IBM Cognos 8 planning for higher education

Highlights

- **Makes it easier to do what's most important: understand where dollars are coming from, where they're going, and why**
- **Uses the Web to accelerate and facilitate data collection and performance measurement**
- **Provides a Web-based, high-participation solution for planning, budgeting, and forecasting in higher education**
- **Allows you to distribute user-friendly, Web-based templates to contributors across your institution**
- **Offers a sophisticated, bi-directional calculation engine to manipulate and analyze data**

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Abstract
Higher education is competitive. Plan to perform.

Overview
Colleges and universities are constantly vying for top-notch students, world-class faculty, gifted administrators, and increasingly scarce resources. The institutions that compete most successfully are those that deliver the highest quality at the lowest cost and meet performance goals semester after semester, year after year.

However, institutions can lose the confidence of state funding agencies, governing boards, corporate supporters, faculty, staff–even students and parents–if they can't quickly and accurately assess marketplace conditions and the likely performance of business, instructional, research, service, or auxiliary units.

Business Problems
IBM Cognos® 8 Planning offers a premier solution for business modeling, budgeting, planning, and forecasting to help institutions deal with ineffective processes and technologies.

Information Management

Cognos®
software

Ineffective processes constrain the business of higher education

At most colleges and universities, planning cycles are long and tedious. Data sources may be dispersed across systems, campuses, departments, programs, and projects, making information gathering difficult and frustrating. There are major disconnects between funding authorities, governing boards, and "on-the-ground" administrators, faculty, and researchers–the ones who actually deliver mandated services. The process doesn't tap the front-line stakeholder knowledge that provides the most accurate view of institutional realities. Demands on time and resources are so severe that only minimal effort can be devoted to thoughtful analysis of budgets, plans, and forecasts.

With so much effort spent on process and so little spent on analysis, it's difficult to keep pace with rapidly changing political and economic situations, variable revenue streams, and fluctuating costs. Institutions can come under brutal scrutiny from policy-makers and the public if business officers, analysts, and department heads are unable to react rapidly to changing conditions and plan for likely outcomes.

Business Drivers

Ineffective technology makes a weak process even weaker

Most planning, budgeting, and forecasting solutions are primarily business-focused, and designed to project annual revenues and expenditures, not provide the insight you need to make strategic decisions or implement institutional programs and policies.

- Spreadsheet-based systems are slow, disconnected, and error prone.
- ERP or general ledger solutions were not designed for sophisticated system-wide planning and budgeting.
- Off-the shelf solutions may offer broad generic functionality, but

don't address the unique financial management needs of the academy.

- Homegrown or custom-developed systems are not scalable to hundreds or thousands of users across a large multi-campus system, and cannot readily embrace new technologies.

For data collection and roll-up, typical solutions can be painfully cumbersome. When you need to do complex modeling–constructing "what-if" scenarios, for example– most ERP, planning and budgeting systems, and especially spreadsheets, can grind to a halt.

The Solution

IBM Cognos 8 Planning is a Web-based, high-participation solution for modeling, planning, budgeting, and

	Prior Year Actual	Current Year Budget	Next Year Projection	2nd Year Projection	3rd Year Projection	4th Year Projection	5th Year Projection
Undergrad Full-Time Enrollment	686	706	736	766	789	812	820
Undergrad Part-Time Credit Hours	5,618	5,673	5,787	5,960	6,018	6,076	6,134
Graduate Full-Time Enrollments	305	314	327	340	357	360	364
Graduate Part-Time Credit Hourse	1,562	1,594	1,609	1,656	1,703	1,734	1,781
Undergrad Credit Hour Pricing	$ 205	$ 211	$ 218	$ 224	$ 231	$ 238	$ 243
Graduate Credit Hour Pricing	$ 290	$ 299	$ 305	$ 317	$ 326	$ 336	$ 343
Annual Tuition Rate (UnderGrad)	$ 18,500	$ 18,674	$ 19,047	$ 19,238	$ 19,815	$ 19,815	$ 20,806
Annual Tuition Rate (Grad)	$ 22,500	$ 22,712	$ 23,166	$ 22,939	$ 23,627	$ 24,336	$ 24,808
Undergrad Full Time Tuition Revenue	$ 12,687,115	$ 13,190,565	$ 14,025,662	$ 14,732,556	$ 15,629,768	$ 16,098,661	$ 17,067,707
Undergrad Part-time Tuition Revenue	$ 1,152,390	$ 1,198,713	$ 1,259,613	$ 1,336,583	$ 1,390,316	$ 1,445,795	$ 1,487,906
Graduate Full-Time Tuition Reveneu	$ 6,862,950	$ 7,135,286	$ 7,569,111	$ 7,794,700	$ 8,429,968	$ 8,765,561	$ 9,020,066
Graduate Part-Time Tuition Revenue	$ 453,116	$ 476,044	$ 490,325	$ 524,993	$ 556,047	$ 583,237	$ 610,631
TOTAL TUITION REVENUE	$ 21,155,571	$ 22,000,608	$ 23,344,711	$ 24,388,831	$ 26,006,099	$ 26,893,254	$ 28,186,309

Tuition: Captures enrollment data for academic programs by undergraduate and graduate, full time and part-time, in-state and out-of-state; headcount and credit hours, and applies the appropriate tuition rate to each category. Multi-year tuition revenue projections can be conducted through various what-if scenarios on enrollments and tuition pricing assumptions.

forecasting in higher education. It lets academic business officers define the process, models, and content required, and then distribute user-friendly, Web-based templates to contributors across the institution.

IBM Cognos 8 Planning gives users the power to access and interact with information through a variety of business intelligence and scorecarding options to create and publish reports and analyses via the Web. It helps institutions achieve consistent operating performance through highly collaborative, real-time planning.

With IBM Cognos 8 Planning, colleges and universities can reconcile top-down strategic plans with bottom-up budgets and forecasts. The solution extends the planning process beyond the finance office to the complex network of funding agencies, governing boards, administrators, faculty, staff, students, suppliers, partners, and community that are part of every institutional operating model.

Using the Web, IBM Cognos 8 Planning collects more information from more people more often. As a result, up-to-date intelligence is available when needed, allowing more time for analysis and better-informed, more effective decision-making.

Going far beyond routine annual or biennial planning and budgeting, IBM Cognos 8 Planning offers institutions broad functionality for:

- Decentralized budget development to manage both baseline budgets and new initiative funding requests.
- Enrollment projections and tuition revenue forecasting.
- Multi-year grant planning of sponsored research.
- Faculty and staff headcount, compensation, and contract management planning.
- Campus- or system-wide capital and discretionary expenditure planning.
- Central budget office financial analysis system-wide, by campus, by unit, by department, or by program.

- Endowment fund management.
- Athletic program management.

Spend less time on process, more time on analysis

IBM Cognos 8 Planning uses a sophisticated, bi-directional calculation engine to manipulate and analyze data. It uses the Web to accelerate and take the pain out of data collection and performance measurement, and makes it easier to do what's most important–understand where institutional dollars are coming from, where they're going, and why. IBM Cognos 8 Planning provides access to powerful reporting and administration tools designed for finance personnel and their constituents.

Salary Planning: Conducted at the position level and manages all of the data associated with budgeting salary and benefit cost. Faculty course loads and release time can be planned and managed and salaries can be allocated to sponsored research to support grant costing.

Workflow that works

React to changing conditions with budgeting, planning, and forecasting supported by accurate, reliable, real-time information.

A Web browser is all you need to engage key contributors in budgeting, planning, and forecasting with IBM Cognos 8 Planning. Using simple forms and familiar language, contributors can easily update budgets right from their desktops and see the impact of their efforts.

After supervisors review and approve them, contributions are stored in a single repository. No missing numbers, no multiple versions, no fudging.

IT managers will also see value in IBM Cognos 8 Planning. At the back end, it uses common technology standards. At the front end, its network-friendly architecture minimizes network traffic, while its choice of Web or Microsoft® Excel® interface means easy deployment and maintenance with minimal end-user training.

- Web-based planning and budgeting. IBM Cognos 8 Planning helps colleges and universities plan, manage, and control financial resources efficiently and cost-effectively.
- Easy data access and manipulation. IBM Cognos 8 Planning's centralized database and powerful calculation engine are designed to support rigorous budget analysis.
- Web-based budget development. IBM Cognos 8 Planning facilitates a decentralized budget approach with easy data collection and aggregation.
- Powerful reporting and analysis. IBM Cognos 8 Planning offers seamless access to state-of-the-art reporting and analysis solutions like IBM® Cognos® ReportNet, IBM® Cognos® PowerPlay, and IBM® Cognos® Metrics Manager to monitor both financial and service delivery performance and make decision-making easier.

Conclusion

Planning prerequisites

Scalability. IBM Cognos 8 Planning fits programs, departments, and institutions of any size. Its Web-based design and attention to bandwidth economy make rolling it out to 1,000 users as easy as rolling it out to 10.

Flexibility. Don't change your business structure to fit someone else's off-the-shelf system. IBM Cognos 8 Planning is flexible enough to fit any department in any institution.

Compatibility. IBM Cognos 8 Planning capitalizes on your existing technology investments and shares information with other solutions—including IBM Cognos ReportNet, IBM Cognos PowerPlay, and IBM Cognos Metrics Manager—and readily accommodates future growth.

**About IBM Cognos BI
and Performance Management:**

IBM Cognos business intelligence (BI) and performance management solutions deliver world-leading enterprise planning, consolidation and BI software, support and services to help companies plan, understand and manage financial and operational performance. IBM Cognos solutions bring together technology, analytical applications, best practices, and a broad network of partners to give customers an open, adaptive and complete performance solution. Over 23,000 customers in more than 135 countries around the world choose IBM Cognos solutions.

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