

Banner 9 Project – Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we need to upgrade to Banner 9 this year?

Ellucian, Banner's parent company, has informed its customers that as of December 31, 2018 no new functionality or software updates will be added to Version 8 (UNBC's version) and that the company will provide Sustaining Support (No software updates).

What is the risk of continuing to run Banner 8 without software updates?

The most serious issue is that our Banner system would be extremely vulnerable to a compromise from an external attack without software updates. More importantly, Ellucian has indicated that regulatory patches (tax tables etc.) will no longer be provided. This would make it impossible to run key business processes, such as payroll processing.

Why haven't we rolled out Banner 9 sooner?

We have been configuring the Banner environment for this upgrade for about 2 years. Our environment, like all Banner schools, is unique in its operations; unfortunately, Ellucian provides upgrade scripts that do not take into account customization or new technology, thus making the upgrade process challenging. Additionally, this Banner 9 upgrade is a completely new architecture which, as with most new developments, has its challenges from the vendor.

How will Banner 9 be different than Banner 8?

Most banner forms will look a bit different, but operate in the same manner in the new Banner 9 environment. Banner Self-Services has a new look to provide a more intuitive experience for our users. In addition, new baseline functionality is provided, such as Banner registration and scheduling.

What is the timeline for the Banner 9 upgrade?

In order to migrate our Banner 8 environment to Banner 9, we will need to perform several mini upgrades in the beginning of 2018. The Banner 9 test environments will be available after these upgrades, most likely in April. This is a significantly different upgrade than previous upgrades, as we can now run test and production environments simultaneously, interchanging the new Banner 9 modules into the live environment once testing is complete. We anticipate that this phased-in approach will lessen the complexity of the upgrade.

What about my Banner modifications?

As with all upgrades, we look at the baseline Banner functionality and compare it to modifications that have been put in place to meet our business needs. Modifications to Banner code increase complexity and time to upgrade, as custom code needs to be evaluated against all the places it interacts with. Historically we have been able to successfully remove custom code as new functionality is added that meets our business requirements.

How long will Banner 8 be available?

We will operate the Banner 8 environment until December 31st, 2018.

What happens if we are not ready to upgrade by the December 31st deadline?

Operating past the December 31st deadline puts the University at significant risk of having our systems compromised. If we are unable to fully upgrade to the Banner 9 environment, we will isolate the modules that have not been upgraded and mitigate any risks while providing functionality.

Will I receive any training on Banner 9?

Yes. Once the department heads have finished testing, we will work with each department to ensure that they are fully operational in the new environment.

I have questions regarding the Banner upgrade. Who do I contact?

Please contact the IT Service Desk. They will log your concern and pass it along to the appropriate team.