

Ministry Milestone Statistics FAQ

1. In the Cultivating category definition, what does “continuing student” mean?

“Continuing student” refers to a student who was involved in your ministry during the previous fiscal year and is returning to be involved in the new fiscal year. Sometime in the first quarter (Jul-Sep) of every fiscal year you should count again the students who are returning to continue as a part of your ministry for that year.

2. In the Discipleship category definition, what does “other ongoing discipleship training” mean?

This includes mentoring opportunities or other discipleship events such as a conference. Another example might be that you have the opportunity to take a student to hear a speaker/discussion that will encourage their spiritual growth (e.g. Urbana, Veritas Forum, etc.). It could also be a scenario of mentoring a believing student on how to share their faith with others by taking them with you when you talk with an unbelieving student. Or you might have a monthly coffee time with a student which results in a Bible study to investigate Christianity or spiritual discussions.

We want to leave some flexibility in this category for anything you are doing to encourage a non-believing student in their understanding/decision regarding Christ or to equip a believing student in their spiritual walk—if we are helping them to learn how to walk with the Lord, then we are “discipling” them. It isn’t as broad as just observing our lives though...it needs to be more specific in terms of intentionally building into the spiritual lives of international students.

3. Should I count international spouses and graduates in our statistics (e.g. Decisions)?

Yes, do count them. Internationals don’t technically have to be enrolled “students” for our ministry to impact them. We just want the statistics to reflect the number of international students, family members, and graduates we are impacting.

4. If a student indicates on a response device that they’ve made a decision of faith, and I’m unable to verify their understanding, do I count them in the Decision category?

Yes. While we need to ensure our response device language is as clear as possible, we’re not trying to do a “test” for sincerity. We do not want to be overly cautious and fail to report decisions because we’re unsure if a student’s decision is genuine. The Bible indicates that one must confess their sins, declare that Jesus is Lord, and believe in their heart that Jesus was raised from the dead. This commitment is ultimately between the individual and the Lord.

5. What should I do to record a student’s initial decision of faith?

Profession of Faith (POF) forms must be submitted for each international making a faith commitment. This is an ongoing request. Please send a POF form to the Home Office for each decision reported each month on your statistics. For your convenience, there is a downloadable copy of the POF form available on the ISI website. If you are unable to give us all the details regarding the international’s decision, please be sure to simply indicate their name (pseudonyms or nicknames are acceptable if there are confidentiality concerns), country, and approximate month of their decision.

THIS INFORMATION IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND MINISTRY FRIENDS SO PLEASE GIVE IT PRIORITY.

5. What if a student has graduated and is ministering to internationals here in the US? Should I count her/him under “Reproducing”?

Yes, now that we have two Reproducing categories you may count students ministering in her/his homeland or within the US in the respective category.

6. Should my monthly statistics indicate cumulative numbers, current month totals, or only new growth for the month?

Statistics for each category should reflect only the “new growth” for that month. Do not use cumulative numbers or monthly totals. A cumulative will be totaled in the YTD column as you enter the new growth numbers each month. In addition, you should NOT count a student repetitively in the same category.

7. Can I count “Introducing” contacts made through a university or international student club list serv?

Yes, just as with fliers regarding your ministry, a list serv is a legitimate means of introducing students to ISI’s ministry. Just remember to count these contacts only once during the year.