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## **Campus departments encouraged to respond to IPI survey**

The second step in the Identity Protection Initiative is under way with a comprehensive survey going to all campus departments this week.

“It’s important for everyone to realize that this survey is very different from the one they completed on HIPAA security earlier this month,” said Deb Barshafsky, executive assistant to the president and IPI project leader. “Many of the questions will seem redundant, but we’re collecting this information for an entirely different reason and for entirely different target populations—students, faculty, and staff as opposed to patients. I want to encourage those responding to be as thorough as possible.”

The Identity Protection Initiative began last fall to study campus use and security of personal information. In the first phase, the IPI Identification Team developed a list of 35 potentially vulnerable data elements ranging from Social Security and credit card account numbers to computer passwords. The elements were ranked according to their need for safeguarding.

Based on that list, the IPI Survey Team developed the survey to determine how these elements are used, transmitted, stored and disposed of on campus. The questionnaire is designed to find out business practice details, such as what types of personal information is being used in enterprise and desktop applications, who has access to departmental electronic and physical files, how personal information is transmitted electronically, where printed reports are stored and how they’re destroyed when no longer needed.

The IPI Risk Assessment Team will analyze survey results and recommend appropriate protective actions that will likely result in new campus policies and business practices.

“We’re in the quiet phase of this project right now,” said Ms. Barshafsky. “We have a small group gathering information and recommending changes, but ultimately the success of the initiative will depend upon every person on campus. Identity protection is a personal issue and, at the same time, a shared responsibility. We want to protect our own information from theft and we should be just as diligent about protecting the personal information of others.”

For more information about IPI, visit [www.mcg.edu/ipi](http://www.mcg.edu/ipi).