EAB

Edify

CASE STUDY

IPEDS Completion Is 75% Faster with Automated Data Preparation And File Formatting

Mount Saint Mary's University, a private college in Los Angeles, CA

- **About**: Mount Saint Mary's University (MSMU) is a private college with 3,000 students, a 72% retention rate, and a 63% six-year graduation rate.
- **Challenge:** Like every American university that receives federal financial aid funding, MSMU is required to submit a large amount of data to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)'s Integrated Post-Secondary Education Data System (IPEDS). MSMU's existing process for gathering, organizing, and submitting data consumed 40 tedious hours of staff time across multiple research analysts. It required manual data input and a time-consuming verification process to ensure accuracy prior to submission.
- **Solution:** MSMU used Rapid Insight to develop workflows for the IPEDS Completions Survey, one of three major reporting periods each year. The workflows gather data from all relevant sources and compile a clean, accurate file for automated upload to the NCES. The saved, repeatable workflows can be reused each IPEDS cycle with minimal updates to match new IPEDS submission guidelines.
- **Impact:** Rapid Insight reduced the time required to finish the Completions Survey by 75%, from 40 hours to 10. This freed up two staff members to work on other institutional priorities. MSMU currently uses Rapid Insight for the IPEDS Completions Survey and plans to develop workflows for the remaining IPEDS surveys.

Impact Highlights

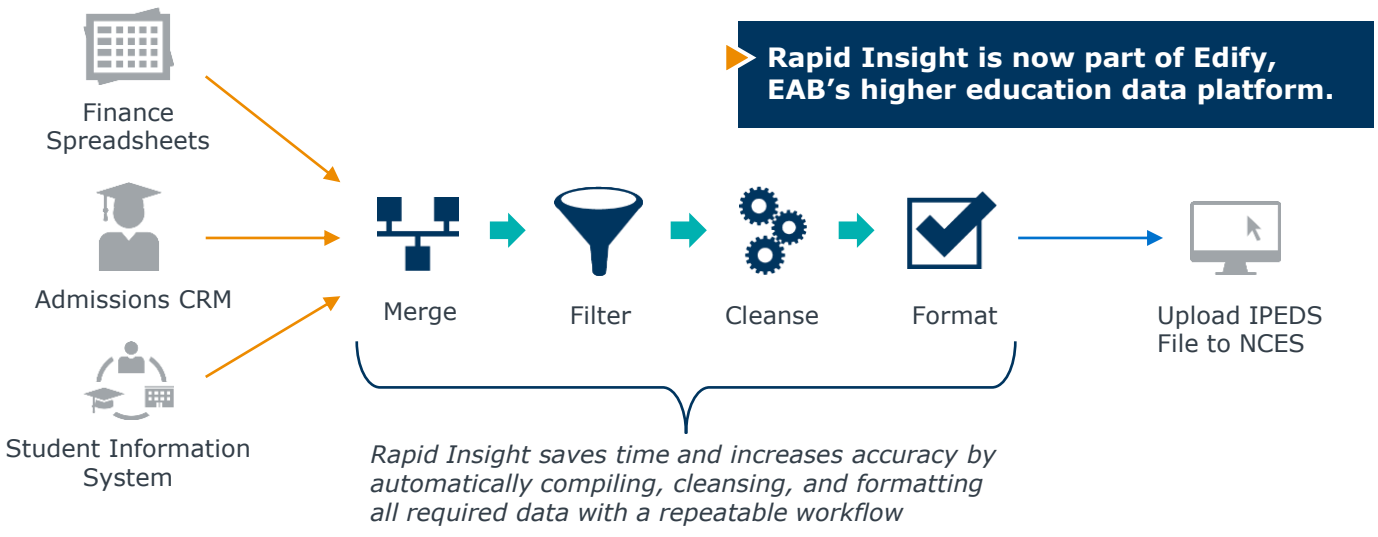
75%
Reduction in time required to submit IPEDS surveys

2
Staff members with added capacity for other projects

30
Hours saved on data entry and validation

Automated Workflows Accelerate IPEDS Data Gathering and Formatting

Rapid Insight Compiles Campus Data and Outputs a Formatted File for Upload



Rapid Insight is now part of Edify, EAB's higher education data platform.

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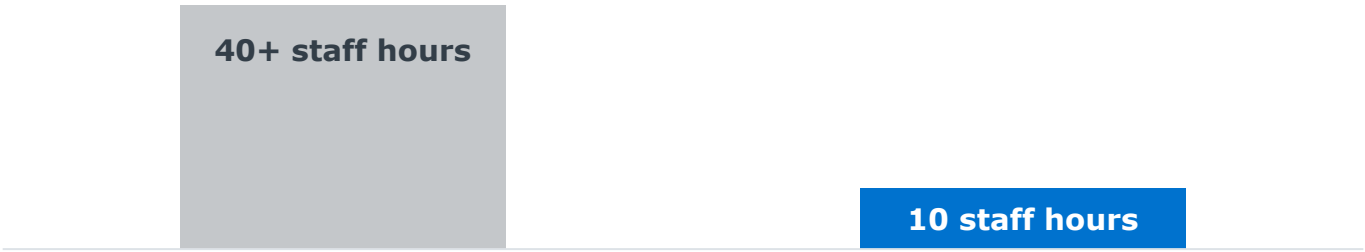
IPEDS Reporting at MSMU: Before and After Rapid Insight

Staff Hours Required for IPEDS Completion Report



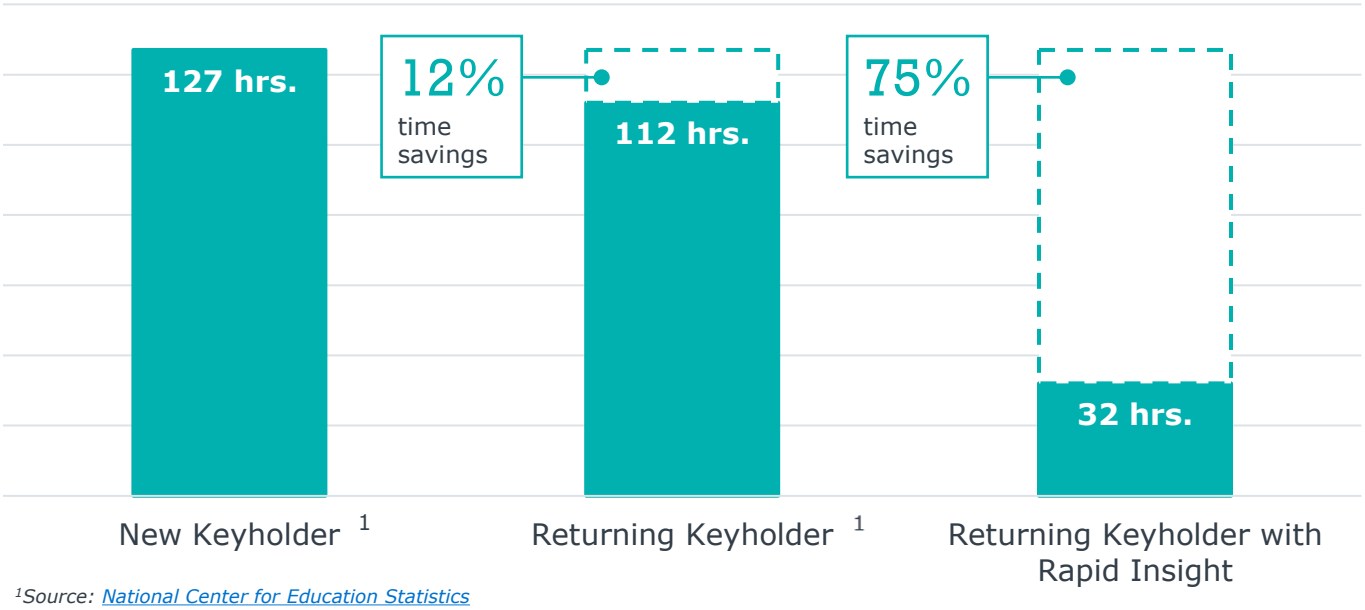
Before Rapid Insight	With Rapid Insight
✖ IR Director **manually compiled data** in a reference report	✔ Data exports in an **accurate, formatted file** for easy IPEDS upload
✖ Two IR staff members **checked every line** of the report for accuracy	✔ Director of IR **reviews the data** for completeness
✖ IR Director **entered data page-by-page** on the NCES site	✔ Data **uploaded in a single click**, and **repeatable workflows** can be re-used each cycle with minimal updates

> “Rapid Insight significantly reduced the time for manual entry and verification.”
>
> *Maria Narvaez, Director of Institutional Research & Planning*

Rapid Insight Drives Significant IPEDS Submission Time Reduction

Experience Quickens the IPEDS Process, But Pairing Experience with Rapid Insight Drastically Reduces Burden

Total Annual Keyholder Time Commitment for IPEDS Reporting



[1]*Source: National Center for Education Statistics*

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