

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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Note from the Program Manager

Dear Penn Colleagues:

Shortly after the Next Generation Student Systems (NGSS) Program's March 2020 announcement of a 1-year deployment delay, I joined the Next Generation Student Systems effort as the new Program Manager. One of our first areas of focus was to solidify the project's timelines and milestones, all while accommodating the uncertainty due to COVID-19. In Fall 2020, the team finalized its new project timeline, which can be found [here](#) on the NGSS website. Since then, the NGSS team has worked to continue building Pennant.

A critical milestone achieved in 2020 was completion of the first round of testing for Release 1 systems to ensure that the integrations across the future-state systems are functional and properly passing the necessary data from system to system. The team kicked-off its second round of testing in September 2020 and is scheduled to complete this effort by end of February 2021. In addition to its testing efforts, the team continues to design and build for Release 2 Student Records and Financial Aid.

Furthermore, in support of the upcoming NGSS Releases, Release 1 (Fall 2021) and Release 2 (Spring 2022), the NGSS project has implemented a Current Systems Freeze period. This freeze period will limit non-regulatory changes to various current systems, as such changes would impact functionality for upcoming NGSS Releases. For more information on the Current Systems Freeze period, see page 3.

Best,

Rosey Nissley
NGSS Program Manager

NGSS Systems - Release 1 Scope

What is Pennant?

The Next Generation Student Systems (NGSS) project is deploying Penn’s new student information system, referred to as the Pennant suite of applications. Pennant Accounts (student accounts and billing) has been live since 2015. Additional components of this suite include Pennant Records (student records and registration) and Pennant Aid (student financial aid), which will go-live in Fall 2021 (Release 1) and Spring 2022 (Release 2), respectively.

The NGSS project continues to design, build, and configure future-state systems supporting our [student records](#) and [financial aid](#) processes. The systems included in NGSS Release 1 will start to be used in Fall 2021 based on when academic or business processes launch (e.g. course and section maintenance, financial aid packaging).

Pennant Records - Release 1

Function	Current State	Future State
Curriculum (Course & Program) Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum Manager (CM) with 3-digit course numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum Manager (CM) with 4-digit course numbers
Section Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRS Screens: 129-132 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CourseLeaf Section Scheduler (CLSS) Ellucian Banner
Final Exam Room Requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courses InTouch (CIT) Final Exam Application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CourseLeaf Section Scheduler (CLSS)
Classroom Scheduling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRS Screens: 130, 1C6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infosilem Course Scheduling Software Infosilem Enterprise Scheduling Software
Event Space Scheduling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRS Screens: 1C6, 1C7, 1C8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infosilem Event Scheduling

Pennant Aid - Release 1

Function	Current State	Future State
Financial Aid (FA) Processing - Non-Matriculated Applicants* Only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Aid Management (SAM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ellucian Banner
*New Applicants		
FA Needs Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs Analyzer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ellucian Banner
Imaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ImageNow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ImageNow with enhancements
Data Warehouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA Data Warehouse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Data Store (ODS) Data Warehouse with enhancements
Undergraduate FA Document Status and Award Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slate with enhancements



Current Systems Freeze Period

In order to implement the Pennant systems within the planned [timeline](#), the NGSS project needs to limit changes to current systems that would impact functionality for both Release 1 (Fall 2021) and Release 2 (Spring 2022). As such, the NGSS project implemented a Current Systems Freeze period beginning on January 1, 2021 and continuing until Release 2 Go-Live in March 2022.

Exceptions to the freeze period will be made for known regulatory changes and those identified on the [Academic Calendar](#). In addition, the

NGSS team, in collaboration with appropriate University stakeholders, will review requests for non-regulatory exceptions during the freeze period to determine whether the need warrants an exception.

The linked [NGSS Current Systems Freeze Information Packet](#) provides further details on the freeze period, including the list of impacted systems, contacts for exception requests, and specific data/transactions with freeze dates occurring in Spring 2021.

For questions or concerns related to the Current Systems Freeze period, email NGSS_FREEZE_CR@LISTS.UPENN.EDU.

What's Next?

FUTURE ISSUES

Monthly

In future Community Newsletters, the NGSS team will continue to update the community on Release 1 progress and begin to provide Release 2 information. For more information on Release 2 scope, visit the [NGSS website](#).

RELEASE 1 INFORMATION SESSION

March 5, 2021

9:30 - 11:00am

In March, the NGSS team will hold an [Information Session](#) to spotlight the Release 1 functionality. The session will address both Pennant Records and Pennant Aid and be a forum for attendees to ask questions to the project team. Please be on the lookout for registration details on the NGSS website in mid-February 2021.

TRAINING

Summer & Fall 2021

Release 1 Pennant Records training for end-users will take place in Summer 2021, focusing on CM Retrofit and CLSS:

- CM - Learn what functionality has been added, modified, and removed
- CLSS - Learn the section maintenance process, including creating and maintaining sections

Release 1 Pennant Aid training for end-users will take place in Fall 2021, focusing on Banner, enhanced ImageNow functionality, Pennant Reports, and more.