

Frequently Asked Degree Information System (DIS) Questions

Q: Will independents be required to submit GPAs in DIS?

A: [No. It will be optional.](#)

[Item 20 (DD105): Credit Hours Required to Earn Award]

Q: Some programs have variable number of credits depending on specialization (e.g. Doctor of Medicine)

A: [The institution should submit the number of credits required for the award earned by the graduate. That is, if the graduate has completed an MD with a specialization in pathology and that specialization requires 118 credits, report 118 credits; if the graduate has completed an MD with a specialization in surgery and that specialization requires 126 credits, report 126 credits.](#)

DD113: Major Flag

DD115: Dual Degree Flag

Several examples would assist in entering this information correctly.

[MHEC is asked to enter the correct values into the table below.](#)

NOTE:

[The institution is expected to identify which degree should be flagged as “first major”, “second major,” etc. MHEC will not make this judgment for the institution and will return files with conflicting information. For the sake of this FAQ, we have flagged with an asterisk \(*\) any flag that was assigned randomly. That is, in ID #2 below, the PSY major is flagged as 1* and the BA major as 2*; this means that this pair requires a determination of first and second major, and that the institution might choose to denote PSY as 1 and BA as 2 or PSY as 2 and BA as 1.](#)

ID	Degree	Major	Major Flag	Dual Degree Flag
1	AA	CART	1	N
	CERT	CSSC	1	N
2	AA	PSY	1*	Y
	AS	BA	2*	Y
3	AA	ENG	1*	Y
	AA	TEE	2*	Y
4	CERT	CMCC	1*	Y
	CERT	CPC	2*	Y
	CERT	CUBC	3*	Y
5	AAS	BMHR	1*	Y

	AAS	ISS	2*	Y
	CERT	BMEC	1	N
6	AAS	CADD	1*	Y
	AS	ENGR	2*	Y
	CERT	CADC	1	N
7	AAS	AUT	1	N
	CERT	AUFC	1*	Y
	CERT	AUGC	2*	Y

Q: Does the Major Flag in DIS apply to every degree earned by a student in the collection period or to the degrees earned on a specific date? Note that the Dual Degree Flag specifies “collection period.” Some collection periods will include awards made on multiple dates.

A: Every degree in the collection YEAR, not just the collection period.

Q: Would MHEC consider calculating the Major Flags and Dual Degree Flags through programming, thus eliminating the requirement for colleges to provide the data for these fields?

A: No. To calculate Major Flag would mean that MHEC would be deciding on behalf of the institution what constitutes the “first major,” which is a field that is reported to IPEDS. The institution is responsible for identifying the first major.

Q: If a student had been an undergraduate student, then proceeded into a graduate program; is their initial enrollment date and year that of their UG program or their current graduate program?

A: The Entry Term and Year must reflect the initial enrollment date of the undergraduate student in the undergraduate program. For the graduate program there will be a different entry Term and Year for the graduate student even though the student completed the undergraduate program at the same institution.

Q: Will DIS include the race fields or not?

A: Initially the race fields were removed from the DIS layout but after careful reconsideration, MHEC has decided that it would be more beneficial for reporting purposes that the race codes remain in the DIS record. Please review the revised DIS layout.

Q: For reporting year 2012 - 2013 we will submit old (specs) DIS data file information in August 2013?

A: Yes this is correct.

Q: Will independents be required to submit GPAs in DIS?

A: [No, it will be optional.](#)

Q: For Reporting year 2013 - 2014 we will submit the new DIS data file information in March 2014 for Summer-Fall and in August 2015 for Spring-Winter?

A: [Yes this is correct.](#)

Q: Data element clarification -

Cumulative Native Credits Earned - According to description this is total native credits earned toward the degree sought. This means if a student earned an associate degree in Accounting then only the native credits earned for that degree are reported not all native credits earned since they started.

A: [Cumulative native Credits Earned should include, "the total native credits earned at the degree level that would satisfy degree requirements." Using your scenario, certainly the credits toward the Accounting degree should be included, but also those non-accounting credits accumulated at the AA degree level \(not remedial or any other lower level courses\) should be included as well. This is consistent with our historical definition of this data element.](#)

Q: Cumulative Degree Credits Hours Awarded - Is the same as about but from all sources (including transfer, CLEP, Dante, etc)?

A: [This element should include the accumulated credits from all sources that were awarded toward the accounting degree only.](#)

Q: For the DIS in the old format, do we need a header row or is this for the revised format only?

A: [Header Records are not necessary for the old format submission; however, they are required for the revised DIS file not due until March 2014.](#)

Q: In DIS, there have been some questions on the correct interpretation of the Major Flag field and the Dual Degree field.

- For the Dual Degree field, if a student has earned more than one Associate's degree (regardless of type - AA, AAS, AS, AAT), then the first degree will be coded "N" and all other degrees will be coded "Y". Please confirm.

- If a student earns both an Associate's degree and a certificate, both will be coded with "N" since they are not at the same degree level. Please confirm.
- For the Major Flag, if a student earns one AA degree in Biology and a second AA degree in Chemistry in the same reporting period, the Biology degree will be coded "1" and the Chemistry degree will be coded "2". Please confirm.

- In the Dual Degree field for the student above, this student's Biology degree would be coded as "N" and the Chemistry degree would be coded as "Y". Please confirm.

- For the Major Flag, do we make the decision based on the major or the HEGIS code?

A: In the DIS file "Teacher Candidate" field – there is no code for elementary or middle school level of certification.

Relates to DD105, "Credit Hours Required to Earn Award", in DIS. In the file format specs, the description reads: Number of credits required to complete the certificate or degree earned. Decimal format, one decimal place (include decimal point.)

In the Data Dictionary, the format for DD015 states: numeric - 3 digits - who number only.

Q: If we enter a "0" in a digit field i.e. SASID, do they want 10 0's in this field?

A: Please do not enter a "0" in any numeric field if no data is available. The field should be left as a blank (NULL).

Q: On alpha/numeric fields, I am assuming we left justify blank fill?

A: Yes, this is correct.