



## Statement on data integrity

*Approved by Council on 2/19/2010*

The AAU Data Exchange and its representatives value high quality data that (1) reflect the reality at our institutions, (2) allow reasonable comparability across institutions and time and (3) are available in a timely manner. Achieving this vision requires a variety of different factors, including:

- Participating institutions who prepare data submissions accurately (by following template instructions), maximize consistency in coding over time, and submit data items in a timely fashion,
- Caretakers who process submissions (or download national datasets) in a timely fashion, and
- Data warehouse processes that load the submissions properly.

Without proper attention given to data quality and integrity, AAUDE and our representatives are exposed to several risks including:

- Inaccurate or incomplete reporting,
- Increased costs resulting from time and resources spent to fix data issues,
- Diminished confidence in published results,
- Misinformed decision-making.

The totality of features and characteristics of data affect its quality and, in turn, the ability to use AAUDE data for institutional decision-making. The issues involved in adhering to definitions and assigning codes affect the users' ability to compare to other institutions and track changes over time. For example, CIP codes are the basis of comparison across institutions for many exchange items, so the veracity of those codes is critical to value of the data.

AAUDE encourages all individuals involved in the submission and use of AAUDE data to stay informed about changes to definitions, file layouts, and instructions.