

College Mathematics Project – CMP Research Database

CMP Policy on the Acceptable Use of the Database

Introduction

The College Mathematics Project (CMP) is an initiative of the York/Seneca Institute for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education (YSIMSTE). It is designed to analyse the mathematics achievement of first semester college students in relation to their secondary school mathematics background and to promote deliberation over ways to increase student success. The CMP research team collects data from colleges concerning students' programs, their college mathematics achievement, and their secondary school backgrounds. It then integrates and analyses these data based on research questions approved by the CMP steering committee, and displays the results in a web-based database.

The CMP philosophy is based on the mutual trust and respect of members of both school and college communities, on the belief that student success is the responsibility of all participants in the educational process, and on the commitment to support good decision-making with research wherever possible. To this end, CMP has developed two principal policy statements: the CMP Policy on Data Confidentiality and this CMP Policy on the Acceptable Use of the Database.

This CMP Database is available for use by approved users in both Colleges and District School Boards. However, much of the data has been obtained from students on the basis of the permission they grant to colleges during their application process which allows use for statistical and research purposes. Accordingly, the uses to which CMP data can appropriately be put are also limited and CMP has been approved by the Seneca College Research Ethics Board on this basis. CMP Database users are therefore required to read and agree to the following conditions of acceptable use.

Approved Users

Access to the CMP database is limited to members of the CMP research team and to approved users from the participating Colleges and District School Boards. In the case of College users, access must be requested by the Vice-President, Academic of the College. In the case of School Board users, access must be requested by a Superintendent of Education from the School

Board. The application forms for user registration are provided on the CMP web site under the CMP Research Database tab (<http://collegemathproject.senecac.on.ca/cmp/research.php>).

Acceptable Uses

Consistent with the philosophy of CMP as outlined earlier and the approvals granted to CMP by students and the Seneca College Research Ethics Board, the CMP Research Database is intended to be used for the improvement of student success at both school and college level. Examples of acceptable use include the following:

- Analysis of the achievement of students who have followed a variety of different mathematics pathways in secondary school;
- Analysis of different levels of achievement by students enrolled in various college programs;
- Analysis of different levels of achievement from different secondary schools within a board and changes in these over time;
- Analysis of improvements in students' achievement at the college and board levels over time;
- Analysis of the impacts of specific student success strategies or curriculum revisions.

Unacceptable Uses

While the CMP data exhibit a range of student achievement at college, school board and secondary school levels, it is not consistent with the CMP philosophy (nor is it a valid analysis) to interpret these differences as a comparative measure of the quality of schools or colleges. Consequently, examples of unacceptable use of the CMP Database include:

- Any attempts to identify individual students and connect them to CMP data;
- Publication of CMP data in any form without prior permission;
- Use of CMP data in marketing or promotional brochures or press releases;
- Use of CMP data to evaluate teachers, schools or colleges;
- Use of CMP data to advise students in their choice of college.

It is expected that all users of the CMP Database will adhere to the principles of acceptable use stated here.

The severity of the infraction will determine the consequence of same, including account suspension and reporting to the institution involved, barring of the institution/board from the study and reporting the occurrence to the funding agencies.