


Handling preferred/chosen/legal names and pronouns

(in Moodle)

Key questions to consider


1. What types of identity data does the institution manage?
 2. Who makes decisions about identity at your institution?
 3. Where does that data come from?
 4. What types of identity data does each downstream application need?
 5. Who should have access to identity data?
 6. How can we manage that data in Moodle?
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Types of identity data


- Names: legal, preferred, professional, chosen
- Pronouns
- Gender identity
- Course enrollments
- ID photos
- Phone numbers



Who makes decisions about identity data?

- Information Technology
 - Registrar's Office
 - Provost's Office
 - Human Resources
 - Alumni Office
 - Dining Services
 - Health Services
 - Athletics
 - Campus Security
 - Legal
 - Dean of Students
 - Advising
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Sources of identity data

- Student information system / ERP
 - Department-specific customer relationship management software (CRM)
 - Downstream client applications
 - Authentication / authorization platform
 - Housing software
 - ID card system
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Supported vs needed

- Not all supported fields are required for an application to function
- Consider allowing choice where possible
- Legal name vs preferred name














Access to identity data

- What do you *really* need to do your job?
- What do you need to identify a student?
- What question are you trying to answer?



Right, Moodle

- Moodle *needs* a first name, last name, and email address
 - Moodle is traditionally gender-agnostic
 - Moodle has custom profile fields
 - Mapping custom profile fields to the SIS is an institution-specific challenge
 - Exposing those custom profile fields has been difficult...
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	First name / Surname	Email address	Pronouns	Roles	Groups	Last access to course	Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Kristi Burch	kristi.burch@centre.edu	she/her/hers	Teacher 	No groups	1 day 4 hours	Active   
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Andrew Ruether	aruethe2@swarthmore.edu	he/his	Teacher 	No groups	4 hours 1 min	Active   

...until Moodle 3.11 added custom identity field support.

Resources

- [Gender Identity Expression in Higher Education](#)
 - Published by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
 - Describes good, better, best approaches to handling names, pronouns, sex and gender, etc.
- [Gender Identity in Higher Education: Recommendations for Campus Information Systems](#)
 - Published by EDUCAUSE
 - Best practices related to uses of names and gender identity data, including an individual's ability to update their data at any time and privacy considerations.

