

1. What is STRATUS?

STRATUS is a long-term modernization effort to adopt cloud-based business application systems.

2. What does STRATUS include?

This project includes a redesign of the university's Chart of Accounts, implementation of new financials and budget planning systems.

3. What will STRATUS provide?

- real-time access to financial data
- faster approvals using automated workflows
- more informed decision-making
- modernized chart of accounts
- self-service for university leadership, employees, and vendors
- contemporary look and feel with improved digital accessibility

4. When will STRATUS go-live?

STRATUS is scheduled to go-live in October 2021.

5. What are some of the new features of the STRATUS ?

STRATUS system navigation provides a modern, mobile-friendly look and feel using TU branded icons. Navigation can be used to search, mark favorites, recall recent sites/actions, and change your view based on role. Other contemporary items include notifications, alerts, action buttons, all prompting a better user experience.

6. Where can I learn more about the STRATUS navigation features?

Users are encouraged to watch the brief [STRATUS User Interface Navigation video](#) for more details.

7. What is the Budget Planning Module?

The Budget Planning application allows for the planning, budgeting, and forecasting of TU's revenue and expenses. The application will provide key stakeholders with the ability to model various strategic scenarios, allowing for prompt responses to be taken in a rapidly changing environment. Launching in early April, the Budget Planning System is the first STRATUS component to go-live.

8. When will the Budget Planning Module “go-live?”

The Budget Planning system will go-live for divisional budget officers and budget office staff in April 2021.

9. How does Budget Planning benefit TU?

Budget Planning streamlines Towson's internal budget process at a divisional level. Capturing our budget process in the cloud removes the need for many spreadsheets to be sent back and forth, eliminating errors where wrong files can be picked up or lines can be missed.

10. There is reference that the Budget Planning module allows us to forecast financial scenarios. What does this mean?

The Budget Planning system provides a forecast modeling tool. This tool will allow University leaders to see, at any given time, projected revenue and expenses, as well as debt, in the future. This provides the ability to strategically plan for expenses, as well as when new projects can be taken on.

11. Where can I learn more about the Budget Planning?

Users are encouraged to watch the brief [STRATUS Budget Planning video](#) for more details.

12. What is the Chart of Accounts?

The Chart of Accounts is a group of segment values that are used to track and record financial transactions in Towson University's financial and budgetary control systems.

13. What are the benefits of the redesigned STRATUS Chart of Accounts?

The STRATUS Chart of Accounts (formerly known as the PeopleSoft Chart of Accounts) has been redesigned to provide a simpler user experience with more intuitive data reporting and analysis.

14. Why is the Chart of Accounts Important?

The Chart of Accounts is important to all users to ensure proper accounting and budgeting occurs across the University.

15. What has changed with the new Chart of Accounts?

ProjectID is no longer a part of the Chart of Accounts in STRATUS and a new system is being implemented to track project data.

16. What remains the same with the STRATUS Chart of Accounts?

In most cases, the current 5-digit PS DeptID values will be used as new Cost Center segment values. The current 6-digit PS Account values are not changing. Employees will still have access to the same 5-digit Initiative values to further track and summarize activities.

17. What is new with the STRATUS Chart of Accounts?

A new Cost Center segment was created that will replace the PS DeptID which will allow for tracking expenses and revenues at the lowest level of a department. The STRATUS Chart of Accounts provides more flexibility through organizational roll-ups of the Cost Centers to Division, Sub-Division, Operating Unit and Department Group. Note, the Operating Unit and Department Group are new features for STRATUS.

18. Where can I learn more about the STRATUS Chart of Accounts?

Users are encouraged to watch the brief [STRATUS Chart of Accounts video](#) for more details.