

Data’s Anatomy Season 1

[Episode 1: Focusing on FTIC](#)

Dan and Daphne explore the definitions of first time in college students and the use of cohorts for tracking key institutional metrics. The distinction between degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking FTIC students is made. The metrics of success, retention, and completion or graduation rate are defined.

Keywords: FTIC, success, cohort, graduation rate, completion, retention, persistence, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 2: Wrapping Your Head ‘Round Retention](#)

Dan and Daphne discuss fall to fall retention rates as a measure of success for FTIC students. The definition of retention is detailed.

Keywords: FTIC, KPI, success, cohort, retention rate, persistence, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 3: Examining Enrollment Counts](#)

Daphne helps Dan understand the difference between a duplicated and unduplicated headcount as well as the difference between an enrollment and headcount. Enrollments include the total number of courses students are enrolled in a term while a headcount is the unduplicated count of individual students in a term. Enrollments can also be called a duplicated headcount.

Keywords: KPI, headcount, enrollment, duplicated, unduplicated, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 4: Considering Course Completion](#)

Daphne defines course success rates and defines success as it relates to grades. Successfully completed a course is earned by receiving an A, B, C, or CR grade. The success rate is calculated by totaling the number of successful course completions and dividing that value by the total number of courses with grades for the term. Success can be calculated at an individual student level or by a group such as a class or FTIC cohort.

Keywords: KPI, success, success rate, grades, course completion, Data’s Anatomy

Data’s Anatomy Season 2

[Episode 1: Pondering Percent of a Percent](#)

After Dan believes he can purchase items for free by adding percentages together, Daphne teaches him how percentages are calculated. The mathematical properties of taking a percentage from a percent are explained. Graduation rates and retention rates are used as examples.

Keywords: cohort, graduation rate, retention rate, persistence, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 2: Puzzling Over Populations and Samples](#)

Dan learns the value of being able to study the entire FTIC cohort versus a sample of students when it comes to making statements about significance. The difference between a population and a sample is provided.

Keywords: FTIC, sample, population, cohort, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 3: Studying Statistical Significance](#)

When Dan sets out to prove that dogs in Fort Worth prefer filtered water, he attempts to gain statistical significance and fails. Statistical significance describes a mathematical difference that can be inferred from a sample to the larger population. The importance of practical significance over statistical significance is also detailed.

Keywords: statistical significance, practical significance, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 4: Persevering Past Probation!](#)

After Dan’s dog Daisy fails obedience school, Daphne uses the opportunity to explain the definition and reasoning behind academic probation. The definitions for and data related to probation and other student standings at TCC are presented.

Keywords: success, cohort, graduation rate, completion, retention, persistence, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 5: Gearing up for Graduates](#)

Dan and Daphne present data related to graduation counts and headcounts. A student can earn more than one degree or certificate; the count of graduates is an unduplicated headcount while the count of completions is a duplicated headcount.

Keywords: degree, certificate, graduation, completion, Data’s Anatomy

Data’s Anatomy Season 3

Episode 1: Comprehending College Cohorts

When Dan suggests that Daphne start timing his run after catching up to him (which makes no sense), Daphne uses the concept of college cohorts to explain why it makes no sense.

Keywords: FTIC, cohort, tracking, running, Data’s Anatomy

Episode 2: Covering Community and Industry Education

After Daphne plays a prank on Dan, Dan explains Community and Industry Education (CIE) and its main differences from Undergraduate (UG) courses, including headcounts, grades given, and term coding. Following this discussion, Dan brilliantly pranks himself with the classic bucket-on-the-door trick.

Keywords: CIE, CE, quarters, CR, NC, community, industry, workforce training, professional development, lifelong learning, preparatory education, prank, Data’s Anatomy

Episode 3: Reflecting on Research

Dan and Daphne discuss the process of conducting research in an educational environment. The use of the scientific method to ensure rigorous support of conclusions is explained. A hypothetical research question regarding “sticky spaces” (spaces where students congregate) is walked through to demonstrate how research principles are applied in practice.

Keywords: research, study, hypothesis, scientific method, design, causality, limitation, observational, correlational, Data’s Anatomy

Episode 4: Evaluating Effectiveness

Dan is inspired by a research article to conduct a study to determine whether certain changes to the learning environment improve student performance. Unfortunately, he evaluates them all at once. Daphne explains why this does not work.

Keywords: effectiveness, evaluation, outcomes, deliverables, design, Data’s Anatomy

Data’s Anatomy Season 4

[Episode 1: Confusin’ Correlation with Causation](#)

After a data retreat to the Fort Worth Stockyards, Dan returns with a correlation analysis and a cowboy hat that makes him look “23% cooler.” While his methodology is solid, Daphne is forced to wrangle his conclusions when he conflates correlation and causation.

Keywords: stockyards, cowboy, correlation, causation, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 2: Summarizing State Reporting](#)

In this episode, Dan is tasked with making a presentation on State Reporting to the rest of the team. What starts as a coherent and informative slideshow detailing the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), CBM reports, Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes, and TCC’s basis for funding suddenly transforms into Dan’s delusions of grandeur.

Keywords: state reporting, CIP codes, CBM reports, THECB, funding, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 3: Showcasing STEM](#)

Daphne sees Dan running to the cafeteria after he inexplicably misinterprets “STEM” as “Stop Them from Eating Muffins.” It is revealed that Dan is likely to have been acting intentionally obtuse, as he accurately describes the fields within the acronym, their job outlook, and their likely eventual career paths.

Keywords: STEM, science, technology, engineering, math, career, STEM jobs, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 4: Deciphering Dual Credit and Early College High School](#)

After a nearly fatal misunderstanding of the word “dual”, Dan and Daphne discuss the similarities and differences between Dual Credit (DC) and Early College High School (ECHS) students. (Note: while the overall description of DC and ECHS remains accurate, the depiction of how these students are represented in the data is not current.)

Keywords: dual credit, early college high school, Data’s Anatomy

Data’s Anatomy Season 5

[Episode 1: Surveying Successfully](#)

Dan explains the process of developing a successful survey. A survey needs to start by establishing a clear, attainable goal. Surveys should be short and simple enough to avoid survey fatigue among participants. Surveys should also be designed to contain mostly close-ended questions that pertain to one topic at a time. Finally, surveys should include an incentive for participants if you want a greater number of complete responses.

Keywords: survey, design, incentive, success, fatigue, goal, simple, close-ended, completion, responses, participants, effective, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 2: Picturin' Predictive Modeling](#)

Daphne demonstrates and breaks down the principles behind predictive modeling. There are many kinds of predictive models’ statisticians can use to measure the correlation between data sets/variables. Some models may not work for specific data sets therefore it’s important to understand how the models work and what their best use case is.

Keywords: predictive, model, variables, factors, covariates, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 3: Exploring Early College High Schools](#)

Introduces the history, locations, and impact of the many Early College High Schools at TCC. ECHS students can graduate high school with their associate degree or other additional certifications. Each campus houses one physical ECHS but also hosts multiple programs for a variety of Tarrant County ISDs.

Keywords: ECHS, high school, collegiate, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 4: Introducing the IRB](#)

Dan introduces the concept and purpose behind the Institutional Research Board (IRB). The IRB is responsible for reviewing most of the proposed human subject research proposals within the institution. The IRB’s mission is to ensure minimal risk to subjects during the research process, promote ethical standards for conducting research, and comply with federal regulations.

Keywords: IRB, research, subjects, proposal, institution, Data’s Anatomy

Data’s Anatomy Season 6

[Episode 1: Talkin' About TSI Testing](#)

Dan explains how course placement is determined using the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) assessments and how college-ready is defined for students. TSI scores help distinguish students that are college ready (TSI Met) or need to be enrolled in Adult Basic Education (ABE) or Developmental Education (DE) courses first.

Keywords: TSI, testing, reading, writing, math, assessment, ABE, DE, college-Level, placement, developmental, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 2: Gallopin' Through Guided Pathways](#)

Daphne shares how Guided Pathways provide students with a clear path to achieving their academic/career goals. TCC currently has five pathways: Arts & Humanities, Business & Industry, Health Sciences, Human & Public Services, and STEM. TCC prioritizes guided pathways to ensure students have organized/stackable credentials to earn and transfer out to a four-year university or career path.

Keywords: pathways, path, guide, career, goals, track, STEM, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 3: Valuin' Veterans](#)

Dawson and Dallas describe TCC’s efforts to support Veterans and Military Connected Students. Veteran students are defined as any individual that has served in any branch of the United States Military. These students, and their immediate family members, can be eligible for benefits that will help them pay for programs approved by the Texas Veteran Commission.

Keywords: veteran, military, service, benefits, G.I., Hazelwood, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 4: Expandin' Upon External Data Sources](#)

Dawson and Daphne identify a few of the external data sources that the Office of Institutional Research uses to complete reports/data requests. The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) is aggregated data from institutions across the United States. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) aggregates institutional data on the state level.

Keywords: external, sources, IPEDS, THECB, LBB, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 5: Investigatin' Inconsistent Definitions](#)

The IR team discusses the different definitions that various terms can have across TCC and the higher education industry. For example, at TCC a first-generation student is defined as students whose parents did not complete postsecondary education. However, the federal definition states that first generation means that a student’s parents did not complete a bachelor’s degree. The difference in definitions can have a broad impact on research results.

Keywords: definition, metric, FTIC, THECB, IPEDS, Data’s Anatomy

Data’s Anatomy Season 7

[Episode 1: Developing Dashboards](#)

Dallas discusses how dashboards are a useful tool for visualizing data. She highlights how as data are updated the visual representations of a dashboard reflect those changes. Dawson showcases the variety of dashboards housed on the Institutional Research website.

Keywords: dashboard, interactive, data analytics, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 2: Creating Co-Regs](#)

Dan and Daphne differentiate between the sequential and the co-requisite models. They discuss changes made in course sequencing over the years and highlight how students using the co-requisite model perform similarly or better than those using the sequential model.

Keywords: college-ready, developmental education, House Bill 2223, sequential, co-requisite, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 3: Figuring Formula Funding](#)

In this episode, Daphne helps us better understand Texas' formula for funding Higher Education Institutions. The IR team discusses the outcomes-based funding model and its components (core operations, student success, and contact hours).

Keywords: funding, state appropriations, success point funding, contact hours, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 4: Highlighting TCC's History](#)

Dan and Daphne take a journey through TCC’s past and highlight the growth of not only the campuses but also the student population and graduation rates.

Keywords: TCJC, retention, graduation rates, ECHS, dual credit, Data’s Anatomy

Data’s Anatomy Season 8

[Episode 1: Outlining One College Reporting](#)

Dan and Daphne explain why TCC generally reports as one college versus many campuses. They discuss the state and federal reporting structure of TCC and highlight instances when district or campus reporting might be appropriate.

Keywords: One college, IPEDS, THECB, FICE code, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 2: Freezing Files](#)

In this episode, the IR team explains the purpose of using dated data versus live data. On the day after Census Day, data is “frozen” to capture data at a point in time for analysis. By “freezing” ODR (official day of record), enrollment, and student demographics files, we can compare data from the same time point during a semester across years. Live data is best used for registration updates, mid and end of semester reports, and program data.

Keywords: census day, freeze files, ODR, enrollment file, student demographics file, live data, dated data, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 3: Assessing Appropriate Data Uses](#)

Daphne explains data privacy, security, and ethics. When collecting data, it is always important to consider its intended use, possible interpretations, and possible misuses.

Keywords: data privacy, data security, FERPA, IRB, data ethics, anonymous surveys, Data’s Anatomy

[Episode 4: Classifying Campus](#)

Dan details the confusion of defining campus designation by student. Campus can be defined by enrollment campus, home campus, or majority campus. Depending on the type of campus classification used in an analysis, the total may exceed 100%.

Keywords: enrollment campus, home campus, majority campus, Data’s Anatomy