

Banner 8 Unified Product Release Feature and Enhancement FAQs

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Banner 8 Unified Product Release Feature and Enhancement FAQs

This document provides answers to a number of frequently asked questions about the features and functionality of the products included in the Banner 8 Unified Product Release, which is scheduled for release in the 2nd quarter of 2008.

Q. What is the Banner 8 Unified Product Release?

The Banner 8 Unified Product Release (UPR) is a coordinated delivery of SunGard Higher Education products that contain new features and enhancements which are designed to work with and build upon one another to increase the combined functionality of the Banner Unified Digital Campus. The Banner 8 UPR allows institutions to increase accountability, access, productivity, and performance through solutions that help unify their computing environment to meet performance improvement objectives.

Q. What products are included in the Banner 8 Unified Product Release?

The Unified Product Release includes the following SunGard Higher Education products:

Product	Version
Banner	8.0
Accounts Receivable	
Advancement	
Finance	
Financial Aid	
General	
Human Resources	
Student	
Banner Document Management Suite	8.0
Banner Intcomp	8.0
Banner Enterprise Data Warehouse	8.0
Banner Operational Data Store	8.0
Banner Enterprise Identity Services	8.0
Luminis Platform	4.1



Note

EDW 8.0 will be release in Summer 2008. ■

Q. Our current Enterprise Data Warehouse and Operational Data Store products are version 3.x. Why are they at version 8 now?

The version numbers for the Banner Performance Reporting and Analytics software (EDW and ODS) have been adjusted to match the overall versioning for the Banner 8 UPR. Resetting the version numbers at 8.0 for this release allows SunGard Higher Education to better identify the products included in the UPR to ensure consistent integration and coordination of ongoing evolutionary enhancements in each product.

Q. Why is Banner XtenderSolutions being renamed?

As a part of our Banner 8.0 UPR, and to more clearly identify the role of the document management and imaging module for Banner, we have renamed Banner XtenderSolutions to Banner Document Management Suite. This new name does not reflect a change in direction or partnerships involved with the solution, as the components and architecture remain the same.

Q. What enhancements are being provided for each product?

Each product included in the Banner 8 UPR will contain enhancements designed to support one another so that institutions can more effectively leverage the Banner Unified Digital Campus to increase accountability, access, productivity, and performance in their campus environments. The following sections provides a list of the major enhancements planned for each of the Banner 8 UPR products. For more information on these and other enhancements that might be included in the release, refer to the SunGard Higher Product Calendar, which is available for download from the SunGard Higher Education Customer Support site:

https://connect.sungardhe.com/customer_support

While a number of enhancements and defect corrections are being made to all Banner 8 UPR products, some of the more notable include:

Banner Advancement

Reporting Interface with Banner Student. A reporting interface with Banner Student will provide additional parameters that support better alignment between the Student integration process and institutional business practices. The enhancements include updating a preferred college code with incoming college code details; loading a preferred geographic region; loading internship and cooperative education employment records; providing the option to include or exclude withdrawn, deceased or inactive student records; new options to select and load a salutation code and name; and the ability to insert address name details.

Banner Finance

Monetary and Currency Rate Field Expansion. All monetary fields in Banner Finance will be extended to a single common format of 17 digits, including two decimal places. This will allow the system to accept higher monetary values, which is particularly critical for large budget schools in year-end roll-ups and also for international schools dealing with large currency values. The Currency Rate field will be expanded to seven decimal positions to allow for more accurate currency conversion calculations.

Banner Financial Aid

Algorithmic Packaging. Algorithms for complex calculations will be added. Examples include calculations based on:

- A percentage of another fund award
- A fixed dollar amount of another fund award
- A data value housed in the Banner system (Less Than, Equal, Greater Than, Not Equal)
- A range of values housed in the Banner system (Between)

Note

The Financial Aid 8.0 release will also contain all regulatory updates through October 2007. Financial Aid 8.1 will release shortly after 8.0 to provide all regulatory updates from January 2008 through April 2008. To be current with all regulatory updates through April 2008, clients must install Financial Aid 8.0 and 8.1. ■

Banner General

Common Security and PIN Enhancements. To support greater flexibility in establishing and maintaining security information, new baseline features will provide a security report and mass change capabilities for users and access groups. Self-service PIN maintenance and processing will be enhanced to allow institution-defined configuration of both the length and strength of the PIN. An appropriate technical method for encrypting PIN information will be included.

Bio-demographic and currency data extension. Support is being built into Banner General for global requirements for naming standards, currency, and universal character sets. Planned enhancements include:

- Adding new bio-demographic fields to the database, expanding the database lengths of existing bio-demographic fields, and making the accompanying changes in forms, channels and self-service pages
- Creating a new Additional IDs table
- Expanding the SSN/SIN/TIN field to 15
- Modifying application code to support an Oracle UTF8 database

- Expanding Finance and General currency amount fields that are currently 11,12 and 13 precision to 17,2
- Converting C and COBOL processes to Unicode

As noted, the database supporting the Banner 8 products will need to be installed to support UTF8 to support Internationalization changes. *For more information on the technical impacts of UTF8 on your database, refer to the Banner 8 Unified Product Release Technical FAQs document.*

Supplemental Data Engine. The Supplemental Data Engine provides the ability to define and add custom fields that can be associated with Banner forms without the need for extensive programming support. Custom field definitions include the field label, size, data type, whether the custom field is required or optional, and whether the field value is restricted to a range or list of values. The custom fields are associated with a specific block within a Banner form. A toolbar icon will indicate if custom fields are defined for a block, and if so, whether data exists. Code can be generated to produce a view that can be used in self-service pages or reporting. Client defined custom fields will never be over-written by future upgrades.

Banner HR

Faculty Load and Compensation. In Banner Student, adjunct faculty can be assigned to teach classes. In Banner HR, when employees are hired, employee and job records are created. However, there is currently no link between the creation of those faculty members and their workload in Banner Student and the creation of the job and compensation records in Banner HR. The Automated Faculty Load and Compensation enhancement will bridge the gap between Banner Student and Banner Human Resources for faculty assignments. It will provide the ability to automate various compensation calculations based on faculty workload in Banner Student. Highlights will include:

- Ability to configure and automate calculations for faculty compensation based on new Banner HR rules and workload from Banner Student
- Ability to calculate manual compensation amounts as needed
- Ability to create and maintain faculty job assignments in Banner HR based on approved compensation results
- Self-service faculty view of compensation components
- Optional integration with Banner Document Management Suite to manage contracts associated with faculty

Multi-year Encumbering for Grants. Currently, within Banner HR/Position Control, grants can only be encumbered over a single fiscal year. However, when a monetary grant is awarded, the grant period usually encompasses more than one year and is unlikely to coincide with an institution's fiscal year. The Multiple-Year Encumbering for Grants enhancement will provide the ability to calculate and record encumbrances over the life of

a grant as defined in Banner Finance, beyond the scope of a single year. Key highlights will include:

- The ability to identify grant-related job labor distributions on employee job records
- The ability to use Banner Finance grant associated dates with grant-related job labor distributions
- The ability to calculate grant-related salary encumbrances within a fiscal year, across fiscal years, or for multiple years
- The ability to feed the calculated encumbrance to Banner Finance for entire period

Benefit and Deduction Combined Limit Processing. This feature provides the ability to grant individual limits, combined limits, or annual compensation limits for benefit deductions. Key highlights include:

- Ability to incorporate items such as 403(b), 401(k), 457(b) plans and Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP)
- Definition of employee, employer, combined, and annual compensation limits separate from benefit/deduction codes through new Combined Limits rules
- Ability to assign Combined Limits codes to benefit/deduction codes on employee deduction records, which can be overridden
- Ability to accommodate employee and employer flat amounts and percentages with matching and annual limits for each through new Call Rules
- Ability to work in conjunction with Associated Deductions logic to accomplish institution-specific design

Banner Student

Catalog Extract and Load. This feature provides the ability to quickly and efficiently exchange course catalog data for transfer articulation. The feature allows catalog data to be extracted into a file format that can be transmitted to an external institution, external catalog data to be uploaded to the appropriate transfer articulation data tables, and previously uploaded transfer articulation data to be updated.

For more information on the Catalog Extract and Load enhancements, you may access a white paper from the SunGard Higher Education Customer Support Center.

Course Wait Listing. Currently the registration wait listing capability in Banner 7.x places a student on the wait list if a course is closed, a wait-list exists, and the student requests to be added to the wait-list. Normal registration checks for conflicts in the student's schedule or to validate the student's eligibility for the course are currently not performed before placing the student on the wait-list. The Banner Student 8 enhancement adds functionality to manage student course wait list eligibility, to display wait list statuses on self-service pages, and to send notifications to students, faculty, and advisors when seats become available. Key highlights include:

- Configurable rules for wait list position priority
- Configurable time limits for status changes
- Automatic notification(s) when seats open
- New detailed wait listing registration conflict checking
- Administrative tools for managing course wait lists
- Configurable self-service displays of position and statuses

Concurrent Curricula Phase V. The Concurrent Curricula enhancements represent ongoing improvements to the Banner Student product for multiple curricula management. There are six initiatives delivered as part of the Concurrent Curricula Phase V project that provide the ability to enforce registration restrictions across multiple curricula, to assess fees across multiple curricula, and to allow multiple curricula for graduation data records. The six initiatives include:

- New mass entry capabilities for General Student, Admissions, Registration and enhanced functionality for graduation-related mass entry for degrees, diplomas and ceremonies
- New minimum hour checking capabilities at Registration and enhanced maximum hour registration restrictions
- Added fee assessment capabilities across multiple curricula and enhanced fee assessment reports
- New option to roll learner curriculum to outcome and enhanced registration and schedule restriction rules to include concurrent curricular fields
- New reserved seat overflow option and added curricular, terms, attribute, and cohort fields into existing functionality
- New self-service graduation application with new administrative configuration rules

For more information on the Concurrent Curricula Phase V enhancements, you may access a number of white papers from the SunGard Higher Education Customer Support Center.

Incomplete Grade Processing. This enhancement allows automated grade changes based on institutional policies and practices. For example, an "incomplete" grade for a course may be automatically updated once pending assignments or tests are completed within the specified time. The key functional highlights include:

- Configurable default permanent grades and time limits
- Automatic conversion of grades in permanent history records after time expiration
- Displayable default grades and expiration dates on administrative grading forms
- Optional instructor configuration of default grades and time limits

- Self-service displays of expiration date and default grades

Banner Intcomp Enhancements

For the UPR, Banner Intcomp is being enhanced to support the identity provisioning and single signon requirements of Banner Enterprise Identity Services. *For more information on Banner Enterprise Identity Services refer to page 13.*

Banner Performance Reporting and Analytics Enhancements

The Banner Performance Reporting and Analytics (BPRA) solution includes the Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) and Operational Data Store (ODS) products. Each of these products will provide a number of enhancements to support the Banner 8 UPR. Additionally, the EDW and ODS product versions are being shipped at the 8.0 level to help ensure consistent integration with other Banner 8 UPR components and to support the coordinated delivery of ongoing evolutionary enhancements across these components.

EDW 8.0 will be enhanced to support the Banner 8 UPR in the following ways:

- Enhancements to the existing Recruiting and Admissions Star schema
- New Star schemas for daily reporting and date-stamped, trend reporting that will include a number of new subject areas and key dimensions.

Note

EDW 8.0 will be release in Summer 2008. ■

ODS 8.0 will provide improved data reconciliation metrics that complement the existing Health Check scripts so that ODS data can be compared more easily to Banner data to identify discrepancies. ODS 8.0 will also include a number of administrative, performance, data, and security enhancements, as outlined below:

- Metadata improvements that add comments to ODS reporting view columns containing business definitions
- Internationalization of the Administrative UI to support easier localization of the application
- Improved data load and refresh times
- Enhanced SSR reports that make use of improved reporting views leveraging ODS tables
- Common data enhancement that creates a new reporting view containing all e-mail addresses (preferred, primary, etc.)
- Financial Aid data enhancements for financial aid applications, loan disbursements, and awards
- Human Resource data enhancements for last paid date and employee timesheet data

- Security management for Banner Finance and HR data elements and self-service PIN encryption

Banner Document Management Suite (BDMS)

In support of the Banner 8 UPR, BDMS 8 will contain the following enhancements:

- **Internationalization support.** BDMS 8.0 will support the UTF8 encoding introduced to support international characters across Banner 8.0.
- **Faculty Load and Compensation support.** BDMS 8.0 will store faculty contracts and retrieve them from the new HR self-service interfaces for faculty contract administration
- **Algorithmic Packaging support.** BDMS 8.0 will support Banner Financial Aid Algorithmic Packaging for baseline document management continuity and continued support for Financial Aid tracking requirements management

Luminis Platform Enhancements

In support of the Banner 8 UPR, Luminis Platform will contain the following enhancements:

- **Banner PIN.** Banner PIN enhancements provide enhanced encryption for the Banner PIN information that is shared with Luminis Platform to increase security. Luminis Platform 4.1 will be modified to process new hash functions to accept and process the newly encrypted PIN information.
- **Data Confidentiality.** Data Confidentiality provides enhanced security and privacy options for user information throughout the system so that personal user data can be hidden or concealed when necessary. Previous versions of the Luminis Platform do not provide tools for users to mark personal information as confidential. Luminis Platform 4.1 will provide new tools that allow users to mark personal information as confidential, and to hide this data in certain community areas of the system such as collaboration rooms and directory searches. Data Confidentiality will be supported by simple workflow and administrative approval processes as well as GUI driven administrative interfaces.
- **Rich Text Editing.** Rich Text editing provides enhanced content management capabilities for creating, editing, and maintaining text throughout the Luminis Platform. In Platform 4.1 a robust, easy to use editor will be included to create and manage visually appealing content in targeted announcements and channels and in Group and Course Studio areas.
- **Banner Enterprise Identity Services Support.** Luminis Platform 4.1 will be enhanced to support the overall Banner Enterprise Identity Services features being delivered across the Banner 8 UPR. Enhancements will be made in two general areas: identity provisioning and single sign on.
 - **Identity Provisioning.** Luminis Platform will provide SPML support to appropriately accept identity information utilizing the SPML identity-

provisioning standard. Provisioning of identities on the SPML based standard allows clients to utilize enterprise identity management solutions that support SPML. SunGard Higher Education is working closely with Sun, Novell, and Oracle to ensure their Banner Enterprise Identity Services solutions can be used in the context of a UDC.

- **Single Sign on.** Once applications are aware and able to map identities to a common identifier, these applications can be configured to use an external authentication provider. This external trusted source will verify a user's credentials and pass a token to the application that stores the common identifier, in this case the Banner UDC application that contains the Banner UDC log-in ID. Subsequent access attempts to other Banner UDC applications will be able to use the same token without requiring the user to re-enter any credentials. Luminis Platform will be modified to support token based authentication.

Q. When will enhancements and product add-ons be released to help with grants management?

These enhancements were originally targeted for the Banner 8 UPR. To ensure that these enhancements provide a complete array of robust functionality and to deliver them as Rich Internet Applications (RIAs), these features are targeted for delivery in September 2008 as part of the Banner HR and Finance 8.1 updates. RIAs are Web applications that have the features and functionality of traditional desktop applications. They run through a Web browser so users have ready access, but they are managed and maintained by the application server that hosts them so that users do not need to install any software on their machines. SunGard Higher Education will use Adobe Flex, an RIA development technology, to create the Effort Reporting and Labor Redistribution and Banner eProposal Management features.

It is important to note that while these enhancements will be released with Banner HR and Finance 8.1, Banner eProposal Management will require a separate licensing agreement; Banner Effort Reporting and Labor Redistribution will be delivered as part of baseline Banner HR functionality. It is also important to note that these 8.1 enhancements will not be compatible with Banner 7.x. Clients will need to be running Banner 8 to take advantage of the new Banner eProposal Management Solution and Banner Effort Reporting and Labor Redistribution functionality.

- **Effort Reporting and Labor Redistribution.** By U.S. law, institutions must certify employee effort performed on grants. The OMB Circular A-21 specifies that effort must be certified by employee, principal investigator, responsible official(s), or by a person having direct knowledge of the work performed. Effort is certified using suitable means of verification that the work was performed if all or a portion of the employee's effort is on federal and/or federal pass-through awards. Currently in Banner HR, two processes are provided for effort reporting. However, these processes do not provide data that can be easily used in effort certification. The proposed Effort Reporting and Labor Redistribution features, which are part of the Grants Management solution, will provide Effort Certification Reports through the Web that will allow employees, Principle Investigators (PIs), or other designated

individuals to review, approve, and certify effort performed against grants. Using these Web-based enhancements, individuals can view the effort report online and certify as needed. Rules can be defined to govern the certification period details and the individuals involved in the process. For any effort report that requires labor distribution changes, changes to funds will go through a routing and approvals process that works with current Banner HR labor redistribution functionality. These features will be part of the baseline Banner Employee Self-Service offerings, and will incorporate a Web-based Rich Internet Application (RIA) interface that looks and performs like a client-based application

- **Banner eProposal Management.** Banner eProposal Management is a separate, add-on Banner product that will provide improved ability to manage the sponsored research activities inherent to proposal development and submission. The planned proposal development functionality is tailored specifically to the roles of the Principal Investigator (PI) and the Grant Administrator. The enhancement centers around a virtual binder or portfolio where all documents associated with the development of the proposal can be worked on and stored together. Use of the virtual binder will leverage functionality with Grants.gov to facilitate the proposal development and submission process. Banner eProposal management incorporates a Web-based Rich Internet Application (RIA) interface that looks and performs like a client-based application

Banner eProposal management is an add-on product and does require a separate licensing agreement. While this solution leverages Banner Finance and HR and other Banner Unified Digital Campus components such as Workflow, Banner Document Management Suite, and ODS/EDW, these products are not required.

It is also important to note that this 8.1 enhancement is only compatible on the 8.0 platform. It will not be compatible with Banner 7.x. Clients will need to be running Banner 8.0 to take advantage of this add-on

Q. When will enhancements and product add-ons be released to help with management of travel and expense reports?

Banner Travel and Expense Management is a separate, add-on product for Banner Finance. The solution was originally targeted for the Banner 8 UPR; however, to ensure that it provides a complete array of robust functionality and to deliver it as a Rich Internet Application (RIA) it will now be targeted for release in the 4th quarter of 2008 along with Finance 8.1. RIAs are Web applications that have the features and functionality of traditional desktop applications. They run through a Web browser so users have ready access, but they are managed and maintained by the application server that hosts them so that users do not need to install any software on their machines. SunGard Higher Education will use Adobe Flex, an RIA development technology, to create the Travel and Expense Management features.

Banner Travel and Expense Management will provide a comprehensive, single system of record where all associated travel and expense activity for an institution can be maintained. This product will support automation of travel expense reporting. It will enable improved processes, increased employee awareness of expense policy, and stricter

control over spending. While it leverages investment in Banner Finance, Banner Workflow, and Banner Document Management Suite, only Banner Finance is required; the other UDC products are optional. The solution will include:

- Initiating pre-travel authorizations
- Incorporating travel policy and rules
- Encumbering planned travel expenses
- Requesting reimbursement of travel expenses

It is important to note that while the Banner Travel and Expense solution will be released with Finance 8.1, it does require a separate licensing agreement. It is also important to note that this 8.1 enhancement is only compatible on the 8.0 platform. It will not be compatible with Banner 7.x. Clients will need to be running Banner 8.0 to take advantage of this add-on.

Q. What is being delivered for the Banner Student Faculty Workload project in release 8.0?

The Banner Student enhancement for the Banner HR Automated Faculty Load and Compensation initiative is being delivered in Banner Student 8.0. However, the remaining Faculty Workload enhancements have been placed back onto the Banner Student Roadmap for future consideration. No release or timeframe has yet been determined for its delivery.

Q. When will the Banner Student Course Repetition Logic enhancements be delivered?

The Course Repetition Logic enhancements have been placed back onto the Banner Student Roadmap for future consideration. No release or timeframe has yet been determined for its delivery.

Q. Is the Concurrent Curricula backfill process being eliminated in Banner Student 8.0?

No. The Concurrent Curricula backfill process will remain in the product throughout all the 8.x releases. No release or date has been set for the elimination of the backfill process. There will be advanced notification when the backfill process is scheduled to be eliminated.

Q. What are Banner Enterprise Identity Services?

Banner Enterprise Identity Services is a new, cross product feature being introduced ahead of and with the Banner 8 UPR. In a unified digital campus like that delivered through the Banner 8 UPR, integrated applications will ultimately store or rely on information about the same users (identities). These application should understand how to map these

identities between systems and allow a user's transition from application to application to be as seamless as possible through external, transparent, intra-system authentication

To achieve this mapping and authentication, SunGard Higher Education will create common services across the Banner 8 UPR components to handle identity management. By standardizing digital identity structures in the Banner 8 UPR components and enabling the provisioning of these identities, we allow all Banner Unified Digital Campus (Banner UDC) applications to relate their identities to one another. This allows applications in the Banner UDC to make use of central authentication mechanisms so that users can move between applications without re-entry of their login credentials.

The initial identity provisioning modifications necessary to support the Banner Enterprise Identity Service components were made available in the Banner General 7.5.1 release. As noted earlier, Luminis Platform 4.1 will include support for identity provisioning and the signon mechanisms that allow for external authentication. Banner General 8 will also include the signon mechanisms. The Banner Workflow product will be delivered in mid 2008 with support for identity provisioning and single signon.

For more information on the technical requirements necessary to implement Banner Enterprise Identity Services functionality, refer to the following document: Banner 8 Unified Product Release Technical FAQs.

Q. I have heard about new Enrollment Management products. Are these part of the Banner 8 UPR?

No. The first two products in the Banner Enrollment Management Suite, Recruiting & Admissions Relationships and Recruiting & Admissions Performance, are available for license today and are planned for General Availability early in 2008. The first release will be supported on the Banner 7.x platform. SunGard Higher Education plans to support the Banner Enrollment Management Suite of products on Banner 8 as soon as practical following their initial release.

Q. What is the UTF8 character set and why is it necessary?

To help customers address the rapidly changing, competitive global environment, the Banner 8 UPR will provide support for international characters and expanded name, address, telephone number, and identifier fields that adhere to Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) and US Postal Service standards. In addition to these expanded bio-demographic fields, the Banner 8 UPR will also provide support for longer currency amount fields in Banner General and Banner Finance.

The UTF8 character set is required to support these changes in Banner 8. Unicode is the common standard encoding scheme for international characters and text. It provides a unique number for every character, no matter what the platform, no matter what the program, and no matter what the language. UTF8 is the eight bit variant of Unicode. Standards such as XML, Java, JavaScript, LDAP, and SOA all require Unicode. Many operating systems, browsers, and applications such as Microsoft Office support Unicode. By providing support for the UTF8/Unicode, SunGard Higher Education positions the

Banner Unified Digital Campus to utilize current and evolving open standards and to support further developments that adhere to international standards.

Q. I don't plan on using international characters in Banner; do I still need UTF8?

Since this is a database change that provides a number of enhancements in addition to international characters, like extended bio-demographic and currency fields, the UTF8 character set is still required for installing Banner 8 even if your institution does not plan on using these types of characters. The Banner ODS and EDW products will also require the UTF8 character set once the Banner 8 database is installed or upgraded to support UTF8. The Luminis Platform database supports, but does not require UTF8.

For more information on the technical implications of UTF8 on your existing databases or things you should plan for to upgrade to Banner 8, which will use UTF8, refer to the following document: [Banner 8 Unified Product Release Technical FAQs](#).

Q. What documentation is being provided for the Banner 8 and the other products provided in the UPR?

The Banner 8 UPR will include the standard user guides and administrative publications typically provided with each product. All new features and functionality included in these products will be detailed in the Banner Release Guides and in release notes and upgrade guides delivered with the other UPR products. For the Banner 8 UPR, the Banner Online Help that details the product forms will now be available on the same date as the software. Other UPR components like Luminis and the BPRA products (ODS/EDW) will ship with integrated help systems containing information to support new features and enhancements.

As an additional enhancement, Sungard Higher Education has redesigned the format for the documentation that supports the Banner 8 UPR products so that it is easier to use. The new documentation uses fonts that are better suited to online and print mediums; improved procedural numbering; international symbols to help readers identify tips, notes, and warnings; and a number of other modifications that increase usability. All publications developed and delivered to support Banner 8 UPR products will employ this new format so that all books that system users rely on will have the same look and feel.

Q. With release of Banner 8, will I be able to obtain support for Banner 7.x?

SunGard Higher Education generally supports both the current product release and its previous version. After the release of Banner 8, Banner 7.x will continue to be supported. New features and enhancements will not be provided for 7.x, but it will be updated as necessary to address ongoing regulatory requirements and in consideration of high-level defects.

Q. How will upgrade and installation media be delivered for Banner 8 and the other products provided in the UPR?

Clients who have licensed the Banner 8 UPR components will be able to download the new product versions from the Customer Support Center after they are released. Additionally, clients may request installation media for any or all products. Due to the size of some installation packages, some of the discs will be delivered in DVD format. As with all major releases, client can also contract for upgrade and installation services, in which case media will be provided at the time of installation by your SunGard Professional Services representative.

Q. What services will SunGard Higher Education provide to help my institution implement the Banner 8 UPR and take advantage of its functionality?

In addition to upgrade and installation services, SunGard Higher Education will be ready to help clients take advantage of the enhanced features in the Banner 8 UPR. The following is a sample of some services that will be provided to help clients transition to Banner 8 UPR products:

- Banner UDC Strategy and Assessment
- Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) Workshops
- Banner UDC Identity and Access Management (IAM) & Web Services Implementation, Training, and Extension
- SOA Integration Assessment and Planning
- Enterprise SOA Integration and IAM Advisory Services
- Character Set Conversion

Q. What type of testing is occurring for the Unified Product Release featuring Banner 8?

The standard test phases are being executed against each product contained in the Banner 8 UPR during development, including Client Test Drives and Beta programs. In addition, there we are conducting an overall Banner Unified Digital Campus (UDC) system test effort that will cover high level end-to-end testing on all products in an integrated environment. This testing is being coordinated within a new Banner UDC Test Center, which has been built as part of the Banner 8 UPR development effort.

Q. When will international versions be delivered?

International versions of Banner 8 will be available six months after the US release of the Banner 8 UPR. The anticipated availability for the Banner 8 UPR is 2nd quarter 2008. International versions should be available by the 4th quarter of 2008.