

# Memo

To: Data Community  
From: Molly Amstutz, IDA+A Senior Director & Chief Data Officer  
Date: April 29, 2024  
Subject: Race/Ethnicity Data Collection Changes

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As of 3/28/2024, the federal government changed [how we collect and report race & ethnicity](#).

## Notable Changes:

- Race and ethnicity are now in a single question – formerly a series of 2 questions
- Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) is a new category – formerly in the “white” category
- A more detailed collection by federal agencies is required as a default unless the burden outweighs the benefits. *TBD if IPEDS will pursue an exemption.*

## Implications:

- Hispanic counts will likely decrease
- MENA will likely increase over a period of approximately 4 years for students before plateauing
- White counts will likely decrease
- Two or more races will likely increase as a result of the preceding bullets

We are awaiting the IPEDS decision on pursuing an exemption on a more detailed collection, but IDA+A and our campus partners are preparing for systems updates. See below for a comparison of a detailed collection versus a minimum categories collection.

**Figure 1. Race and Ethnicity Question with Minimum Categories, Multiple Detailed Checkboxes, and Write-In Response Areas with Example Groups**

**What is your race and/or ethnicity?**  
*Select all that apply and enter additional details in the spaces below.*

**American Indian or Alaska Native** – *Enter, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, Aztec, Maya, etc.*

**Asian** – *Provide details below.*

Chinese                       Asian Indian                       Filipino  
 Vietnamese                       Korean                       Japanese

*Enter, for example, Pakistani, Hmong, Afghan, etc.*

**Black or African American** – *Provide details below.*

African American                       Jamaican                       Haitian  
 Nigerian                       Ethiopian                       Somali

*Enter, for example, Trinidadian and Tobagonian, Ghanaian, Congolese, etc.*

**Hispanic or Latino** – *Provide details below.*

Mexican                       Puerto Rican                       Salvadoran  
 Cuban                       Dominican                       Guatemalan

*Enter, for example, Colombian, Honduran, Spaniard, etc.*

**Middle Eastern or North African** – *Provide details below.*

Lebanese                       Iranian                       Egyptian  
 Syrian                       Iraqi                       Israeli

*Enter, for example, Moroccan, Yemeni, Kurdish, etc.*

**Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander** – *Provide details below.*

Native Hawaiian                       Samoan                       Chamorro  
 Tongan                       Fijian                       Marshallese

*Enter, for example, Chuukese, Palauan, Tahitian, etc.*

**White** – *Provide details below.*

English                       German                       Irish  
 Italian                       Polish                       Scottish

*Enter, for example, French, Swedish, Norwegian, etc.*

**Figure 2. Race and Ethnicity Question with Minimum Categories Only and Examples**

**What is your race and/or ethnicity?**  
*Select all that apply.*

**American Indian or Alaska Native**  
*For example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, Aztec, Maya, etc.*

**Asian**  
*For example, Chinese, Asian Indian, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, etc.*

**Black or African American**  
*For example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.*

**Hispanic or Latino**  
*For example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Salvadoran, Cuban, Dominican, Guatemalan, etc.*

**Middle Eastern or North African**  
*For example, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Iraqi, Israeli, etc.*

**Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander**  
*For example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.*

**White**  
*For example, English, German, Irish, Italian, Polish, Scottish, etc.*