

^{*}National Student Clearinghouse[®]

DegreeVerify

Programming & Testing Guide

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

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Introduction

This guide explains how to extract and report certificate, degree and other educational achievements data for the Clearinghouse's DegreeVerify service. We encourage you to provide as much information as possible so that DegreeVerify can accurately reflect your students' academic accomplishments to prospective employers.

Please follow these steps in developing and testing your programming:

- Read this guide and all exhibits thoroughly.
- Before you begin programming, contact your Clearinghouse Implementation Coordinator to address any issues or questions.
- Review the DegreeVerify process and data elements with staff members at your institution to promote awareness and ensure all necessary data is captured accurately.
- After your program is written and you have verified the accuracy of the data in the file, submit your initial DegreeVerify file to the Clearinghouse.
- Upon receipt of your file, the Clearinghouse will perform a variety of edit checks and contact you with the results and/or questions. If your code requires modification, you will need to submit a new file.
- Once all questions and discrepancies are resolved, your degree verification data will be loaded into our database. We will conduct a start-up call to review how your office staff should use the Clearinghouse Web site. At the conclusion of the call, your institution will be officially "live" with DegreeVerify!

Which Students Should Be Reported?

Your institution's initial DegreeVerify file is a historic report of all the degrees and certificates conferred by your institution that are available in an electronic format. Degrees or certificates conferred to international students should be INCLUDED. If the data is maintained in multiple legacy systems, you can submit multiple reports. Subsequent reports reflect your most recent degree recipients. You may find it helpful to use a posting date or similar mechanism in your database to ensure late conferrals are captured in your reports.

What is the Difference between Lived Name and Previous Name Fields?

Previous Name fields should include the previous legal name for the student and are utilized when determining if an incoming record with a name change is a match to a previously reported record. Lived Name fields should NOT include legal name changes and should reflect



the chosen or preferred personal or professional name used by the student. Lived Name fields are optional to report and do not impact federal compliance or loan servicing.

How Should Degrees Conferred Simultaneously Be Reported?

If a student receives, for example, a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science degree at the same time, you should report them as separate detail records in your file.

 Note: If your school is a Graduates from DegreeVerify (G from DV) participant and sent multiple degree records for the same student in the same DegreeVerify file, the Graduated status will not be generated, even if separate program detail records exist in the DegreeVerify file. We recommend that you also submit Graduated statuses for these students via the Enrollment Reporting process to ensure the Graduated statuses are sent to NSLDS in a timely fashion. See our help tool at https://theclearinghouse.download/reportgstatus for more information.

How Should Records Without Birth Dates Be Reported?

Leave the "Date of Birth" field blank, allowing the appropriate number of filler spaces (see <u>Exhibit I</u>).

What If the Student Does Not Have a First Name?

If a student does not have a first name, you should populate the first name field with "NFN," which stands for "No First Name."

How Should Students Without Social Security Numbers Be Reported?

Enter "NO SSN" in the field followed by trailing spaces. Alphabetical characters must be present in the first name field of students without Social Security numbers. If a student does not have a first name, please enter "NFN."

How Should DegreeVerify Reports Be Submitted?

Schools must create a secure FTP account with the Clearinghouse in order to submit enrollment or degree files via the Internet. If you already have a secure FTP account, you can use it to submit your DegreeVerify file (see <u>Exhibit III</u> for secure FTP instructions). For more information, visit <u>https://help.studentclearinghouse.org/secureftp/</u>.



When Should DegreeVerify Reports Be Sent?

During the implementation process, your Clearinghouse Implementation Coordinator will work with you to establish a reporting schedule that correlates to your institution's conferral periods. We suggest that you submit a degree file after each conferral period, once the majority of degrees and certificates have been posted. An additional degree file can be sent for the term as soon as all degrees and certificates are posted.

Do I Still Need to Report Graduated Statuses on My Enrollment files?

Schools must report 'G' statuses for compliance reporting. The Clearinghouse offers a 'G from DegreeVerify' service that may generate the 'G' graduated status for your students in our enrollment database from your DegreeVerify files in certain instances. However, the Clearinghouse encourages schools to report the 'G' graduated statuses in enrollment files or via our individual student look-up process.*

***Please note**: According to 150 percent federal reporting requirements, to generate the Graduated status at the program level, you must include the graduated record's program-level NCES CIP code and Credential/Degree Level in your DegreeVerify transmission.



G from Degree Process

Note: DegreeVerify and the Enrollment Reporting of graduates are two different processes with two different databases. An additional file must be sent with graduates for the DegreeVerify product. The National Student Clearinghouse is unable to pull the information from Enrollment Reporting files



For additional information on how to report a Graduated status please see: <u>https://theclearinghouse.download/reportgstatus</u>

For more information about G from DegreeVerify, please see <u>https://theclearinghouse.download/gfromdegreefaq</u>.

Questions?

If you have a question or need assistance, contact your Clearinghouse Implementation Coordinator at <u>implementation@studentclearinghouse.org</u>.



EXHIBIT I: Data Record Layouts & Report Formats

The following are the transmission and data record layout requirements for submitting files to the Clearinghouse for your institution's DegreeVerify service.

Transmitting Files

You will use your Clearinghouse secure FTP account to transmit your DegreeVerify reports. Key features of the secure FTP system are:

- Employs an easy-to-use Web browser interface so users can quickly and securely send and receive files.
- Stores files using the U.S. federal encryption standard, FIPS 140-2 validated AES encryption.
- Eliminates the need to encrypt or compress data files or enter complicated FTP line commands prior to file transmission.
- Allows users with automated environments to use no- or low-cost secure FTP clients to exchange files over encrypted FTPS and SSH connections.

General Requirements

- Your data file should contain:
 - 1. One Header Record
 - 2. Individual student Detail Records
 - 3. One Trailer Record
- File Name = School Code and Branch Code with a two-letter file extension (12345600.DV).
- All dates must be valid and formatted as YYYYMMDD (full year, month, day).
- We prefer but do not require that student records be presented in Social Security number order.
- In the "type" column of the data record layouts, "N" is used to indicate numeric values and "AN" is used to indicate alphanumeric values.
- Name suffixes (e.g., Jr, Sr, III) have an assigned field. If your system includes them as part of the last name, you should parse the suffix from the last name and move it into the suffix field.



- Fields containing no value (aka, "fillers") should be filled with spaces, as indicated in the comments column of the data record layout table.
- Your file should be formatted according to the data element layout in a flat file using trailing spaces/filler to create fixed length records of 3840 bytes each.

Questions?

If you have a question or need assistance, contact your Clearinghouse Implementation Coordinator at <u>implementation@studentclearinghouse.org</u>.



Header Record Layout

Total Header Record Length is 3840 Bytes

| Column for Excel Format | Field Name | Length | Start | Stop | Req'd | Туре | Comments |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------|-------|------|-------|------|--|
| А | Record Type | 3 | 1 | 3 | R | AN | Value is "DH1" |
| В | School Code | 6 | 4 | 9 | R | N | Dept. of Education "FICE" code (OPEID) |
| С | Branch Code | 2 | 10 | 11 | R | N | School branch code suffix or 00, if none |
| D | Official School Name | 80 | 12 | 91 | R | AN | Institution's official name |
| E | Filler | 15 | 92 | 106 | R | AN | Space fill |
| F | Standard Report Flag | 1 | 107 | 107 | R | AN | Value is "D" (Degree verification transmission) |
| G | Transmission Date | 8 | 108 | 115 | R | N | Date transmission was reported by school (YYYYMMDD) |
| Н | Degree Period | 80 | 116 | 195 | R | AN | Time period for which degree population is being reported (e.g., History 1980-1998, Spring 2000, Summer 2002, etc.). *Note: This is for informational purposes only. Individual degree award dates are indicated in each detail record. |
| I | Filler | 3645 | 196 | 3840 | R | AN | Space fill |

The "Type" codes in this document are "N" for numeric and "AN" for alphanumeric.

The "Req'd" column in the layouts displays the required codes in this document, which are "R" for required, "C" for conditional, and "O" for optional. Conditional means that in certain circumstances, the field is required. The "Comments" or indicated exhibits provide additional information.

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Detail Record Layout

Each Detail Record must be 3840 Bytes in Length

| Column for | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|--------|-------|------|-------|------|--|
| Excel Format | Field Name | Length | Start | Stop | Req'd | Туре | Comments |
| A | Record Type | 3 | 1 | 3 | R | AN | Value for each detail record is "DD1" |
| В | Student SSN | 9 | 4 | 12 | R | AN | Numbers only, no hyphens. If no SSN is available, fill with "NO SSN" followed by trailing spaces. <i>NOTE</i> : Records without an SSN are not eligible for the G from DV service. |
| С | First Name | 40 | 13 | 52 | R | AN | Student's legal first name. Alphabetical characters must be present in the first name field. If a student does not have a first name, enter "NFN." |
| D | Middle Name | 40 | 53 | 92 | 0 | AN | Student's legal middle name or if full name is not available, middle initial. If no value, space fill. |
| E | Last Name | 40 | 93 | 132 | R | AN | Student's legal last name |
| F | Name Suffix | 5 | 133 | 137 | 0 | AN | e.g., III, JR, SR, etc. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| G | Previous Last Name | 40 | 138 | 177 | 0 | AN | Student's previous legal last name. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| H | Previous First Name | 40 | 178 | 217 | 0 | AN | Student's previous legal first name. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| 1 | Date of Birth | 8 | 218 | 225 | R | N | Date student was born entered as YYYYMMDD. If unknown, space fill. |
| J | College Student ID | 20 | 226 | 245 | 0 | AN | Institutionally supplied student ID number. If no value, space fill. Do not include special characters in this field (e.g., @, #, *, etc.). |
| К | Filler | 59 | 246 | 304 | R | AN | Space fill |



| Column for Excel Format | Field Name | Length | Start | Stop | Req'd | Туре | Comments |
|----------------------------|--|--------|-------|------|-------|------|--|
| L | Degree Level Indicator | 1 | 305 | 305 | R | AN | The type of degree earned by the student. Valid values are: "A"=Associate "B"=Bachelor "M"=Master "D"=Doctorate "D"=Doctorate "P"=Professional "C"=Certificate (undergraduate) "T"=Post baccalaureate certificate "R"=Credential Space fill, if not applicable. |
| М | Degree, Certificate, or Credential Title | 80 | 306 | 385 | R | AN | e.g., BA, BS, M. Ed., MS, Bachelor of Arts, Associate's; Bachelor of Science, Certificate, etc. (see also <u>Exhibit II</u>) |
| N | School/College/ Division Awarding Degree | 50 | 386 | 435 | 0 | AN | The name of the school, college or division awarding the degree (e.g., School of Engineering, School of Business Management, etc.). Space fill if not applicable |
| 0 | Joint Institution/College /School/Division Name | 60 | 436 | 495 | 0 | AN | If degree is jointly awarded, name of joint school, college, division, or institution. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| Р | Date Degree, Credential, or Certificate Awarded | 8 | 496 | 503 | R | N | YYYYMMDD. If day is unknown, enter "00" for DD. |
| Q | Filler | 80 | 504 | 583 | R | AN | Space fill |
| R | Major Course of Study 1 | 80 | 584 | 663 | R | AN | e.g., History. Fill with "NOT APPLICABLE," if appropriate. (See also <u>Exhibit II</u> .) |



| Column for Excel Format | Field Name | Length | Start | Stop | Req'd | Туре | Comments |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------|-------|------|-------|------|---|
| S | Major Course of Study 2 | 80 | 664 | 743 | 0 | AN | e.g., Political Science. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| Т | Major Course of Study 3 | 80 | 744 | 823 | 0 | AN | e.g., Communications. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| U | Major Course of Study 4 | 80 | 824 | 903 | 0 | AN | e.g., Sociology. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| V | Filler | 160 | 904 | 1063 | R | AN | Space fill |
| W | Minor Course of Study 1 | 80 | 1064 | 1143 | 0 | AN | e.g., Computer Science. Space fill, if not applicable. (See also <u>Exhibit</u> <u>II</u> .) |
| X | Minor Course of Study 2 | 80 | 1144 | 1223 | 0 | AN | e.g., Philosophy. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| Y | Minor Course of Study 3 | 80 | 1224 | 1303 | 0 | AN | e.g., Mathematics. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| Z | Minor Course of Study 4 | 80 | 1304 | 1383 | 0 | AN | e.g., Linguistics. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| AA | Filler | 160 | 1384 | 1543 | R | AN | Space fill |
| AB | Major Option 1 | 80 | 1544 | 1623 | 0 | AN | e.g., Criminal Justice Option. (See also <u>Exhibit II</u> .) |
| AC | Major Option 2 | 80 | 1624 | 1703 | 0 | AN | e.g., Western European Option. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| AD | Filler | 160 | 1704 | 1863 | R | AN | Space fill |
| AE | Major Concentration 1 | 80 | 1864 | 1943 | 0 | AN | e.g., Public Communications Concentration. Space fill, if not applicable. (See also <u>Exhibit II</u> .) |
| AF | Major Concentration 2 | 80 | 1944 | 2023 | 0 | AN | e.g., Russian Culture Concentration. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| AG | Major Concentration 3 | 80 | 2024 | 2103 | 0 | AN | e.g., French Concentration. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| AH | Filler | 280 | 2104 | 2383 | R | AN | Space fill |



| Column for | | | | . | | _ | |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------|-------|----------|-------|------|--|
| Excel Format | Field Name | Length | Start | Stop | Req'd | Туре | Comments |
| AI | NCES CIP Code for Major 1 | 6 | 2384 | 2389 | С | N | Appropriate NCES CIP code for major, if available. |
| | | | | | | | Do not enter decimal points ("."). Space fill, if not applicable. (See also <u>Exhibit II</u> .) |
| AJ | NCES CIP Code for Major 2 | 6 | 2390 | 2395 | С | N | Appropriate NCES CIP code for major, if available. |
| | | | | | | | Do not enter decimal points ("."). Space fill, if not applicable. |
| AK | NCES CIP Code for Major 3 | 6 | 2396 | 2401 | С | N | Appropriate NCES CIP code for major, if available. |
| | | | | | | | Do not enter decimal points ("."). Space fill, if not applicable. |
| AL | NCES CIP Code for Major 4 | 6 | 2402 | 2407 | С | N | Appropriate NCES CIP code for major, if available. |
| | | | | | | | Do not enter decimal points ("."). Space fill, if not applicable. |
| AM | Filler | 20 | 2408 | 2427 | R | AN | Space fill |
| AN | NCES CIP Code for Minor 1 | 6 | 2428 | 2433 | 0 | N | Appropriate NCES CIP code for minor, if available. |
| | | | | | | | Do not enter decimal points ("."). Space fill, if not applicable. |
| AO | NCES CIP Code for Minor 2 | 6 | 2434 | 2439 | 0 | N | Appropriate NCES CIP code for minor, if available. |
| | | | | | | | Do not enter decimal points ("."). Space fill, if not applicable. |
| AP | NCES CIP Code for Minor 3 | 6 | 2440 | 2445 | 0 | N | Appropriate NCES CIP code for minor, if available. |
| | | | | | | | Do not enter decimal points ("."). Space fill, if not applicable. |



| Column for | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------|-------|------|-------|------|--|
| Excel Format | Field Name | Length | Start | Stop | Req'd | Туре | Comments |
| AQ | NCES CIP Code for Minor 4 | 6 | 2446 | 2451 | 0 | N | Appropriate NCES CIP code for minor, if available. Do not enter decimal points ("."). |
| | | | | | | | Space fill, if not applicable. |
| AR | Filler | 120 | 2452 | 2571 | R | N | Space fill |
| AS | Academic Honors | 50 | 2572 | 2621 | 0 | AN | e.g., Cum Laude, Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, etc. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| AT | Filler | 196 | 2622 | 2817 | R | AN | Space fill |
| AU | Honors Program | 50 | 2818 | 2867 | 0 | AN | Title of honors program. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| AV | Filler | 100 | 2868 | 2967 | R | AN | Space fill |
| AW | Other Honors | 150 | 2968 | 3117 | 0 | AN | Name of other honors (e.g., Phi Beta Kappa, etc.) Space fill, if not applicable. (See also Exhibit II.) |
| AX | Attendance From Date | 8 | 3118 | 3125 | 0 | N | YYYYMMDD. If day is unknown, enter "00" for DD. Space fill, if not applicable. (See also <u>Exhibit II</u> .) |
| AY | Attendance To Date | 8 | 3126 | 3133 | 0 | N | YYYYMMDD. If day is unknown, enter "00" for DD. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| AZ | FERPA Block | 1 | 3134 | 3134 | R | AN | "Y" or "N" (see also Exhibit II) |
| BA | School Financial Block | 1 | 3135 | 3135 | 0 | AN | "Y" or "N"; Space fill, if not applicable. (See also <u>Exhibit II</u> .) |
| BB | Filler | 100 | 3136 | 3235 | R | AN | Space fill |



| Column for Excel Format | Field Name | Length | Start | Stop | Req'd | Туре | Comments |
|----------------------------|---|--------|-------|------|-------|------|--|
| BC | Name of Institution Granting Degree | 50 | 3236 | 3285 | 0 | AN | Name of institution granting degree, if it is different than the school named in the Header Record (to reflect historical institution name changes). Space fill, if not applicable. (See also <u>Exhibit II</u> .) |
| BD | Reverse Transfer Flag | 1 | 3286 | 3286 | 0 | AN | "Y" or "N"; Space fill, if not applicable. (See also <u>Exhibit II</u> .) |
| BE | Certificate Type | 1 | 3287 | 3287 | 0 | AN | Undergraduate Certificate Type Valid values are: 1 = Less than 1 academic year 2 = At least 1 but less than 2 academic years 3 = At least 2 but less than 4 academic years Space fill, if not applicable. (See also <u>Exhibit II</u> .) |
| BF | Lived First Name | 40 | 3288 | 3327 | 0 | AN | Student's preferred professional first name used instead of legal name. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| BG | Lived Middle Name | 40 | 3328 | 3367 | 0 | AN | Student's preferred professional middle name used instead of legal name. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| ВН | Lived Last Name | 40 | 3368 | 3407 | 0 | AN | Student's preferred professional last name used instead of legal name. Space fill, if not applicable. |
| BI | Filler | 433 | 3408 | 3840 | R | AN | Space fill |



Trailer Record Layout

Total Trailer Record Length is 3840 Bytes.

| Column for Excel Format | Field Name | Length | Start | Stop | Req'd | Туре | Comments |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------|------|-------|------|--|
| А | Record Type | 3 | 1 | 3 | R | AN | Value is "DT1" |
| В | Total Record Count | 10 | 4 | 13 | R | N | Total record count equals the number of student detail records plus two (include the Header and Trailer Records in the total) |
| С | Filler | 3827 | 14 | 3840 | R | AN | Space fill |



EXHIBIT II: Definitions & Instructions for Entering Degree Data Elements

- Degree, Certificate or Credential Title (Required Data Element): The name of the degree, certificate or credential conferred by your institution. Generally accepted abbreviations (e.g., BA) or the full degree title (e.g., Bachelor of Arts) can be used. If a certificate or credential has been awarded, indicate certificate or credential and use the "Major Course of Study 1" field to indicate the subject area.
- **Degree Level Indicator (Required Data Element):** The categorization of the degree being awarded by the institution.
 - "A" Associate's
 - "B" Bachelor's
 - "C" Certificate (Undergraduate). Includes students enrolled in certificate-granting programs. Industry certifications and professional licensures should NOT be reported under this value (they should be reported under the value "R" Credential)
 - If Degree Level Indicator is "C," please include Certificate Type in optional field 3287
 - "T" Post baccalaureate certificate
 - **"R" Credential.** Examples include industry certifications and professional licensures. These differ from educational certificates that come with college credit.
 - "M" Master's (Graduate)
 - "D" Doctoral (Graduate). A Ph.D. or other doctor's degree that requires advanced work beyond the master's level, including the preparation and defense of a dissertation based on original research, or the planning and execution of an original project demonstrating substantial artistic or scholarly achievement. Some examples of this type of degree may include Ed.D., D.M.A., D.B.A., D.Sc., D.A., or D.M, and others, as designated by the awarding institution.
 - "P" Professional (Graduate). A doctor's degree that is conferred upon completion of a program providing the knowledge and skills for the recognition, credential, or license required for professional practice. The degree is awarded after a period of study such that the total time to the degree, including both pre-professional and professional preparation, equals at least six full-time equivalent academic years. Some of these degrees were formerly classified as first-professional and may include: Chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.M.); Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.); Law (L.L.B. or



J.D.); Medicine (M.D.); Optometry (O.D.); Osteopathic Medicine (D.O); Pharmacy (Pharm.D.); Podiatry (D.P.M., Pod.D., D.P.); or, Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.), and others, as designated by the awarding institution.

- Major Courses of Study 1 to 4 (Required Data Element): The official names of all major courses of study associated with the student's degree. At least one Major Course of Study is required. If your institution does not have majors, enter "NOT APPLICABLE" in "Major Course of Study 1" to indicate to employers that the absence of a value is not an error, then space fill the "Major Courses of Study 2 to 4" fields.
- **Minor Courses of Study 1 to 4:** The official names of all minor courses of study associated with the student's degree title, if applicable.
- Major Options 1 and 2: The official names of all major options associated with the student's degree title, if applicable. At many institutions, options indicate the focus of the major according to specific areas of study required by the major department (e.g., engineering majors may be required to select either a mechanical engineering or structural engineering option).
- **Major Concentrations 1 to 3:** The official names of all major concentrations associated with the student's degree title, if applicable. At many institutions, concentrations indicate the subject area the student focused on within the major itself (e.g., a math major may have an applied math concentration even though this area of concentration is not required to pursue a math major).
- NCES CIP Codes for Majors/Minors (required for generating program-level graduating statuses from DegreeVerify transmissions): The National Center for Education Statistics Classification of Instructional Programs (NCES CIP) codes associated with any major or minor courses of study, if available. Space fill these fields, if the codes are unavailable.
- **Other Honors:** The name of other honors, such as Phi Beta Kappa, that the student received and that would be beneficial to include with the degree confirmation. You can include as many entries as possible in the "Other Honors" field that its 150-character space will allow.
- Attendance From and To Dates: The period that the student attended your institution in order to receive a degree, if available. These fields require eight-digit dates in the YYYYMMDD format. If the exact dates are not available, enter the four-digit year, two-digit month, and "00" for the two-digit day (e.g., report May 2000 as 20000500).
- **FERPA Block (Required Data Element):** If the student requested a block on his/her directory information, enter a "Y" in this field. If no block was requested, enter an "N."
- School Financial Block: If your institution does not verify degree information due to outstanding student financial obligations, enter a "Y" in this field. Otherwise, enter an "N" or a space.



- Name of Institution Granting Degree: As a result of institutional name changes or mergers, the current name of your institution may be different than the name on the student's degree. If so, enter the name of the institution as it appeared on the student's degree in this field.
- **Reverse Transfer Flag:** If your school is granting "Reverse Transfer" degrees, please indicate if the degree or certificate being reported should be attributed to any Reverse Transfer program. If yes, enter a "Y" in this field. Otherwise, enter an "N" or a space.
- Undergraduate Certificate Type if the Degree Level indicator in space 305 is something other than "C," space fill. If 305 is "C" for Certificate, the valid values for Certificate Type are:
 - 1 = Less than one academic year
 - 2 = At least one, but less than two academic years
 - 3 = At least two, but less than four academic years



EXHIBIT III: Secure FTP Instructions

Establishing a Secure FTP Account

The Clearinghouse supports Secure FTP, an electronic method of safely and securely collecting, storing, managing, and exchanging sensitive information between your institution and the Clearinghouse. Our secure FTP environment features an easy-to-use Web browser interface that allows you to view logs of your file and user activity, manage your passwords, as well as send and receive files. All files received by the Clearinghouse are securely stored using FIPS 140-2 validated AES encryption, the U.S. Federal encryption standard, eliminating the need for encryption prior to sending.

You must establish a Clearinghouse secure FTP account at least two business days before you expect to send your first file. To open an account, please submit the online secure FTP Access Form located on our Web site at <u>Contact Us - National Student Clearinghouse</u>. Within two business days, we will contact your designated Secure FTP contact to provide your password as well as answer any technical questions.

Compressing Your File

You may want to compress your file to minimize secure FTP transmission time. The Clearinghouse will uncompress your file using PKZIP version 2.02T. If you plan to use a different compression utility, contact secureftp@studentclearinghouse.org to determine its compatibility.

Transmitting Your Files via secure FTP

Secure FTP supports the following methods of securely exchanging files with the Clearinghouse:

- Web browser interface
- FTP over SSH (SFTP)
- FTP over SSL (FTPS)

The Web browser interface is a quick, easy method of manually transmitting files. For the Web browser interface, follow the instructions below or refer to <u>Logging On To Your Account</u> on the Clearinghouse Knowledgebase Help Center.

- 1. From a web browser, go to <u>https://ftps.nslc.org</u> (you may want to bookmark this site)
- 2. Enter your Clearinghouse username and password.
 - Username is NOT case sensitive; password IS case sensitive.



- Your account will be suspended if you attempt to log in too many times with an incorrect password.
- If you are logging in for the first time, you may be prompted to change your password. The password rules are:
 - i. Minimum length is six characters
 - ii. Must contain at least one alphabetical and one numerical character
 - iii. Must not resemble your user name
- 3. Once you are logged in, select "Upload a File Now" and follow the prompts.

For automated environments, please refer to Secure FTP Help at <u>https://help.studentclearinghouse.org/secureftp/</u>.

Secure FTP File Receipt Confirmation

The Clearinghouse will send a file receipt confirmation to the email address you entered on the online secure FTP Access Form. If you do not receive a confirmation email within 24 hours of transmission, contact us.

Questions?

If you have any questions, or need assistance with secure FTP, contact Clearinghouse technical support at secureftp@studentclearinghouse.org.



EXHIBIT IV: Creating Degree Verification Data Files Using Excel

IMPORTANT:

- Do not enter commas in any cell
- Do not exceed the maximum column and width noted in Field Length of Record Layout
- Columns marked with an asterisk (*) are required data elements

STEP 1: Format Columns A-BC

- Open a new Excel spreadsheet and highlight columns A through BC (columns will appear shaded)
- Select "Cells" from the "Format" menu
- On the "Number" tab of the "Format Cells" window, select "Text" and click "OK"

STEP 2: Enter HEADER Row for Columns A-I Beginning in Row 1

All columns are required. You MUST select "Text" to retain the leading zeroes in your school and branch codes, which are required in request files.

- Column A = DH1 (Record Type)*
- Column B = Your 6-digit school code (e.g., 001234)*
- Column C = 2-digit branch code (if you do not know it, enter 00)*
- Column D = School Name*
- Column E = Blank
- Column F = Standard Report Flag, enter 'D'*
- Column G = Transmission date in YYYYMMDD format (e.g., 20231201)*
- Column H = Time period for which degree population is reported (this is for informational purposes only, e.g. Spring 2024)*
- Column I = Blank



STEP 3: Enter DETAIL Rows for Columns A-BI Beginning in Row 2

Each Student's individual information should be entered in its own row.

| • | Column A | = | DD1 (Record Type)* |
|---|----------|---|---|
| • | Column B | = | Social Security Number without dashes (if none, enter NO SSN)* |
| • | Column C | = | First Name* |
| • | Column D | = | Middle Name (If full name not available, use middle initial. Do NOT enter a period after the middle initial.) |
| • | Column E | = | Last Name* |
| • | Column F | = | Name Suffix (e.g., III, Jr, Sr), if applicable or leave blank |
| • | Column G | = | Previous Last Name, if applicable or leave blank |
| • | Column H | = | Previous First Name, if applicable or leave blank |
| • | Column I | = | Date of Birth (YYYYMMDD)* |
| • | Column J | = | College Student ID Limited to 20 characters. Leave remaining 59 spaces blank, as filler. |
| • | Column K | = | Blank |
| • | Column L | = | Degree Level Indicator* |
| • | Column M | = | Degree Certificate or Credential Title (e.g., BA, BS, Bachelor of Arts)* |
| • | Column N | = | School, College or Division Awarding Degree (e.g., School of Engineering) |
| • | Column O | = | Joint Institution/College/Division Name |
| • | Column P | = | Date Degree Awarded (YYYYMMDD; enter "00" for DD, if day not known)* |
| • | Column Q | = | Blank |
| • | Column R | = | Major Course of Study 1* |
| • | Column S | = | Major Course of Study 2, if applicable or leave blank |
| • | Column T | = | Major Course of Study 3, if applicable or leave blank |
| • | Column U | = | Major Course of Study 4, if applicable or leave blank |



- Column V = Blank
- Column W = Minor Course of Study 1 (e.g., History), if applicable or leave blank*
- Column X = Minor Course of Study 2, if applicable or leave blank
- Column Y = Minor Course of Study 3, if applicable or leave blank
- Column Z = Minor Course of Study 4, if applicable or leave blank
- Column AA = Blank
- Column AB = Major Option 1, if applicable or leave blank
- Column AC = Major Option 2, if applicable or leave blank
- Column AD = Blank
- Column AE = Major Concentration 1, if applicable or leave blank
- Column AF = Major Concentration 2, if applicable or leave blank
- Column AG = Major Concentration 3, if applicable or leave blank
- Column AH = Blank
- Column AI = NCES CIP Code for Major 1
- Column AJ = NCES CIP Code for Major 2, if applicable or leave blank
- Column AK = NCES CIP Code for Major 3, if applicable or leave blank
- Column AL = NCES CIP Code for Major 4, if applicable or leave blank
- Column AM = Blank
- Column AN = NCES CIP Code for Minor 1, if applicable or leave blank
- Column AO = NCES CIP Code for Minor 2, if applicable or leave blank
- Column AP = NCES CIP Code for Minor 3, if applicable or leave blank
- Column AQ = NCES CIP Code for Minor 4, if applicable or leave blank
- Column AR = Blank
- **Column AS** = **Academic Honors** (e.g., Cum Laude), if applicable or leave blank
- Column AT = Blank



- Column AU = Honors Program Title, if applicable or leave blank
- Column AV = Blank
- **Column AW** = **Name of Other Honors** (e.g., Phi Beta Kappa), if applicable or leave blank
- Column AX = Attendance from YYYYMMDD, enter "00" for DD, if day not known
- Column AY = Attendance to YYYYMMDD, enter "00" for DD, if day not known
- Column AZ = FERPA Block (Y or N)*
- Column BA = School Financial Block (Y, N, or leave blank)
- Column BB = Blank
- Column BC = Institution Granting Degree, if different than school in Header Record
- Column BD = Reverse Transfer Flag (Y, N, or leave blank)
- Column BE = Certificate Type if applicable or leave blank
- Column BF = Lived First Name if applicable or leave blank
- **Column BG** = **Lived Middle Name** if applicable or leave blank
- Column BH = Lived Last Name if applicable or leave blank
- Column BI = Blank

STEP 4: Enter Trailer Row Information for Columns A-B in Last Row

- Column A = DT1 (Record Type)*
- Column B = Total number of rows in the spreadsheet, including the Header and Trailer rows*
- Leave Columns C through BI blank

STEP 5: Save Your File in Text Tab Delimited Format

- Saving as any other format can cause technical difficulties and delay your file's set up and processing
- Do NOT use these characters in your file name: ! @ # \$ % ^ & * () +