



PENNANT STUDENT RECORDS data collection in the Data Warehouse

Training and resources

Credits and “Operative Credits”

Sometimes students are enrolled in courses for which they are billed, but they do not have attempted or earned credits assigned to their enrollment record. This is a legitimate situation – sometimes the credit assigned is intentionally set to zero. Some examples are students in dissertation sections and students in masters’ thesis sections. They will have zero registered credits, and non-zero billed credits:

Section ID (StEnrl)	Registered Cr	Reg Credit BU	Billing Credits	Billing Credits	Operative Credits	Operative Credits BU
BIOL9950002	0	0	1	1	1	1
EDUC9126001	0	0	1	1	1	1
MSE9950001	0	0	1	1	1	1

This means that you cannot rely on the registered credits > 0 to tell you which students are enrolled for courses in any given term. Registered_Credit will only tell you the people who are *getting credit for the courses in which they are registered*.

To get around this problem, we have a derived field called Operative_Credit_BU (in Banner Units) and Operative_Credit (in Penn native currency)*

Operative Credits are found in ST_ENROLLMENT. This is a warehouse-only construct; you will not find “Operative Credits” in the source Banner database. The extract to the warehouse derives the value for Operative_Credits by looking first to see if the value in Registered Credit is > 0 and if so, uses that value, else it uses the Billing_Credits.

By filtering on Operative_Credit in your queries, you avoid the error of potentially missing some registered students who are enrolled but who have zero Registered_Credit.

* see [“Hours, Credits, and Penn currency”](#) for an explanation of the difference between Credits and Credits_BU.