What is Banner XE?

Banner XE modernizes Banner by delivering a new UI (user interface) and updating the technology used to develop administrative forms and the self-service tools faculty, staff, and student’s access through BengalWeb. Benefits include:

- New UI (User Interface)
  - Common look and feel across all Ellucian products (Banner, Recruiter, self-service tools, etc.). Includes common menus, searching, and mobile device friendly offerings.
  - Improved self-service tools (e.g. updated registration, faculty grade entry, student-advising profiles, purchase requisitions, etc.).
- Reduces the need for major upgrades
  - Modular based which will allow upgrades to occur independently in the future.
  - Reduces the number of dependencies required to upgrade (e.g. Financial Aid upgrades would not be as dependent on General or Student module upgrades).

What is included in the upgrade?

At a high level, there are two phases to the upgrade, rolling out the new XE applications (improving the Banner self-service tools) and the XE transformation (updating Banner administrative functionality).

- Self-service tools = Faculty, staff, and student access to Banner data through BengalWeb.
- Banner administrative functionality = Banner forms used primarily by ISU staff.

What is driving the upgrade?

Vendor mandates including:

- Oracle forms end of life support is 12/31/17. Ellucian extended support is available through 12/31/18.
- The ERP landscape is changing and Ellucian is modernizing their software offerings to stay current with how faculty, staff, and student’s expect to interact with institutional data.

What have we done to prepare?

In anticipation of Banner XE, we migrated to new UCS hardware in March 2016. This fall, we are upgrading BengalWeb and working with functional areas to upgrade all Banner modules to the latest version.

What are possible challenges?

- Everything is new (servers, technologies, functionality for faculty, staff, and students).
- Aggressive vendor timelines and competing institutional initiatives.
  - Timelines may shift, as we are dependent on Ellucian meeting software roadmap targets.
- Users will see different interfaces (one for old applications and another for the modern applications).
- ITS must maintain different technologies until the upgrade is complete.
Q&A from Functional Staff

What happens to our data?

- Nothing, the Oracle database stays the same from Banner 8 to Banner XE.

Will our existing Banner environment co-exist with the new XE environment during our transition?

- Yes, the upgrade is modularized. This may be a point of frustration for some as there will be a period where we are running older technology in some areas and newer technology in others.

Are all Banner INB & SSB forms being replaced?

- No, some will be completely new and offer different functionality. Others will be simply “translated” into the new technology.

Are there new skills needed for staff?

- Yes, ITS will need to become familiar with new technologies and functional staff may need to be trained on new processing.

Will this require a restructure of Banner security?

- We do not believe it will require a complete Banner security restructure but it may introduce new functionality and forms that require new security setup.