

About Entity Relationship Diagrams (ERDs)

An ERD is often used as a way to visualize a relational database: each entity represents a database table, and the relationship lines represent the keys in one table that point to specific keys in related tables. PeopleSoft has broken these out by application module and by process within that module. The type of line and symbol indicate the particulars of a relationship like one to one, one to many, and many to many. PeopleSoft denotes the keys to each table above the brown line in each table box.

As a relationship line is followed from one table to another, symbols can appear near each table.

- A circle indicates that the relationship is optional. The minimum number of relationships between each instance of the first table and instances of the related table is zero. One can think of the circle as a zero, or a letter O for “optional.”
- A stroke (|) indicates that the relationship is mandatory. The minimum number of relationships between each instance of the first table and instances of the related table is one.
- A “crows-foot” indicates that many such relationships between instances of the related tables might exist.