

MIDAS

Data Governance Glossary

Data Custodians: Individuals or teams responsible for the technical safekeeping, security, and maintenance of an organization's data, including managing the databases and systems where it is stored

Data Domains: Grouping of similar data such as “student” or “financial” that will be used to assign accountability and govern data assets. The division of data into domains will help manage the complexity by breaking down Mason’s data assets into manageable, subject-oriented units, which can be further divided into subdomains, e.g. under admissions we might have demographics, enrollment, degrees, etc., for greater granularity.

Data Governance: A framework of policies, standards, and processes that manage how an organization's data is collected, stored, used, and secured by establishing who has authority and responsibility for data, ensuring it is accurate, consistent, and compliant with regulations, and is treated as a strategic asset. Effective data governance supports better decision-making and protects against the risks of misuse or inaccurate data.

Data Governance Specialist: A professional responsible for implementing and maintaining data governance policies and procedures to ensure data is accurate, consistent, secure, and used responsibly. Working across departments, they assist in establishing standards for data management, defining data ownership, and ensuring compliance with regulations, to enable data-informed decision-making while managing risk.

Data Literacy: the ability to read, understand, analyze, and communicate with data to make informed decisions. Skills include the ability to identify data sources, interpret charts, use data to tell a story, etc..

Data Stewards: Acting as the link between business and IT, these individuals are responsible for overseeing data assets within their functional area to ensure quality, security and ethics, ensuring accuracy, consistency, and availability for decision-making while adhering to the high-level policies set by data governance and data trustees. Their duties include classifying data, defining usage, implementing data quality rules, ensuring compliance with regulations, and managing data lifecycle events.

Data Trustee: A senior official responsible for overseeing a specific data domain or sub-domain, ensuring security, quality, and compliance with policies and regulations. Responsible for setting data access policies, classifying data, resolving conflicts, and appointing data stewards who manage the day-to-day data-related activities.

Data Users: Individuals or organizations that interact with or use data, ranging from end users who access information through applications to advanced users who perform complex analyses to database administrators who manage access. They can be categorized by their role, technical skill, and level of interaction, from novice users entering data to researchers analyzing datasets.

Executive Sponsors: A high-level executive who is accountable for a project's success by providing strategic guidance, securing resources, and advocating for the project at the highest levels of the organization.