

Concurrent Sessions

At TAIR conferences, concurrent sessions form the basis for sharing knowledge among colleagues. These sessions are intended to provide information on the topics, resources, and best practices that support institutional research professionals.

TAIR concurrent sessions are offered in multiple blocks of 50 minutes, with five to six sessions in each time slot. Each time slot is divided into tracks, so that participants may choose the topics most relevant to their needs. Typical conference tracks include:

- Assessment & Evaluation
- IT/Technology
- Enrollment
- IR Best Practices
- Data Warehousing
- Survey Research
- Legislative Mandates
- Reporting

Concurrent sessions may be conducted by a single presenter, a small team (usually not more than three), or a panel. Presenters are encouraged to coordinate with researchers from different institutions or include faculty or other professionals from their institutions to provide more in-depth perspective on a topic.

The format for a session can vary widely, from a scholarly paper presentation, to a “how-to” demonstration, or a focused-topic panel. A typical presentation will allow about 40 minutes for the speakers to present the material and 10 minutes for audience questions. A facilitator is assigned to each session to assist the presenter with timekeeping, questions, and post-session evaluations.

Many of these sessions include visual media such as Power Point or other visual demonstrations. Presenters must bring their own laptops. Basic visual equipment, such as projectors and screens are available in every room. While Internet connections are available in selected meeting rooms at the conference, this method is discouraged unless a back-up process is arranged, in case of equipment failure or other unforeseen problems.

Concurrent session presenters are eligible for the TAIR Best Presentation award, which qualifies the presenter(s) of the winning session to represent TAIR at the next year’s annual Association for Institutional Research Forum.