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Purpose

The purpose of the Wright State University Data Governance Program is to ensure that institutional data is accurate, consistent, secure, and accessible to support effective decision-making across the university. Through coordinated stewardship and shared accountability, data governance enables Wright State to manage data as a strategic institutional asset in service of its mission, students, and region.

By establishing clear roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes, the Data Governance Program promotes trust in institutional data and supports the university's ability to make informed, timely, and responsible decisions.

Strategic Alignment

The Data Governance Program directly supports Wright State University's [strategic priority to achieve sustainability through optimized strategic resources](#).

Wright State's commitment to data-informed decision making requires confidence in the quality, consistency, and appropriate use of institutional data. Data governance provides the foundation necessary to analyze student success and fiscal resources with greater efficiency and purpose by ensuring that decisions are based on accurate and well-defined information.

Through effective data governance, the university strengthens its ability to:

- Evaluate resource utilization and institutional performance in support of student success
- Support long-term financial sustainability while maintaining student accessibility and academic quality
- Use timely, reliable data to improve student outcomes of persistence, success and completion
- Respond proactively to changing enrollment patterns, workforce needs, and regional demands
- Meet accreditation, compliance, and reporting needs with confidence

By aligning governance practices with strategic priorities, Wright State University positions data as a critical component of institutional longevity, operational effectiveness, and student success. The Data Governance Program ensures that data supports the university's ability to deliver high-quality, affordable education and lasting value to its students and region.

Scope

Establish and sustain an institution-wide data governance program aligned with industry best practices to support adherence to policies and standards, enable consistent data definition and lineage, build organizational data awareness, and facilitate appropriate, timely access to data while collaborating on the identification of data security risks.

Guiding Principles

The Wright State University Data Governance Program is guided by principles that set expectations for how data is managed and used to support the university's mission and priorities.

1. **Data Is a Strategic Asset.** Data is a shared resource that supports student success, academic excellence, and operational effectiveness. Responsible data management enables informed decision-making.

2. **Stewardship Is Shared.** Effective data governance requires shared accountability among data owners, stewards, and users to ensure data is clearly defined, maintained, and used appropriately.
3. **Transparency Builds Trust.** Decisions, definitions, and standards are documented and communicated to promote consistency and confidence in data.
4. **Governance Enables Responsible Use.** Common definitions, standards, and processes reduce duplication, support appropriate access, and ensure consistent, shareable data.
5. **Continuous Improvement.** Governance practices evolve with institutional needs and priorities to sustain long-term effectiveness.

Program Objectives

The Wright State University Data Governance Program aims to:

- Clarify data ownership, stewardship, and accountability
- Improve cross-functional collaboration on definitions, standards, and use cases
- Enhance data literacy to enable responsible self-service and informed decision-making
- Reduce duplication in curation and reporting, focusing resources on higher-value analysis

These principles reinforce the governance framework and the pillars of stewardship, quality, access, and standards.

Data Governance Framework

Data governance ensures data is accurate, consistent, secure, and properly used to support decision-making. It relies on people, processes, and technology to provide structure, accountability, and efficiency.

The framework rests on four pillars—stewardship, quality, access, and standards—bridged by data literacy to foster a culture of data-informed decisions.

Stewardship: Assigns responsibility and ensures data is accurate, used appropriately, and protected.

Quality: Ensures data is reliable, consistent, and relevant, supporting trustworthy reporting and decision-making.

Access: Controls secure, responsible retrieval and use, balancing availability with privacy and compliance.

Standards: Defines policies, formats, and classifications to ensure consistency and enable effective use.

Governance Structure

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is comprised of members of the President's Cabinet. This committee provides oversight and supports the prioritization and allocation of funding and resources. It also resolves issues escalated from the Data Governance Council.

The Executive Committee is updated by senior leaders within the Data Governance Council.

Data Governance Council

The Data Governance Council is the primary decision-making group. Council members establish procedures and standards, approve process and policy recommendations, advocate for resources, and guide and monitor university-wide data governance efforts.

Meetings are held quarterly or as needed.

Data Trustees

Data Trustees are senior leaders responsible for institutional data and related processes. Trustees ensure data integrity, protection, usability, and compliance with Wright State policies, state laws, and federal regulations.

Communication is as needed.

Data Stewards

Data stewards manage data within their domains, maintaining data quality and ensuring proper documentation. Stewards manage the full data lifecycle, ensuring proper use, storage, and protection.

Meetings are held monthly.

Review and Measures of Success

The Wright State University Data Governance Program is designed to evolve in alignment with institutional priorities and emerging needs.

Review

The Data Governance Council will periodically review governance practices, structures, and priorities to ensure continued alignment with the university's strategic plan. Recommended updates to policies, standards, or business processes will be brought forward as needed to support institutional effectiveness.

Measures of Success

The effectiveness of the Data Governance Program may be assessed using a combination of qualitative and quantitative indicators focused on program maturity and institutional impact, such as:

- Timely and consistent governance decision-making
- Increased clarity and consistency of institutional data definitions and standards
- Improved transparency of data access and usage processes
- Reduced duplication in data curation and reporting efforts
- Evidence of growing data literacy and confidence in institutional data

These measures are intended to inform continuous improvement and support a culture of data-informed decision-making.