**Semester and Overall GPAs**

**Getting started with GPA by Term**

“Semester GPA” is located within Student Detail PWL > Student Detail > GPA by Term. One important field that needs to be isolated for a specific GPA is GPA_TYPE. Of course, ACADEMIC_PERIOD is also needed for this part of the query.

There are two possibilities for GPA_TYPE:

- T - Transfer GPA
- I - Institutional GPA.

*Make sure that GPA data from this table is filtered to retrieve only the ‘I’ value.*

**Getting started with GPA by Level**

“Overall GPA” is located within Student Detail PWL > Student Detail > GPA by Level. Like GPA by Term, GPA_TYPE is the key field to filter when incorporating it into your query.

There are three possibilities for GPA_TYPE in this table:

- T - Transfer
- I – Institutional
- O - Overall

*Make sure that GPA data from this table is filtered to retrieve only the ‘O’ value.*

ACADEMIC_PERIOD is a field in the GPA by Level table, but all ACADEMIC_PERIOD values in this table are blank, so do not use ACADEMIC_PERIOD as a filter from this table.

**Student Levels**

There are three possibilities for ACADEMIC_STUDY_VALUE in both of these tables, which is basically the GPA level as it relates to the coursework a student has completed for that particular semester (for Term), and for all coursework (for Overall):

- GR – Graduate Level
- UG – Undergraduate Level
- PR – Professional Level

**ISSUE:** A student who has taken more than one type of course, a graduate level course along with their undergraduate courses for example, will have two GPAs on his record – one with ACADEMIC_STUDY_VALUE of GR, one with UG! This applies to both Term and Overall GPAs.

**Possible Solution**

- Include STUDENT_LEVEL from Student Detail PWL > Student Detail > Academic Study in your query, and match up the ACADEMIC_STUDY_VALUE with this field, along with ACADEMIC_PERIOD for Term GPA
- **ISSUE:** STUDENT_LEVEL, because of historical data conversion, has other codes for graduate, undergraduate, and professional levels: G, U, and P, respectively. When matching, students with these level codes will not return a GPA!
○ **Solution:** Use the “substring” function on both fields to bring back only the first byte of each of the GPA fields. That way, there will always be a match. A sample of how this can be done in the Data Expression of these fields: 

\[
\text{substring([Student Detail].[GPA By Term].[ACADEMIC STUDY VALUE],1,1)}
\]

### Improving Performance

In all queries that use ID (PUID), use [Student Detail].[Student].[ID]. These IDs have been indexed for improved performance.

If your report includes multi-queries and use IDs (PUIDs) as a filter, make sure that each individual query also includes ID (PUID) in them as the same filter. This will save run time!

Prompts on ID (PUID) should be placed on STUDENT.ID or PERSON_DETAIL.ID for best performance even when querying for data from other tables such as GPA_BY_LEVEL, STUDENT_COURSE, TEST_SCORE, etc.

### Assessing GPAs

Throughout a semester’s timeline, the GPA calculations may change for a student, even though final semester grades have not been rolled. Here are some things that will change the value of Term GPA and/or GPA by Level:

- At the start of term, since there are no grades on a student’s courses, Term GPA is non-existent and Cognos will return a value of 0.0; Overall GPA will be unaffected at this point
- Students who withdraw from a course with a W grade will have their Term GPA updated with a value of zero credits for the course, which will not change the value of 0.0 for the Term GPA, but will have an impact on the Overall GPA, which will change (decrease) slightly
- Students in short courses that get grades earlier than the end-of-semester will have their grade applied to the Term GPA, which in turn will update the Overall GPA.

It is important to keep these things in mind as you view a student’s record to avoid incorrect assessments of GPA.

*Feedback on this document should be sent to registrarreportingteam@exchange.purdue.edu*