



PENNANT STUDENT RECORDS data collection in the Data Warehouse

Training and resources

Degree Pursuals and DWLD_CURRIC_IDS

What is a degree pursual?

Student curricular records have many components: division, degree, level, program, campus, majors and minors, etc. Depending on what academic program and degree the student is pursuing, one or more of those components defines their degree pursual.

From the student's earliest term through their latest term -- and all the terms in-between the earliest and the latest -- they are working on a specific degree pursual. Degree pursual is a reporting construct, and it applies to students' curricula whether they are actually earning a credential or not. Thus, "non-degree" students are still in a "degree pursual" for the purposes of tracking their academic activity. Entry actions, majors, concentrations, minors, degrees granted, and exit actions are all tied to a degree pursual. Students can be in multiple concurrent degree pursuals. They can start one, leave it, return to it, start another, finish the first, then later finish the second, or a third, or a fourth, etc.

Here are some examples.

- A traditional undergraduate student starts in Fall of 2018, continues on for a couple of years, declares a major at which point they also get a new program code. They later change their major, then in the next year they add a second major, and after four years, they graduate. All of that academic activity is related to the same degree pursual. They have just **one** degree pursual regardless of the number of times their major or program changes.
 - If that same student later is re-admitted to Penn to do post-graduate work in a different division, they will have added a **second** degree pursual.
- A student working on two traditional undergraduate degrees that are part of a coordinated program is still getting two degrees: they have **two** degree pursuals. They are simply pursuing both concurrently. They will receive two degrees, even though their programs are part of a coordinated curriculum.
- A student working on two undergraduate degrees who submatriculates into a graduate program has **three** degree pursuals.
- A student working on a master's degree who then starts a certificate program has **two** degree pursuals that overlap.

- A student who was working in a non-degree LPS program, who left Penn, then later returned to work in a non-degree program in the same division, same non-degree, same level, same major, same campus, same program, will have **one** degree pursual.
- A student working on two master's degrees, both in the same division, but in different grad groups (different majors) is in **two** degree pursuals.
 - Similarly, a student working on a master's degree who then switches to a different grad group (different major) has **two** degree pursuals.

What is a DWLD_CURRIC_ID?

In Pennant Student Records, many of the tables containing degree information for a student have a column called **DWLD_CURRIC_ID**. This column contains a value that is assigned to the record based on a calculation that identifies all the rows in a student's curriculum that "belong together" – that is, they belong to the same degree pursual. (note: in the legacy Student data collection, we used a similar construct called the DP_LINK_ID. The DWLD_CURRIC_ID is calculated a little differently, but the concept is roughly the same.)

What data elements are used to put records together and assign them to a DWLD_CURRIC_ID? They are the same elements that we use to define a unique Degree Pursual. **The DWLD_CURRIC_ID is how we represent the definition of degree pursual in the Data Warehouse.**

The Definition of a degree pursual

The following definition has been vetted with the Penn Data Standard group, and preliminarily reviewed by the data steward. Note: This definition could potentially change in the future, if Penn's business rules change. As of the Fall of 2021, the definition is:

For division = 'EU' - use division to define the degree pursual

For division in ('AU','NU','WU') - use division and degree to define the degree pursual

For degree in ('PHD','MBA') - use division and degree to define the degree pursual

For division = 'AL' and degree = 'BA' - use division and degree to define the degree pursual

For division in ('AB','AC','AE','AH','AL','AM','AS') and degree <> 'BA' – use division and degree and level and primary major and campus and program to define the degree pursual

For all others - use division and degree and level and primary major and campus to define the degree pursual

Why this matters for Data Warehouse reporting

The DWLD_CURRIC_ID helps us build out term-by-term records, from the term-effective Banner source. It provides a way to tie things together when there might otherwise be a mis-match between term activity and degrees received. It links majors to the correct degree outcomes, and it facilitates time-to-degree reporting.

The Pennant Student Records universe contains joins between the various tables, so generally when you are using the universe you do not need to know about the DWLD_CURRIC_ID. But if you are writing your own SQL, you need to know:

Joins between ST_DEGREE_TERM and ST_MAJOR_MINOR are on Penn_ID (or PIDMⁱ) and TERM **and DWLD_CURRIC_ID**

Joins between ST_DEGREE_TERM and ST_DEGREE_PURSUAL are on Penn_ID (or PIDM) **and DWLD_CURRIC_ID**

Joins between ST_DEGREE_PURSUAL and ST_DEGREE_OUTCOME are on Penn_ID (or PIDM) **and DWLD_CURRIC_ID**

Joins between ST_DEGREE_OUTCOME and ST_OUTCOME_MAJOR are on Penn_ID (or PIDM) **and DWLD_CURRIC_ID**

If you write your own SQL, and you do not use the DWLD_CURRIC_ID in your joins, you run the risk of conflating your results or returning incorrect information from the wrong degree pursuals. The DWLD_CURRIC_ID is providing you with the correct way to tie records together, based on the definition.

Some related questions:

Q: Can the DWLD_CURRIC_ID change?

A: Yes, it is assigned as part of the ETL process, and can potentially change from one warehouse refresh to the next. That is why it is important to note that the DWLD_CURRIC_ID is a Data Warehouse construct only. It has no meaning outside of warehouse reporting and should not be used for anything other than reports that are built on warehouse data.

Q: Why isn't DWLD_CURRIC_ID on all the tables where we used to see the old DP_LINK_ID, for example, on ST_TRANSFER_CREDIT?

A: The DWLD_CURRIC_ID is on any table where we need to – and are able to – distinguish between degree pursuals in Pennant Student Records. The information in ST_TRANSFER_CREDIT relates to a student's level, but not to a degree pursual.

ⁱ PIDM is Banner's internal unique ID for a person. Penn_ID is Penn's identity management system's unique ID for a person. Either can be used to uniquely identify a person in the Pennant Student Records warehouse collection.