What’s in a name? NGSS…Banner…Pennant…

You may have heard or read various names for the new things coming to the world of student data at Penn. Here is a brief overview:

**NGSS** or Next Generation Student Systems is the name of the project, whose purpose is to do all the planning, development, testing, communication, training, and deployment of the move from the old student systems to the new. As with any project, it has a specific lifespan. NGSS will deploy the remaining modules in 2022, after which maintenance of the system will transition to the support teams.

**Banner** is the name of the database of the main source for the Pennant data collections. We use several third-party sources as well, so you may sometimes hear references to other database names.

**Pennant** is the overall name of the student systems at the University of Pennsylvania. Pennant is comprised of these modules:

- **Pennant Accounts** is the student billing and receivables module.
- **Pennant Financial Aid** is the student financial aid module.
- **Pennant Records** is the student module that encompasses courses and course sections, program matriculation, registration, advising, academic history and many other aspects of student records not included in Pennant Accounts and Pennant Aid. In the Data Warehouse, the collection is named **Pennant Student Records**.

Each of the above modules is a separate data collection in the warehouse. Each has its own eForm for requesting access, each has its own area for documentation on the EI&A website, each has its own data steward, and each has different training requirements.
Note that Pennant does not include the Admissions systems, and it does not include the Alumni and Development systems. It might help to think of those as the “pre-Pennant” and “post-Pennant” systems, containing information about potential students and former students, respectively.