

ORGANIZATION OF COURSE AND GRADES

Overview

This data contains all of the courses a student was enrolled in for the school year indicated in the file name. The data are stored in comma separated value files (.csv) with a separate file for each school year.

Universe of students included in dataset

Each observation represents a different course enrollment for a student; therefore, students are represented multiple times. Please note that the number of course records per student may vary greatly depending on how schools enter grades. Schools may give grades annually, by semester, trimester, quarter, etc. Therefore, a student in a school that gives grades quarterly will have many more records than a student who attends a school that gives grades annually.

Pertinent information about course and grades data

As of the 2012-13 school year, schools were instructed to begin using a standardized course code system. As a result course codes for this school year are much more reliable than in previous years. An academic policy guide provides guidance:

High School

<https://infohub.nyced.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/AcPolicy-HighSchoolAcademicPolicyGuide>

Middle School

<https://infohub.nyced.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/AcPolicy-MiddleSchoolAcademicPolicyGuide>

Elementary School

<https://infohub.nyced.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/AcPolicy-ElementarySchoolAcademicPolicyGuide>

Prior to the 2012-13 school year, there was no standardized course code system making it more difficult to identify courses using the *course_code* variable. As an alternative, use the *course_title* or *course_description* variables to identify courses.

Example File Name: "2005-06_HS Course & Grades.csv"

FIELD	DATA TYPE	FIELD DESCRIPTION	VALID VALUES
school_year	Numeric	The Fall term of the academic year (e.g., 2016 is Fall 2016)	Four-digit integer.
student_id_scram	Numeric	Non-personally identifiable student tracking number. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: To ensure that all student IDs are 9 digits, import the variable as test to keep leading zeroes. 	Nine-digit integer.
dbn	String	The school code represented as a concatenation of the school district (D), school borough (B) and school number (N).	Alphanumeric in the format 'DDBNNN'.
term_code	Numeric	Indicates the term of the course. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: This depends on the term structure of the school as term code does not have a consistently used definition across all schools. Schools may credit courses in any number of ways such as annualized, semester, quarter, etc. 	The most common term structure is a semester structure where: 1=Fall, 2=Spring, 7=Summer.
section	Numeric	Indicates which section of the course this was taken. A school may offer multiple sections of the same course.	Numeric value.
course_code	String	Unique codes used to identify courses.	See "Academic Policy High School Course Code Directory" linked in the Overview section for guidance on course codes.
course_title	String	An abbreviated description of the course as determined by the school.	Alphanumeric or NULL.
subject			
course_description (MS and HS only)	String	A long description of the course as determined by the school.	Alphanumeric or NULL.
credits (MS and HS only)		Number of credits allotted for the course.	Numeric value.
mark		Numeric/letter score given for the course (see Appendix 1 for non-numeric marks).	Numeric mark 1-100 or non-numeric mark defined in Appendix 1 .
grade_average_factor (MS and HS only)	Numeric	Indicates how to weight grades for a marking period or by the number of credits. This is used to calculate the final mark for the course.	Numeric value.
grade_averaged_flag (MS and HS only)			
is_passing			
alpha_equivalent	String	Letter equivalent of the <i>mark</i> .	Letter grades determined by the school. Most common grades: A, B, C, D, F.
numeric_equivalent	Numeric	Numeric score given for the course.	Numeric score for the course ranging from 0-100.
VARIABLES ONLY AVAILABLE IN THE 2005-06 THROUGH 2013-14 FILES			
subject_code	Numeric	Course subject code.	Numeric value (see Appendix 2).

department_code	Numeric	Course department code.	Numeric value (see Appendix 3).	
marking_period	Numeric	The period in which a school gave out a grade on a report card. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: Schools may give report cards as many times as the wish. 	Numeric value (values generally range from 0-8).	
grade_average_factor	Numeric	Indicates how to weight grades for a marking period or by the number of credits. This is used to calculate the final mark for the course.	Numeric value.	
core_subject_id	Numeric	Code used to identify core course subject. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: Not all schools enter this information consistently. 	Numeric value. (See Appendix 4).	
	String	Indicates the level of instruction for the course.	E	Elementary School
			M	Middle School
			H	High School
			U	College
			X	Advanced Placement
			Grade	Numeric grade level ranging from 1-12.
instructional_level_code	String	Indicates the level of instruction for the course.	Alphanumeric (see Appendix 5).	
instructional_model_code	Numeric	A code for the type of course (honors, standard, Remedial, etc.).	Numeric value (see Appendix 6).	

APPENDIX 1 – Non-numeric marks

Mark	Description
ABS	Absent
AU	Audit
CR	Credit
E	Excellent
G	Good
S	Satisfactory
U	Unsatisfactory
P	Pass
F	Fail
Letter Grades	A-F

APPENDIX 2 – Subject codes

Subject Code	Description
1	English / ESL
2	Social Studies
3	Mathematics
4	Science
5	Foreign Language
6	Career & Technical Education (CTE)
7	Arts
8	Health / Physical Education
9	Miscellaneous / Guidance
10	Undefined

APPENDIX 3 – Department codes

Subject Code	Description
1	Human Services
2	Art
3	Music
4	Performing Arts / Communications
5	Dance
6	Health / Physical Education
7	Miscellaneous / Guidance
8	English as a Second Language
9	Social Studies
10	Mathematics
11	Sciences

12	Foreign Languages
13	Business Education
14	Trade / Technical
15	Technology Education
16	Undefined
17	English
NULL	

APPENDIX 4 – Core Subject codes

Core Subject ID	Subject ID	Description
0		Undefined
1	1	English Core
2	1	English Elective
3	2	Global History & Geography
4	2	US History & Government
5	2	Participation in Government
6	2	Economics
7	2	SS Elective
8	3	Math A
9	3	Math B
10	3	Math Elective
11	3	Integrated Algebra
12	3	Geometry
13	3	Intermediate Algebra Trigonometry
14	4	Living Environment
15	4	Chemistry
16	4	Physics
17	4	Earth Science
18	4	Science Elective
19	8	Health
20	8	Physical Education
21	8	PE Elective
22	7	Arts
23	7	Arts Elective
24	5	Language Sequence
25	5	Language Elective
26	3	Pre-Calculus
27	3	Calculus
28	3	HS Math Core-Other
29	3	MS Math Core
30	4	HS Science Core-Other

31	4	MS Science Core
32	2	MS Social Studies Core
33	4	Biology
34	5	Spanish
35	5	French
36	5	German
37	5	Hebrew
38	5	Italian
39	5	Latin
40	9	Other

APPENDIX 5 – Instructional level codes

Instructional Level Code	Description
E	Elementary School
M	Middle School
H	High School
U	College
X	Advanced Placement
Numeric Grades	Numeric grade levels from 1-12

APPENDIX 6 – Subject codes

Subject Code	Description
0	Other
1	Standard
2	Honors
3	Advanced Placement (AP)
4	College
5	Credit
6	8 th Grade Accelerated
7	Remedial
8	International Baccalaureate (IB)