Academic Analytics at Iowa State University: Use and Access 2019

What is Academic Analytics?

Academic Analytics is a subscription-based online comparative database of select research metrics across North American research institutions. The comprehensive database includes over 270,000 faculty members associated with more than 9,000 Ph.D. programs and 10,000 departments at more than 385 universities in the United States.

The data are structured to enable comparisons at a discipline-by-discipline level as well as overall university performance. Data are collected in six areas of research activity: publication of scholarly works as books and journal articles; citations to published journal articles; research funding by federal agencies; number of journal articles, citations, books, grants by faculty members; dollar amount awarded from grants: honorific awards . Academics Analytics aggregates, curates, visualizes, and contextualizes data on the research created by scholars. Their tools give institutional leaders a new understanding of the research accomplishments of scholars, departments, programs, and the entire institution. They suggest directions in which to grow the research footprint strategically and in line with the university's mission.

Iowa State University subscribes to Academic Analytics (AA) and has access to its most recent database and **Research Insight** tool, in addition to custom reports. The AA tools provide information on some of the scholarly accomplishments of our faculty and how our departments compare nationally. Additional information on Academic Analytics is available at www.academicanalytics.com.

How is Academic Analytics used at Iowa State University?

The Offices of Institutional Research and the Senior Vice President and Provost at Iowa State manage access to and use of Academic Analytics data and analytical tools to inform strategic planning and decision-making about which research opportunities to pursue; which collaborations and partnerships to forge; how best to allocate resources in support of research; and how to gauge progress towards the university's strategic planning goals. Academic Analytics is **not** a primary or sole source to inform personnel actions, like annual review, promotion and tenure review, or post tenure review of faculty.

Iowa State uses Academic Analytics to help grow the university's research enterprise in alignment with the Strategic Plan. The data provided by the Academics Analytics tools and reports may assist the institution in:
- identifying relevant external grant opportunities
- developing interdisciplinary relationships and collaborative networks among ISU faculty
- identifying faculty who are competitive for prestigious external awards and nominating them
- informing program reviews

- benchmarking
- strategic academic planning
- budget discussions
- identifying current and aspirational peer institutions

Academic Analytics staff can provide ISU leaders with tailored reports which allow each college and department to identify and access the information that best meets their strategic planning needs.

Who has access to Academic Analytics?

Access to the database (i.e., the AA portal) is granted via approval and completion of the credentialing process. Academic Analytics requires that all individuals complete a WebEx training before access is granted to the system.

Administrators will have access to information about individuals or units that report to them, either directly or indirectly after approval from their college or unit and completion of this credentialing. Users should remain cognizant of the sensitivity of the data and have acknowledged their responsibilities by completing the user agreement.

Based on recommendations from the Academic Analytics Advisory Committee, the following permissions for access to the **database** have been established:

- **Senior Leadership (President, SVP, VPs in the Academic Division)**: have access to all campus data.
- **College Deans and Associate Deans**: have access to data for their colleges. They may assign one or more designees, e.g., a senior-level administrative assistant.
- **Department Chairs:** have access to data for their college. They may assign one or more designees, e.g., an associate chair.
- **Individual Faculty**: may submit a request to the approving unit to access data for their department.

Access to the **Research Insight** tool is available to the above-listed administrators as well as to any individual faculty member. Individual faculty members may request access to Research Insights by contacting the Vice President for Research directly and completing the required credentialing process.

Exceptions and interim requests will be handled on a case by case basis. Request for access must be approved by the College Dean who will then communicate with IR to grant access.

Communication between ISU and Academic Analytics

The Office of Institutional Research will serve as the Primary Contact between Academic Analytics and ISU and will retain current access records.

The Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost will contact IR to notify them of changes to **database** users on an ad hoc basis. Each VP unit and college will have responsibility for determining the level of access a user may have and communicating this to the Provost's Office.

The Office of the Vice President for Research will serve as the contact for **Research Insight**. Users of Research Insight will have standalone access only.

Accuracy of Information

A current list of active ISU faculty will be generated annually by IR and sent to Academic Analytics to load comparative database. Users should contact IR to report incorrect or missing information and IR will communicate this information to Academic Analytics in appropriate cases.