



Attributes and Cohorts

What are Student Attributes and Student Cohorts, what is the difference between them, and how should they be used in reporting?

Cohorts

A Cohort is a way of grouping students into populations that span most if not all of the time a student is in a specific academic program. Cohorts can change over the period of time in which a student is pursuing a specific degree, but often they do not change. Examples of Cohorts:

Cohort Code	Cohort Description	Typical use
ADM_CL2024	Class of 2024	Find students who, when they were admitted, they were identified as students in the Class of 2024
FIRSTGEN	First Generation Student	Find students who are the first in their family to attend college
MIL_RESRVE	US Reserves/National Guard	Find students who are (or who were) in the US Reserves or National Guard
WUG-EURO	Wharton Ugrad Euro Cohort	Find students in the Wharton undergraduate "Euro" cohort group

Cohorts are "term-effective" in Banner, but they are stored in the Data Warehouse term-by-term to facilitate reporting. A student can be in multiple Cohorts at any given point in time. If you are building a report that includes Cohorts, remember that you can potentially get back multiple rows per student per term. If a student graduates or exits the University, or for some other reason is no longer considered to be in *any* cohort, they are assigned one final cohort of 'NOCOHORT' in the subsequent term. They might then return into another program and get assigned to another Cohort for that program. Thus the value of 'NOCOHORT' means "not in any Cohort this term."

In the Data Warehouse, Cohorts are found in the ST_COHORT table. In the Pennant Student Records universe, ST_COHORT is joined to ST_TERM on pidm and term. The warehouse validation table is **V_COHORT**. In the source Banner database, they are found in SGRCHRT, and the validation table is STVCHRT.

Attributes

An Attribute is another way to identify a population of students, but it differs from a Cohort in that Attributes are more “temporary” and change often – they typically last only one or a few terms, and do not define the student for the entire time they are in a specific academic program. Examples of Attributes:

Attribute Code	Attribute Description	Typical use
PCFR	Penn Classification FR	Find first year undergraduate students using their “Penn Classification” instead of the system-calculated class.
HNFF	Fontaine Fellow	Find Fontaine fellowship students
SRAS	Senior Associate	Find people in the Senior Associate program
UNDS	Student on Dissertation	Find students who are officially “on dissertation” status
XDIR	Penn Directory Privacy Opt Out	Identify students who have indicated they do not want <i>any</i> of their personal information – including “directory” information – released to anyone except authorized University personnel with a verified business purpose to access their data.

Attributes are stored term-by-term in the Data Warehouse. A student can have multiple Attributes in any term. If you are building a report that includes Attributes, remember that you can – and often will – get back multiple rows per student per term. If a student previously had Attributes and then graduates or for some other reason no longer has any Attributes, they are assigned one final Attribute value of ‘NONE’ in subsequent term. They might then return into another program and get assigned to another Attribute or Attributes in that program. Thus the value of ‘NONE’ means “does not have any Attributes this term.”

In the Data Warehouse, Attributes are found in the ST_ATTRIBUTE table. In the Pennant Student Records universe, ST_ATTRIBUTE is joined to ST_TERM on pidm and term. The warehouse validation table is **V_STDNT_ATTR**. In the source Banner database, they are found in SGRSATT and the validation table is STVATTS.

Note: there are other kinds of “attributes” in Banner. For example, Courses and Course Sections have attributes. This training document only deals with Student Attributes.