

Variable Naming Convention

This memo discusses the naming conventions for variables included in the UWBHS data file. Specifically it will address the general naming convention as well as some specific deviations from the overall convention.

Basic Naming Convention:

The UWBHS data set contains data from multiple sources. However, the majority of the data come from the three major survey instruments: 1) the baseline senior survey, given to students in their senior year in high school, 2) the parent survey, given to parents of the senior respondents, and 3) the follow-up survey, given to students one year after their senior year in high school. Variables from these three surveys are given a prefix that indicates the source of the data. The following three prefixes are used for variables that come from survey questionnaires:

- S - student survey
- P - parent survey (2000, 2002 and 2003 only)
- F - follow-up survey

These prefixes are followed by a number that indicates the corresponding question on the survey instrument. For instance “S002” refers a variable based on question 2 on the student survey, while “F02” would refer to question 2 on the follow up survey.

Some questions contain multiple parts and may be followed by a letter. For example, question 115 has 14 parts, so there are variables S115a through S115N. Part of question 115, questions 115a to 115f, is listed below—question a, your religion, would be s115a, while question e, your education, would be s115e.

- 115) To what extent do you think the things listed below will prevent you from having the kind of work that you would like to have?

(CIRCLE ONE ON EACH LINE)			
	Not at all	Somewhat	A lot
a) your religion	1	2	3
b) your sex	1	2	3
c) your sexual orientation	1	2	3
d) your race or ethnicity	1	2	3
e) your education	1	2	3
f) your family background	1	2	3

Naming Convention Variations:

Beginning with the 2002 student survey, some questions have underscores in them. Some of the 2000 survey questions were revised, omitted or added for the senior surveys conducted in 2002 to 2005. Questions that were added or modified between 2000 and 2002 included an underscore to alert researchers of the change. An example is S003_A which is displayed below, this was a new question that was added to the survey, and is only available for the 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 samples.

3_a) Which of the following best describes you?

(CIRCLE ONLY ONE)

- Senior with enough credits to graduate in June.....1
- Senior with too few credits to graduate in June2
- Junior.....3
- Exchange Student.....4
- Other.....5

3_b)(write in) _____



A few extra questions (multiple part questions S177_51 and S177_52) were included in the 2005 student survey because of an interest in a special topic. These questions include an underscore followed by “5” to indicate that the questions were added in 2005.

To help clarify which variables have changed across years a table is included at the end of this memo which displays which questions have changed over time.

In addition to the variables that come directly from the surveys, we constructed some variables from survey questions and added some that were gathered from other sources. The variables names for constructed variables are ad hoc and are limited to 8 characters to maximize the portability of the file between software packages. The names of constructed variables can be found in specific memos and in the Variable Lookup Table. To find constructed variables in the look up table look for variables with a value of “C” in the Origin code. The memos contain information about the source and construction of these variables, including the code that generated them.

Changes to Survey Questions Across Years.

Variable name	Variable name if changed	2000	2002-2005	2005 only	Brief Description
s003_a			X		Identifies type of student (senior, junior, exchange)
s005a	s005_a	X	X		Taken PSAT?
s005b	s005_b	X	X		Taken PACT?
s005c	s005_c	X	X		Taken ASVAB?
s006_d			X		Took advanced placement, honors, or international baccalaureate courses.
s006_ea			X		Took AP, honors, or IB courses in science.
s006_eb			X		Took AP, honors, or IB courses in mathematics.
s006_ec			X		Took AP, honors, or IB courses in history.
s006_ed			X		Took AP, honors, or IB courses in a foreign language.
s006_ee			X		Took AP, honors, or IB courses in English.
s006_ef			X		Took another AP course which was not listed on the survey.
s006_fa			X		How many times student talked to a school guidance or career counselor about high school course selection.
s006_fb			X		How many times student talked to a school guidance or career counselor about personal problems.
s006_fc			X		How many times student talked to a school guidance or career counselor about school discipline problems.
s006_fd			X		How many times student talked to a school guidance or career counselor about what jobs he or she may be suited for.
s006_fe			X		How many times student talked to a school guidance or career counselor about his or her long-term educational plans.
s006_ff			X		How many times student talked to a school guidance or career counselor about choosing a college.
s006_fg			X		How many times student talked to a school guidance or career counselor about college applications.
s006_fh			X		How many times student talked to a school guidance or career counselor about career counseling.
s006_fi			X		How many times student talked to a school guidance or career counselor about getting letters of recommendation.
s006_fj			X		How many times student talked to a school guidance or career counselor about applying for financial aid.
s006_fk			X		How many times student talked to a school guidance or career counselor about arranging job interviews.
s006a	s006_a	X	X		Taken SAT?
s006b	s006_b	X	X		Taken ACT?
s006c	s006_c	X	X		Taken any AP tests?
s021		X			Branch of armed services the student planned to join
s022a		X			How important was needing a job in your decision to join the military?
s022b		X			How important was serving one's country in your decision to join the military?
s022c		X			How important was not getting into a college of your choice in your decision to join the military?
s022d		X			How important was future job training in your decision to join the military?
s022e		X			How important was providing money for education in your decision to join the military?

s022fb		X		How important was "other write/in" in your decision to join the military?
s025a		X		Not liking school as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025b		X		Low grades as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025c		X		Low college admission scores as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025d		X		Not needing more education for his or her desired career as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025e		X		Not being able to afford it as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025f		X		Not getting into any of the schools he or she applied to as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025g		X		Not having taken the right courses as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025h		X		No one in their family has ever continued their education after high school as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025i		X		Taking time off from school as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025j		X		Preferring to work and make money rather than going to school as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025k		X		Plans to be a full time homemaker as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025l		X		Not feeling that going to school is important as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025m		X		Needing to help support his or her family as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025n		X		Plans to join the armed services as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025o		X		Not being able to afford necessary tests as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s025p		X		No one encouraging them to go as a reason not to continue education right after high school.
s026d			X	Did you apply for financial aid from college listed in 26?
s026e			X	Were you awarded financial aid from college listed in 26?
s027a2		X		Flags students without a 2nd choice college
s027d			X	Did you apply for financial aid from college listed in 27?
s027e			X	Were you awarded financial aid from college listed in 27?
s028ad		X		Accepted into 3rd school listed
s028b			X	Have you applied to the college listed in 28?
s028bd		X		Accepted into 4th school listed
s028c			X	Have you been accepted to the college listed in 28?
s028cd		X		Accepted into 5th school listed
s028d			X	Did you apply for financial aid from college listed in 28?
s028dd		X		Accepted into 6th school listed
s028e			X	Were you awarded financial aid from college listed in 28?
s029_b			X	Have you applied to the college listed in 29?
s029_c			X	Have you been accepted to the college listed in 29?
s029_d			X	Did you apply for financial aid from college listed in 29?
s029_e			X	Were you awarded financial aid from college listed in 29?
s029a		X		Did you apply for financial aid from colleges listed in 26, 27, or 28?

s029b		X		Were you awarded financial aid from colleges listed in 26, 27, or 28?
s029ca		X		Were you awarded loans from any of the colleges listed?
s029cb		X		Were you awarded scholarships or grants from any of the colleges listed?
s029cc		X		Were you awarded work study from any of the colleges listed?
s029cd		X		"Don't know" the types of financial aid they had been awarded from colleges.
s030_a			X	Did you apply for a Gates Foundation Achiever Scholarship?
s030_b			X	Were you selected to receive a Gates Foundation Achiever Scholarship?
s030a		X		"Low expenses (tuition, books, room, and board)" was an important factor in the student's college decision.
s030b		X		"The availability of financial aid, such as a school loan, scholarship or grant" was an important factor in the student's college decision.
s030c		X		"Strong reputation of the school's athletic programs" was an important factor in the student's college decision.
s030d		X		"Ability to attend school while living at home" was an important factor in the student's college decision.
s030e		X		"Chance to live away from home" was an important factor in the student's college decision.
s030f		X		"A religious environment" was an important factor in the student's college decision.
s030g		X		"A good record in placing graduates in jobs" was an important factor in the student's college decision.
s030h		X		"Strong reputation of the school's academic programs" was an important factor in the student's college decision.
s030i		X		"Availability of a degree program that will allow me to get a job in my chosen field" was an important factor in the student's college decision.
s030j		X		"Racial/ethnic mix of the students or faculty" was an important factor in the student's college decision.
s030k		X		"Size of the school" was an important factor in the student's college decision.
s030l		X		"Family or friends attend(ed) this school" was an important factor in the student's college decision.
s031a		X		Have you heard of I-200?
s051_1b			X	Number of hours students reported spending in the sport reported in question 051_1a.
s051_2b			X	Number of hours students reported spending in the sport reported in question 051_2a.
s051_3b			X	Number of hours students reported spending in the sport reported in question 051_3a.
s051_4b			X	Number of hours students reported spending in the non-sport activity reported in question 051_4a.
s051_5b			X	Number of hours students reported spending in the non-sport activity reported in question 051_5a.
s051_6b			X	Number of hours students reported spending in the non-sport activity reported in question 051_6a.
s051_7b			X	Number of hours students reported spending in the non-sport activity reported in question 051_7a.
s051_8b			X	Number of hours students reported spending in the non-sport activity reported in question 051_8a.

s051a		X		Did not participate in any school activities.
s051aa		X		Participated in vocal music club
s051aa2		X		Hours spent in vocal club per week.
s051b		X		Participated in academic decathlon.
s051b2		X		Hours spent in academic decathlon per week.
s051bb		X		Participated in yearbook
s051bb2		X		Hours spent in yearbook per week.
s051c		X		Participated in the business leaders program (FBLA)
s051c2		X		Hours spent in the business leaders program (FBLA) per week.
s051cc2		X		Hours spent in another (write in) activity per week.
s051d		X		Participated in cheerleadership
s051d2		X		Hours spent in cheerleadership per week.
s051dd2		X		Hours spent in another (write in) activity per week.
s051e		X		Participated in chess club
s051e2		X		Hours spent in chess club per week.
s051f		X		Participated in computer club
s051f2		X		Hours spent in computer club per week.
s051g		X		Participated in community service or volunteering
s051g2		X		Hours spent in community service or volunteering per week.
s051h		X		Participated in DECA, a club focusing on marketing, business, and entrepreneurship,
s051h2		X		Hours spent in DECA, a club focusing on marketing, business, and entrepreneurship, per week.
s051i		X		Participated in dance
s051i2		X		Hours spent in dance per week.
s051j		X		Participated in debate club or speech team
s051j2		X		Hours spent in debate club or speech team per week.
s051k		X		Participated in drama club
s051k2		X		Hours spent in drama club per week.
s051l		X		Participated in drill team
s051l2		X		Hours spent in drill team per week.
s051m		X		Participated in a foreign language club
s051m2		X		Hours spent in a foreign language club per week.
s051n		X		Participated in high 5 club
s051n2		X		Hours spent in a high 5 club per week.
s051o		X		Participated in international club
s051o2		X		Hours spent in international club per week.
s051p		X		Participated in intermural or club sports
s051p2		X		Hours spent in intermural or club sports per week.
s051r		X		Participated in journalism or the newspaper
s051r2		X		Hours spent in journalism or the newspaper per week.
s051s		X		Participated in knowledge bowl
s051s2		X		Hours spent in knowledge bowl per week.
s051sq		X		Participated in a multicultural organization
s051sq2		X		Hours spent in a multicultural organization per week.
s051t		X		Participated in orchestra
s051t2		X		Hours spent in orchestra per week.
s051u		X		Participated in pep band
s051u2		X		Hours spent in pep band per week.
s051v		X		Participated in pep club
s051v2		X		Hours spent in pep club per week.
s051w		X		Participated in running club
s051w2		X		Hours spent in running club per week.

s051x		X		Participated in ski club
s051x2		X		Hours spent in ski club per week.
s051y		X		Participated in sunshine club
s051y2		X		Hours spent in sunshine club per week.
s051z		X		Participated in school sports (varsity or junior varsity)
s051z2		X		Hours spent in school sports (varsity or junior varsity) per week.
s051z3		X		Top-coded measure of the number of hours spent in school sports per week.
s061	s061_a	X	X	Hours spent on homework in school
s061b	s061_b	X	X	Hours spent on homework outside of school
s096ba	s096b	X	X	Times moved since 1st grade
s096bb		X		Flags students who have never moved
s108_			X	Have you ever attended an after school program or Saturday school?
s116		X		Student has thought at all about whether they would like to get married.
s117		X		Age at which the respondent expects to get married.
s118		X		Respondent's ideal age at which to get married.
s119		X		Thought about whether to have children or how many children to have.
s121		X		Ideal time to have first child
s121_			X	Who in your life is most like a father to you?
s122	s122_	X	X	Highest level of schooling of father
s129_a			X	Who in your life is most like a mother to you?
s130	s130_	X	X	Highest level of schooling of mother
s142_a			X	Is the student's job manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, or other?
s152a		X		Percentage of the student's work income which goes to savings for college or education after high school.
s152b		X		Percentage of the student's work income which goes to help pay household bills.
s152c		X		Percentage of the student's work income which goes to help pay for car expenses.
s152d		X		Percentage of the student's work income which goes to buy clothing, electronics, sports equipment, music (CDs), or other material possessions.
s152e		X		Percentage of the student's work income which goes to entertainment expenses (eating out, movies, concert tickets, etc).
s153		X		Flags students who babysit or take care of younger children during the school year.
s154a		X		Flags students who babysit or take care of younger brothers or sisters during the school year.
s154b		X		Flags students who babysit or take care of other relatives during the school year.
s154c		X		Flags students who babysit or take care of their own child or children during the school year.
s154d		X		Flags students who babysit or take care of younger a child (or children) that are not related to them during the school year.
s155a		X		Flags students who do not get paid for babysitting.
s155b		X		Flags students who get paid for babysitting.
s155c		X		Flags students who get allowance for babysitting.
s156		X		Number of hour spent babysitting per week during the school year.

s157		X			Number of weekend hours spent babysitting during the school year.
s168		X			Is person listed in 167 and 168 biological mother?
s171		X			Is person listed in 169 and 170 biological father?
s177_51a				X	How well the respondent reports his or her father understands English.
s177_51b				X	How well the respondent reports his or her father speaks English.
s177_51c				X	How well the respondent reports his or her father reads English.
s177_51d				X	How well the respondent reports his or her father writes English.
s177_52a				X	How well the respondent reports his or her mother understands English.
s177_52b				X	How well the respondent reports his or her mother speaks English.
s177_52c				X	How well the respondent reports his or her mother reads English.
s177_52d				X	How well the respondent reports his or her mother writes English.