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# Inheritance



C++ Object Oriented Programming

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NTOUCS

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## ❖ Basic Inheritance

- ★ Why inheritance
- ★ How inheritance works
- ★ Protected members
- ★ Constructors and destructors
- ★ Derivation tree
- ★ Function overriding and hiding
- ★ Example class hierarchy

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- ★ How inheritance works
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# Basic Inheritance



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**What is the problem of this design?**

**Not Good!**

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- ★ **Student** becomes a **general purpose class**, a set of attributes and interfaces are used for undergraduate students, while another set of attributes and interfaces are used for graduate students  
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## **OCP: open-closed principle**

*Software entities (classes, modules, functions, etc.)*

*should be **open** for extension, but **closed** for modification.*

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- ❖ A client program cannot treat both classes of objects in a uniform way, ex. The library circulation system wants to check which students are holding books overdue, it has to handle undergraduate and graduate students with separate pieces of codes. ❖ Also, a lot of redundancy.

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Student student;
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- ctor(), dtor()  
setData()  
getAge()  
getName()
- : Student  
m\_name = "Mel"  
m\_age = 19

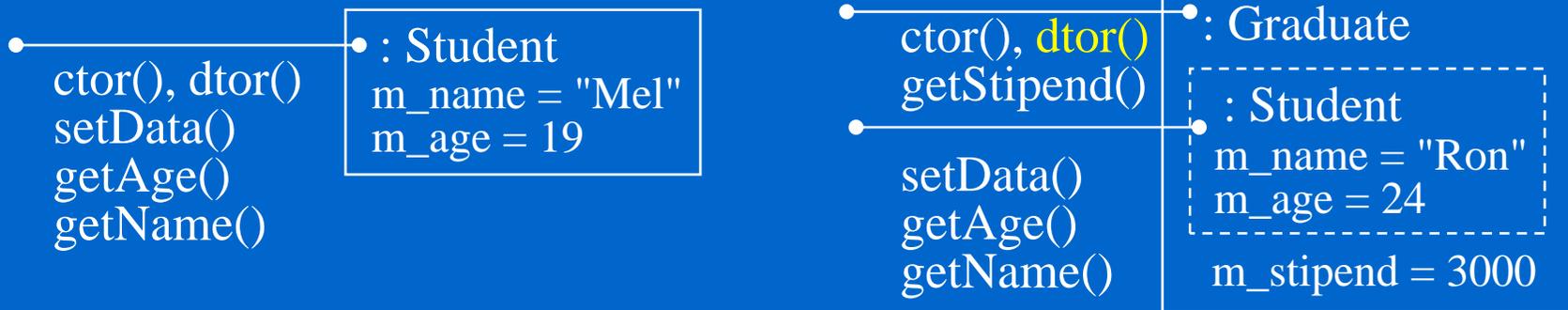
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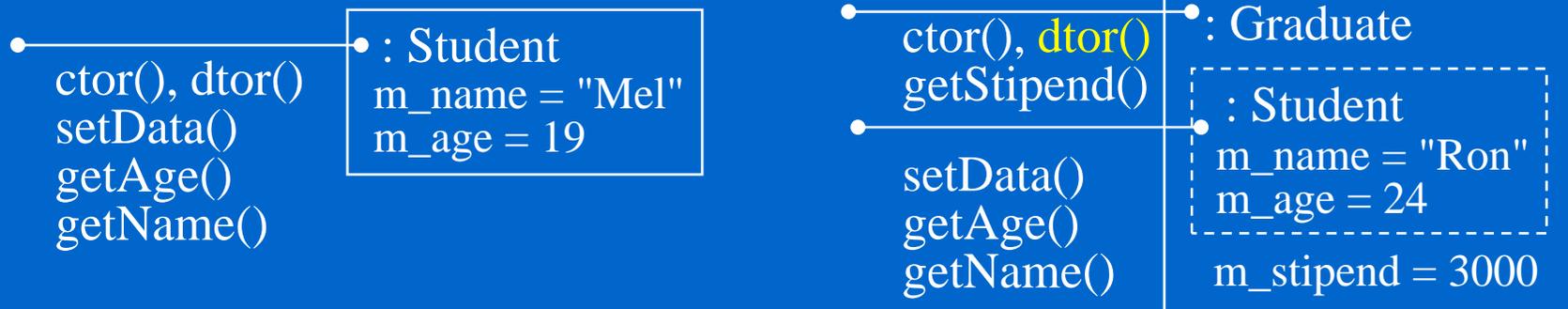
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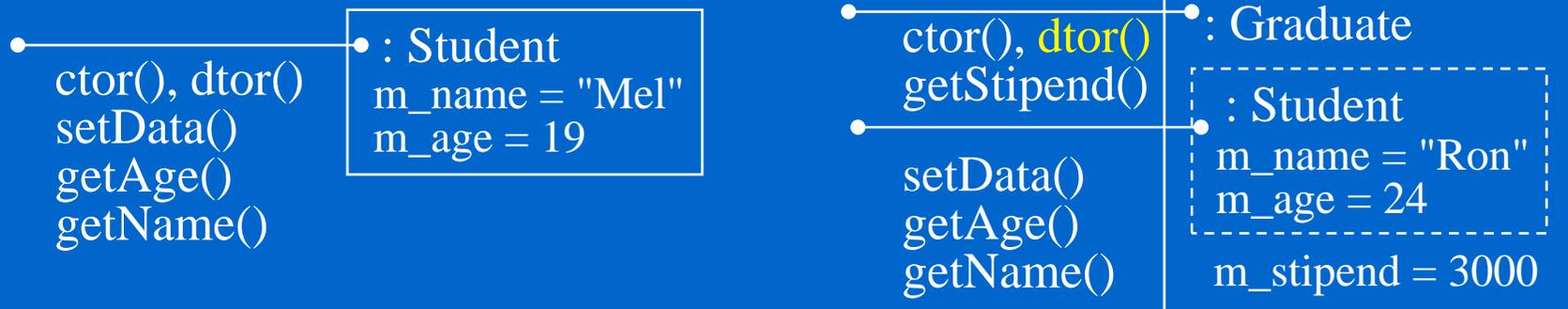
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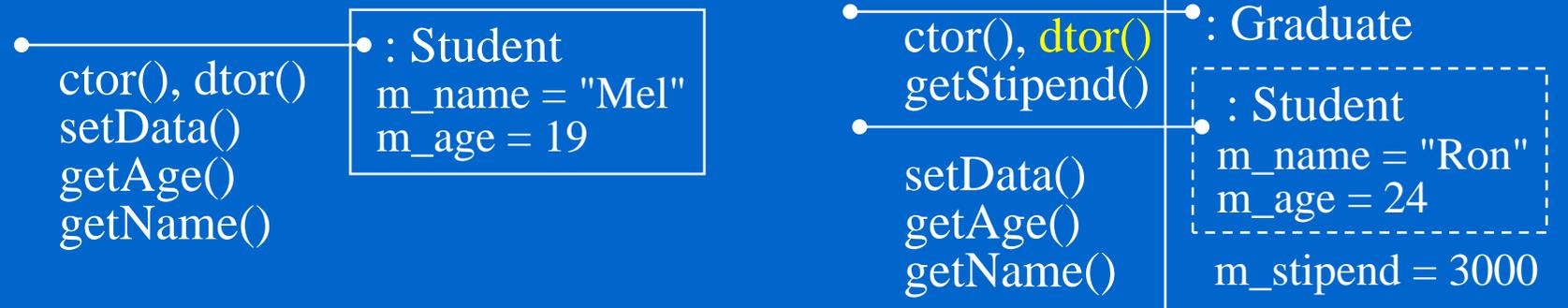
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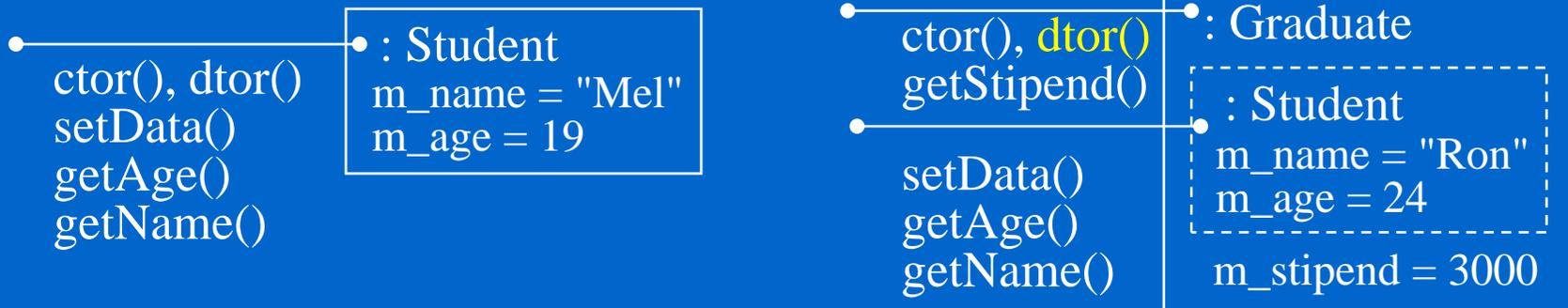
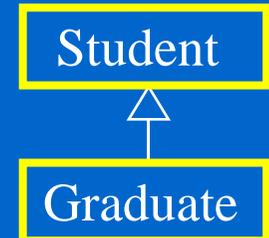
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- ❖ **Back to OCP:** Did you extend the functionality of the class Student?

# Basic Inheritance (cont'd)

- ❖ This would be illegal

```
int Graduate::getStipend() const {  
    if (m_age > 30)  
        return 0;  
    return m_stipend;  
}
```

- ❖ Private data member of the base class is implicitly declared/defined but is still kept private from its derived class. (the boundary of base class is maintained)

- ❖ This is legal

```
int Graduate::getStipend() const {  
    if (getAge() > 30)  
        return 0;  
    return m_stipend;  
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```

- ❖ **Back to OCP:** Did you extend the functionality of the class Student?  
Did you edit student.h or student.cpp?

# Protected Data and Functions

- ✧ Can we give the derived class access to "private" data of base class?

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age);  
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  - ★ derived class and friends of derived classes

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int Graduate::getStipend() const {  
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Note: the encapsulation perimeter is enlarged a great deal with "protected" in your design

# Basic Inheritance (cont'd)

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- ❖ **Most** of the member functions of the base class are implicitly inherited by the derived class except
  - ★ The constructor (including copy ctor)
  - ★ The assignment operator
  - ★ The destructor
- ❖ They are synthesized by the compiler again if not explicitly defined. The synthesized ctor, dtor, and assignment operator would chain automatically to the function defined in the base class.

# Inheritance and Constructors

- ✧ Rewrite Student using constructor

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Student::Student(char *name, int age) : m_age(age) {
    m_name = new char[strlen(name)+1];
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```
Graduate::Graduate(char *name, int age, int stipend)
    : m_age(age), m_stipend(stipend)
```

```
error C2614: 'Graduate' : illegal member initialization: 'm_age' is not a base or member
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- ❖ Base class guarantee

The base class will be fully constructed before the body of the derived class constructor is entered

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    Derived(Derived &src);  
    ...  
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    Component m_obj;  
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    Derived(Derived &src);  
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private:  
    Component m_obj;  
};  
Derived::Derived(Derived &src): Base(src), m_obj(src.m_obj) {  
    ...  
}
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```

```
public:
```

```
...
```

```
    Derived(Derived &src);
```

```
...
```

```
private:
```

```
    Component m_obj;
```

```
};
```

```
Derived::Derived(Derived &src): Base(src), m_obj(src.m_obj) {
```

```
...
```

```
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If you do not define a copy ctor, the compiler would generate one exactly like this.

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## Note:

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Derived::Derived(Derived &src):  
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    ...  
private:  
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};  
Derived::Derived(Derived &src): Base(src), m_obj(src.m_obj) {  
    ...  
}
```

Compiler adds **Base()** invocation automatically

**Note:**

```
Derived::Derived(Derived &src):  
    m_obj(src.m_obj)  
    {  
        ...  
    }
```

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```
Graduate::Graduate(char *name, int age, int stipend, char *address)  
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# Inheritance and Dtors (cont'd)

✧ What happens in main()

# Inheritance and Dtors (cont'd)

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```
void main() {  
    Graduate student("Michael", 24, 6000, " 8899 Storkes Rd.");  
    cout << student.getName() << " is " << student.getAge() << " years old and "  
        << "has a stipend of " << student.getStipend() << "dollars.\n"  
        << "His address is " << student.getAddress() << "\n";  
}
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The output is:



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The output is:

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The output is:

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Michael is 24 years old and has a stipend of 6000 dollars.

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The output is:

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In Graduate dtor  
In Student dtor
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chaining

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    cout << student.getName() << " is " << student.getAge() << " years old and "  
        << "has a stipend of " << student.getStipend() << "dollars.\n"  
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```

The output is:

```
In Student ctor  
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Michael is 24 years old and has a stipend of 6000 dollars.  
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In Graduate dtor  
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chaining

- ❖ The compiler automatically calls each dtor when the object dies.

# Inheritance and Dtors (cont'd)

- ❖ What happens in main()

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chaining

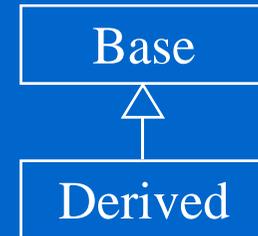
- ❖ The compiler automatically calls each dtor when the object dies.
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  - ★ In destructing the derived object, the base object is still in scope and functioning correctly.

# Chaining of Assignment Operator

- ✧ By default, the compiler adds a “**bit-wise copy**” assignment operator for every class which you do not define an assignment operator

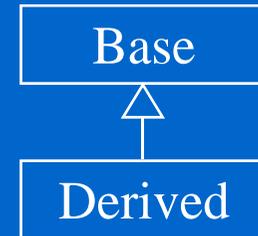
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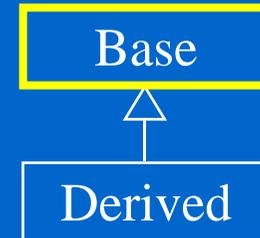
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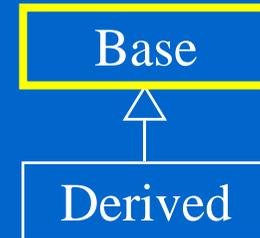
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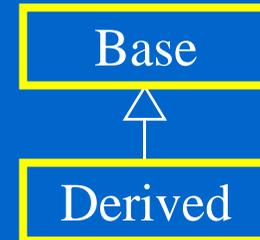


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Derived& Derived::operator=(Derived &rhs) {  
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    ....  
    return *this;  
}
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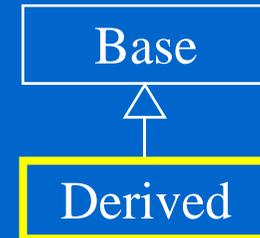
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- 3&4. If you define `Derived& Derived::operator=(Derived &rhs)` yourself, you have to call `Base::operator=(rhs);` in `Derived::operator=(Derived)` no matter it is synthesized or not; otherwise the Base part of the object would not be copied.

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class Student {  
public:  
    Student(char *name, int age);  
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    void setData(char *name, int age);  
    int getAge() const;  
    const char *getName() const;  
private:  
    char *m_name;  
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```

---

```
class Graduate: public Student {  
public:  
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private:  
    int m_stipend;  
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    int getAge() const;  
    const char *getName() const;  
private:  
    char *m_name;  
    int m_age;  
};
```

```
class ForeignGraduate: public Graduate {  
public:  
    ForeignGraduate(char *name, int age,  
                    int stipend,  
                    char *nationality);  
    ~ForeignGraduate()  
    const char *getNationality();  
private:  
    char *m_nationality;  
};
```

```
class Graduate: public Student {  
public:  
    Graduate(char *name, int age, int stipend);  
    int getStipend() const;  
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# Layers of Inheritance (cont'd)

Student

# Layers of Inheritance (cont'd)

## ★ ctor of Student

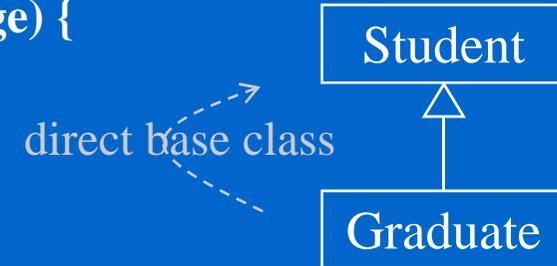
```
Student::Student(char *name, int age) : m_age(age) {  
    m_name = new char[strlen(name)+1];  
    strcpy(m_name, name);  
}
```

Student

# Layers of Inheritance (cont'd)

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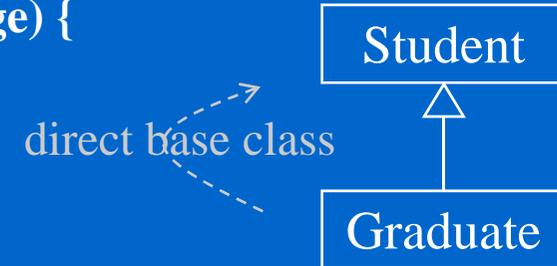
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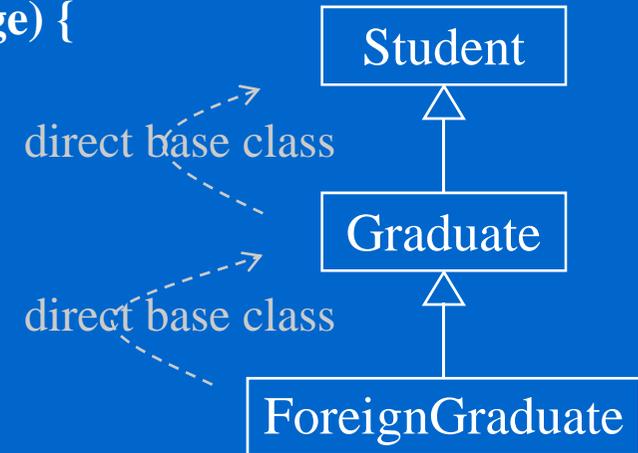
- ★ ctor of Graduate invokes the ctor of its direct base class - Student

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Graduate::Graduate(char *name, int age, int stipend)  
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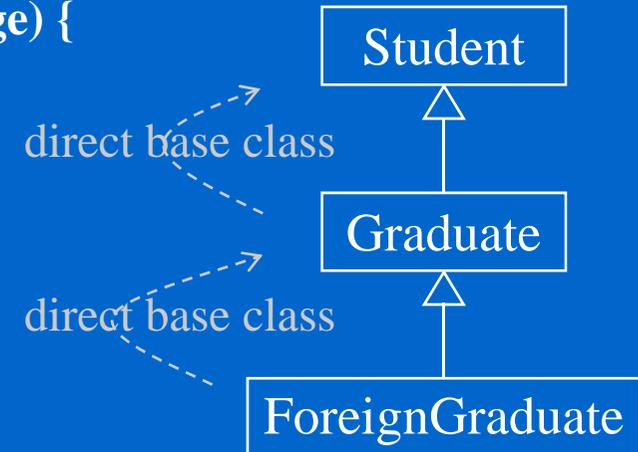
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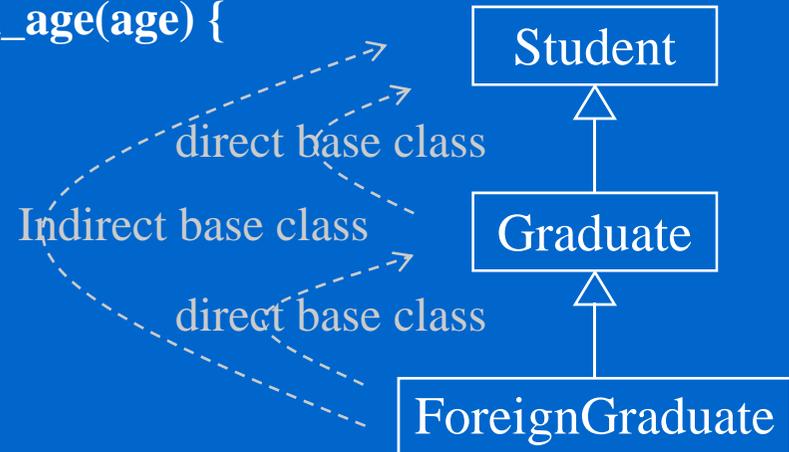
- ★ ctor of ForeignGraduate invokes the ctor of its direct base class - Graduate

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ForeignGraduate::ForeignGraduate(char *name,  
    int age, int stipend, char *nationality)  
    : Graduate(name, age, stipend) {  
    m_nationality = new char[strlen(nationality)+1];  
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# Layers of Inheritance (cont'd)

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void Graduate::display() const { // masks the inherited version of display()  
    cout << getName() << " is " << getAge() << " years old.\n";  
    cout << "He has a stipend of " << m_stipend << " dollars.\n";  
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- ❖ The Graduate class **automatically inherits this member function**. However, the output of this function for a Graduate object is in a way short of many important data.

- ❖ We would like to **redefine this function** in the derived class – Graduate, such that it will show the stipend and address together.

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    cout << getName() << " is " << getAge() << " years old.\n";  
    cout << "He has a stipend of " << m_stipend << " dollars.\n";  
    cout << "His address is " << m_address << ".\n";  
}
```

- ❖ Note: function signature is exactly the same as in the base class.

# Behavior Changing (cont'd)

- ✧ Example usage of the previous design:

# Behavior Changing (cont'd)

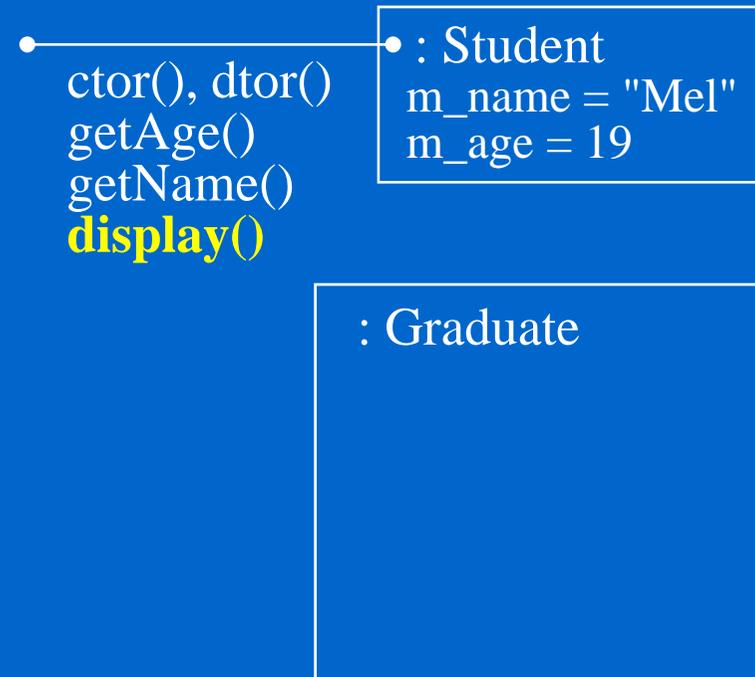
✧ Example usage of the previous design:

• ctor(), dtor()  
• getAge()  
• getName()  
• **display()**

• : Student  
m\_name = "Mel"  
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# Behavior Changing (cont'd)

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# Behavior Changing (cont'd)

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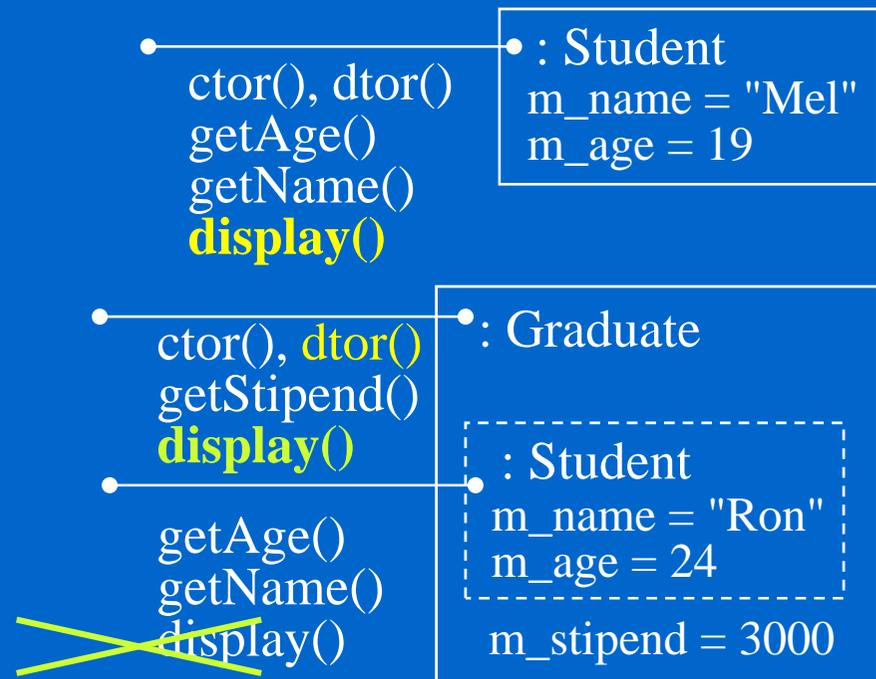
• : Graduate

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m\_name = "Ron"  
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m\_stipend = 3000

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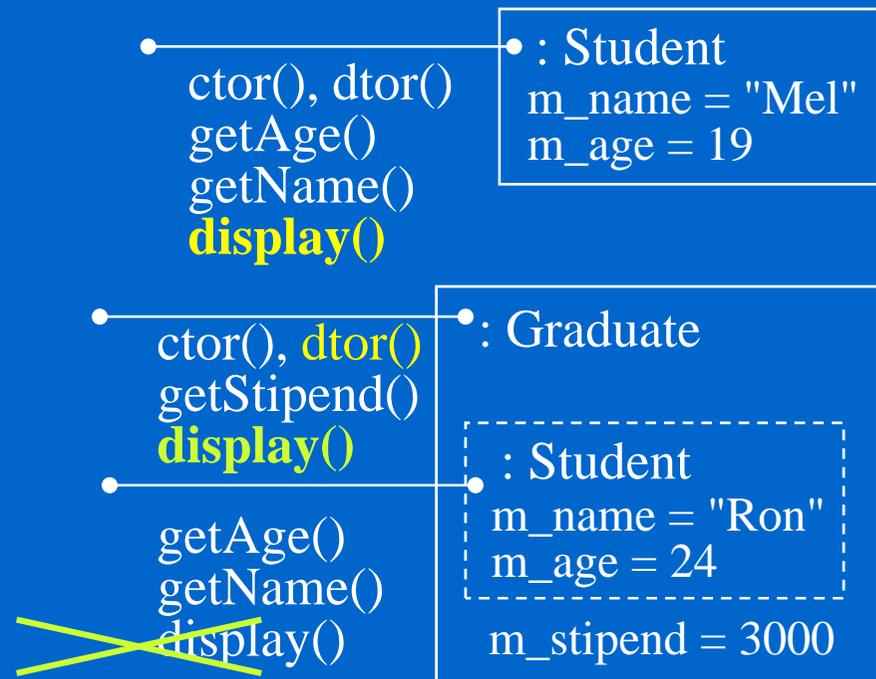


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Student student1("Alice", 20);
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❖ Note: display() interface usually can enhance the encapsulation, replacing the functionality of trivial accessor functions

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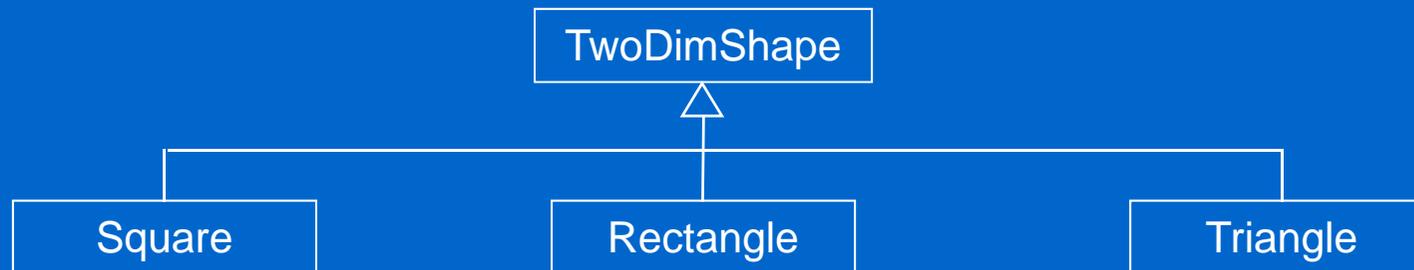
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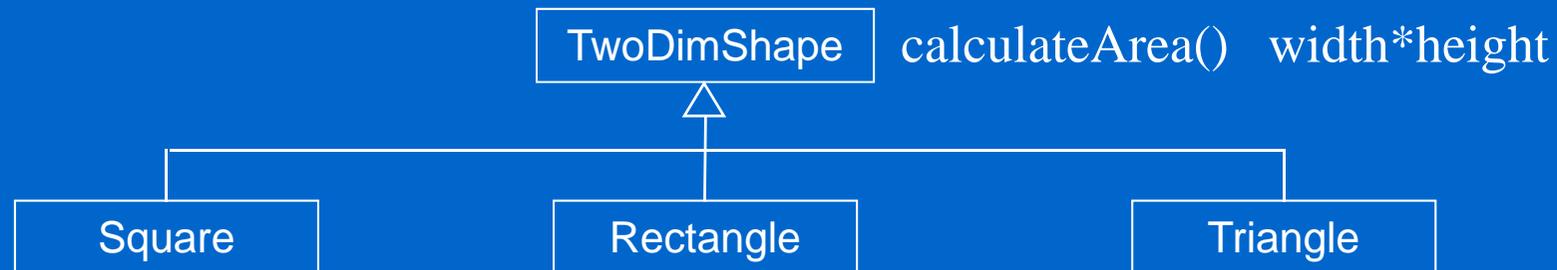


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- ❖ The functions defined in the base class are OK for most derived classes. Only some of them need to be changed in the derived classes. Ex.

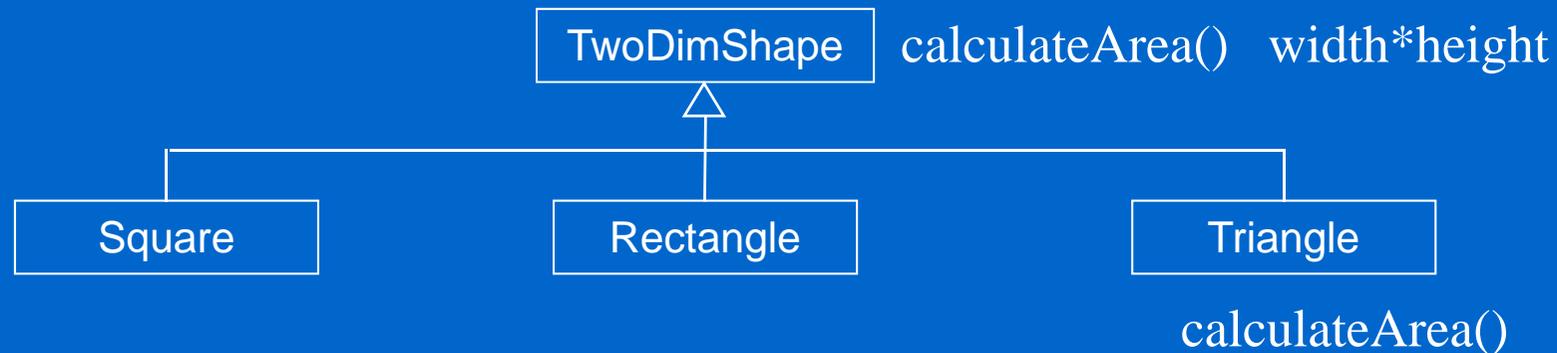


# Behavior Changing (cont'd)

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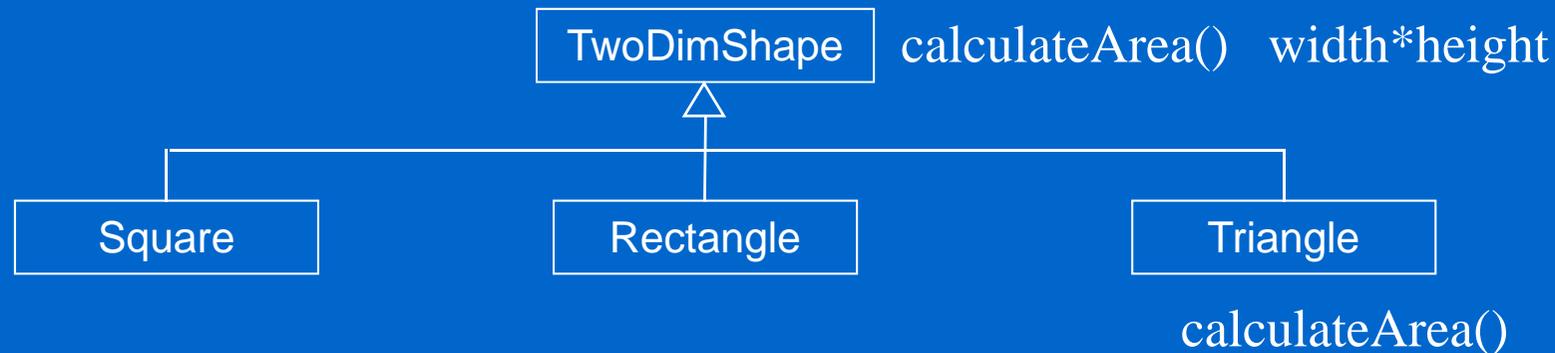


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**1/2**\*TwoDimShape::calculateArea()

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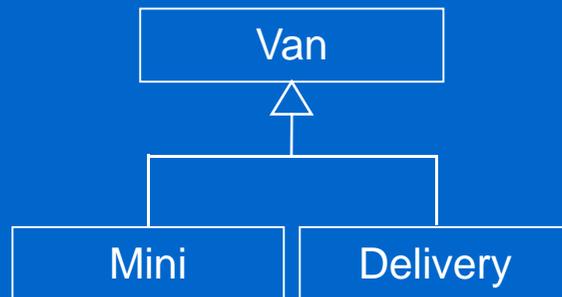
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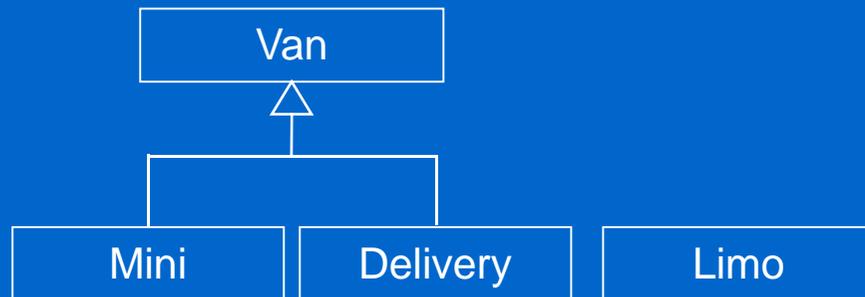
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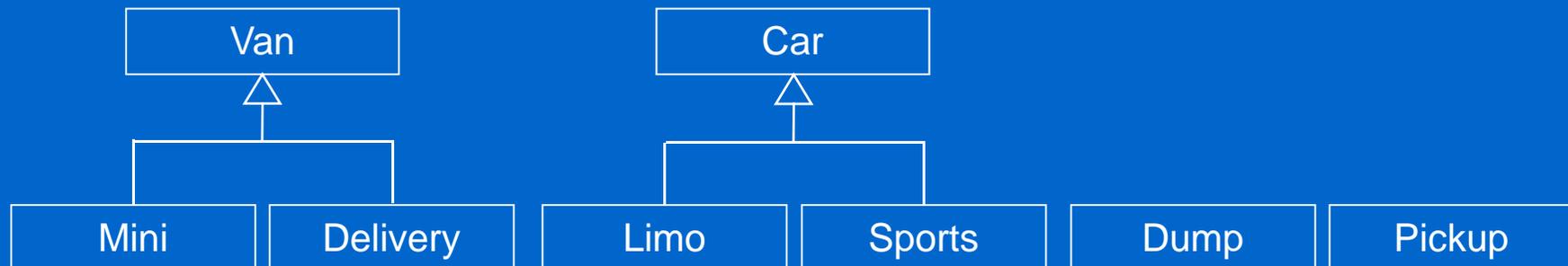
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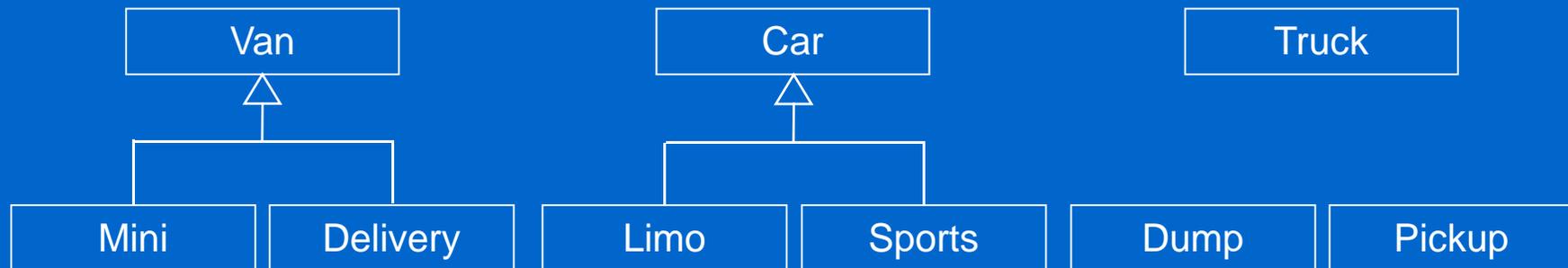
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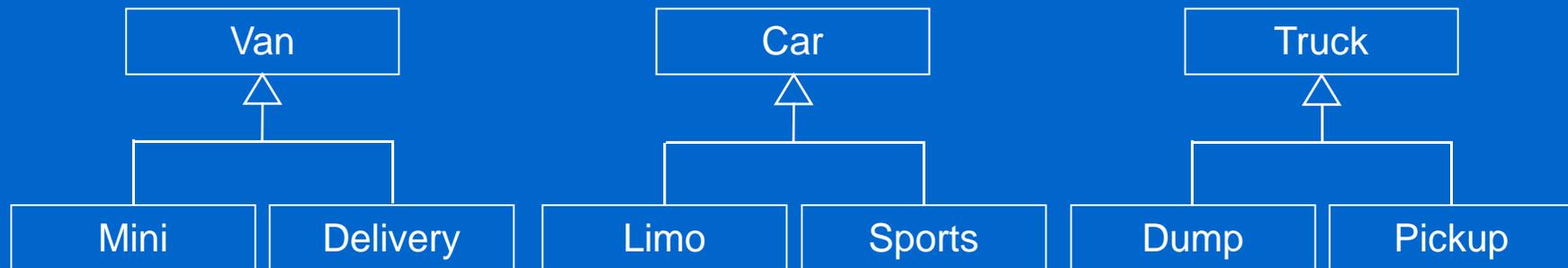
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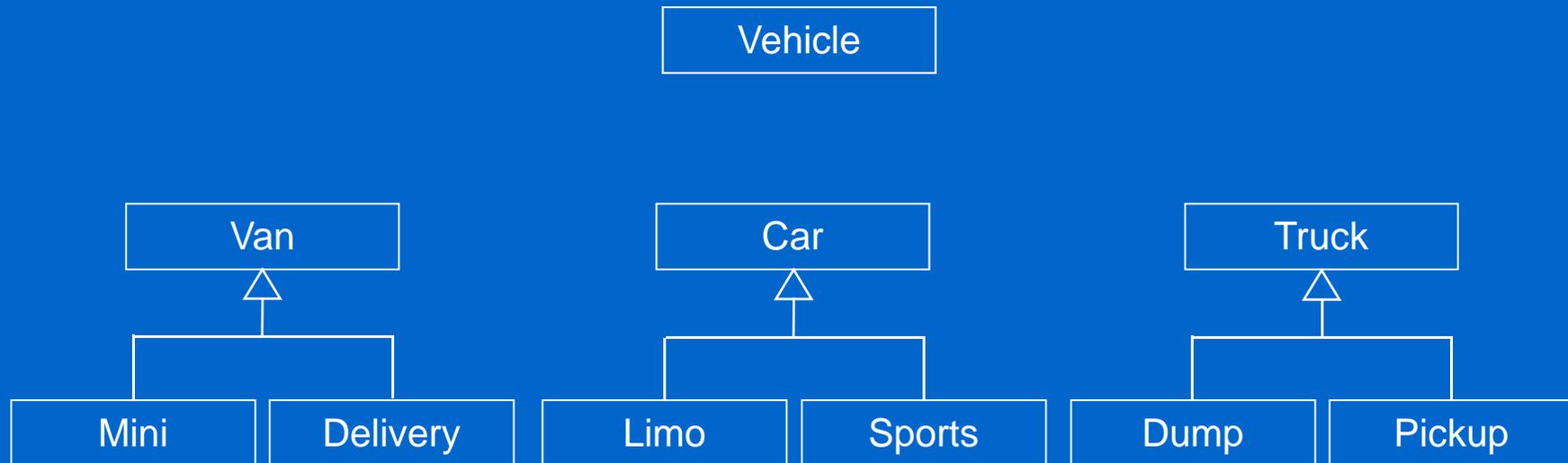
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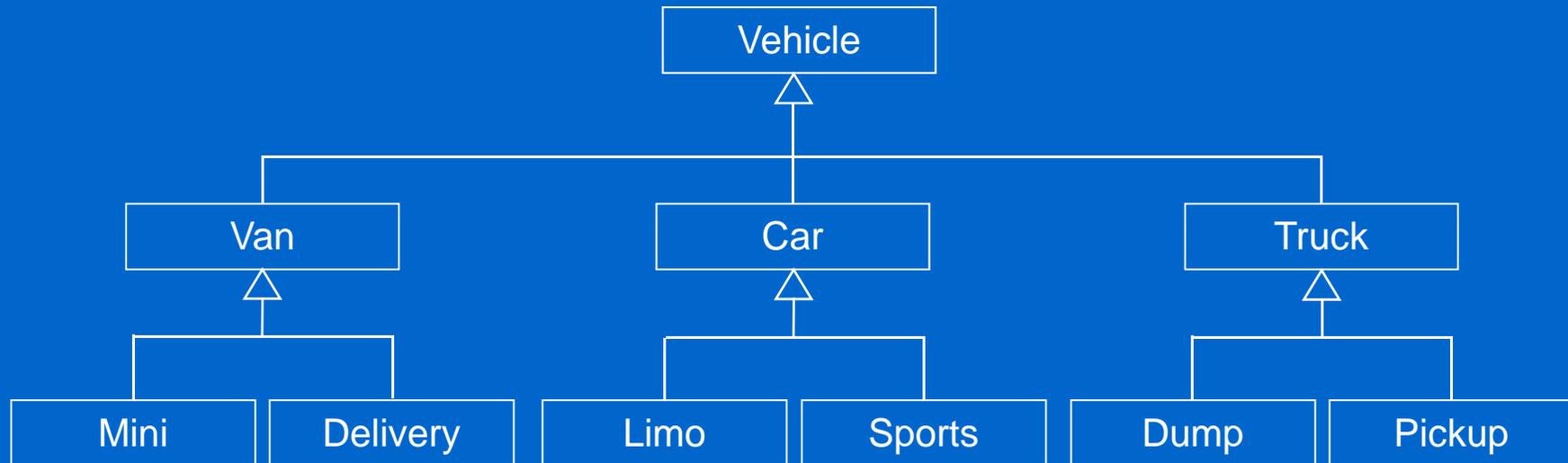
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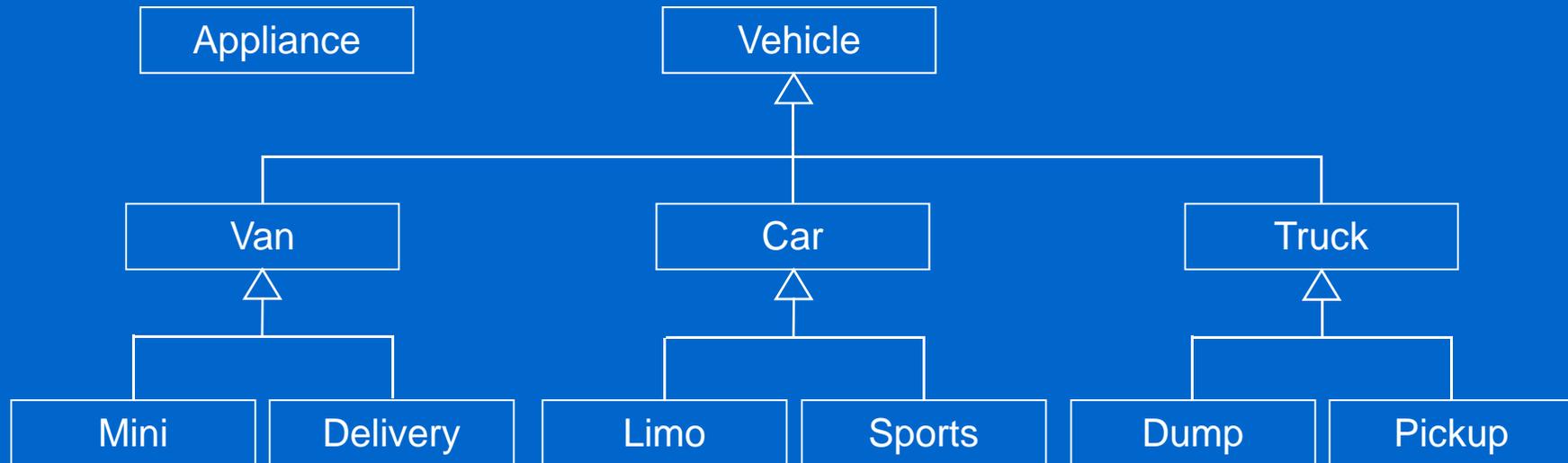
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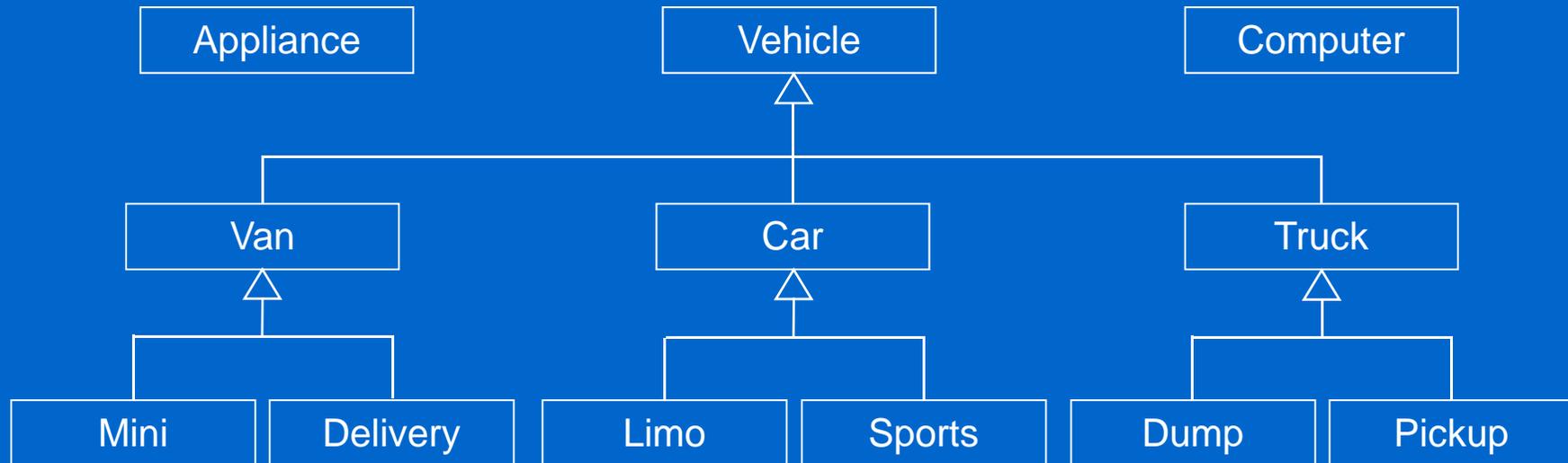
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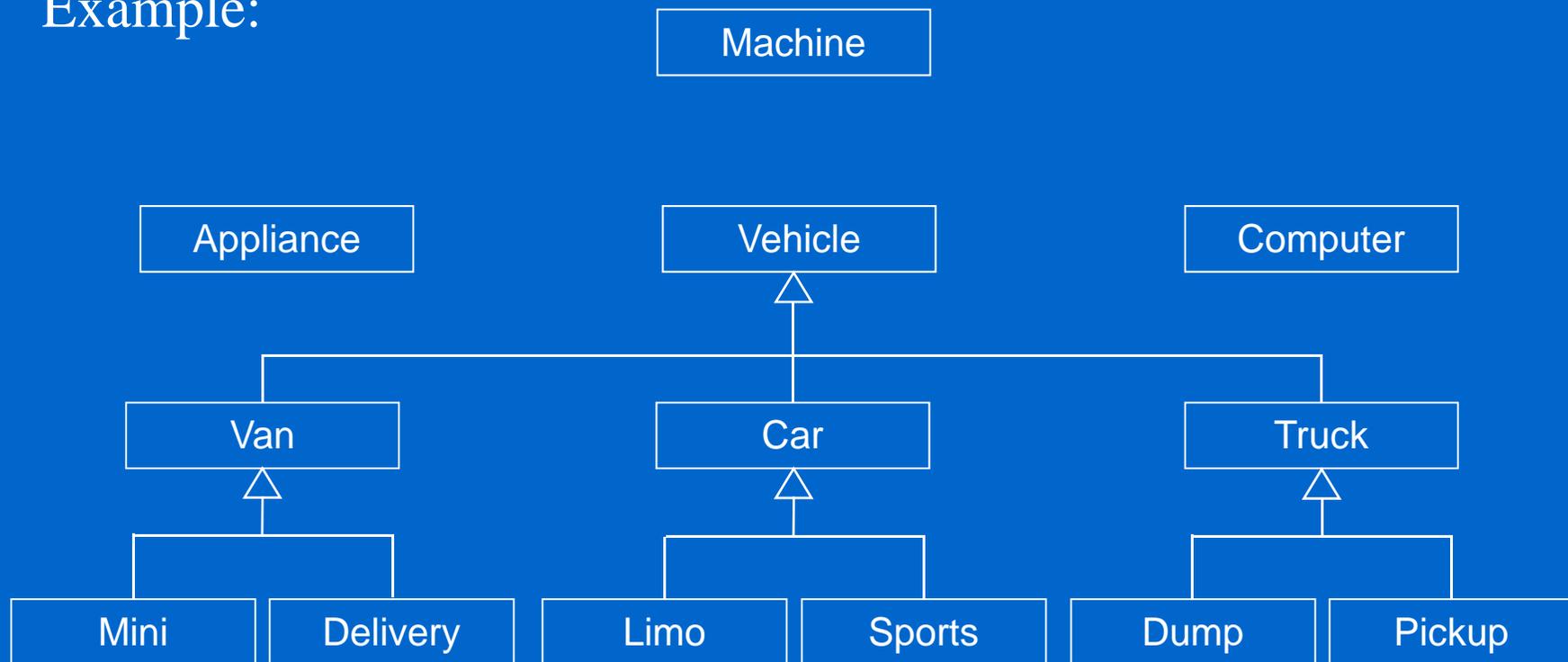
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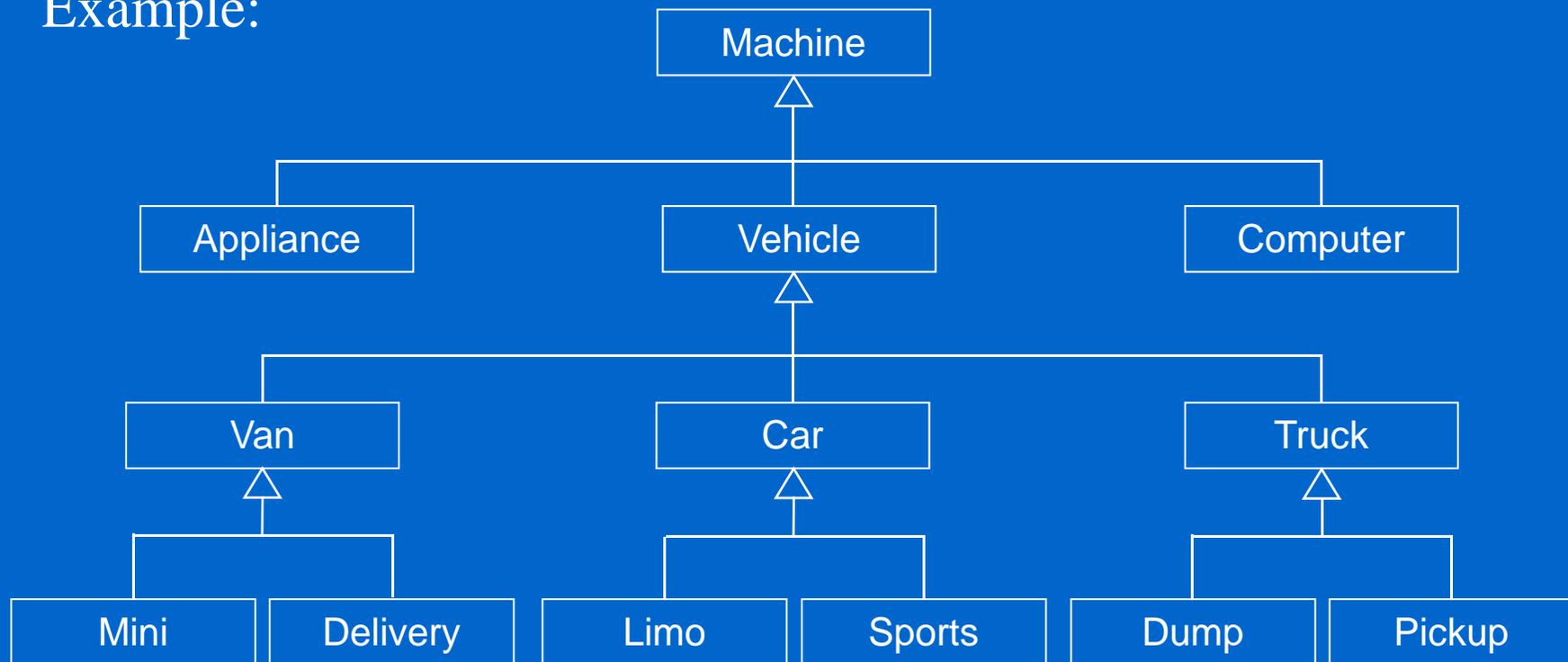
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# Real-World Examples Of Inheritance

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- ❖ ...



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# Inheritance Design

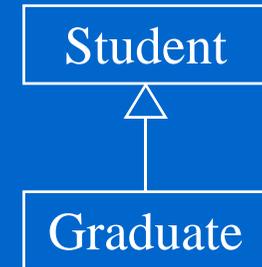


# Exploring Solutions to Inheritance

- ✧ The University database program

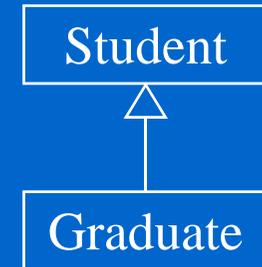
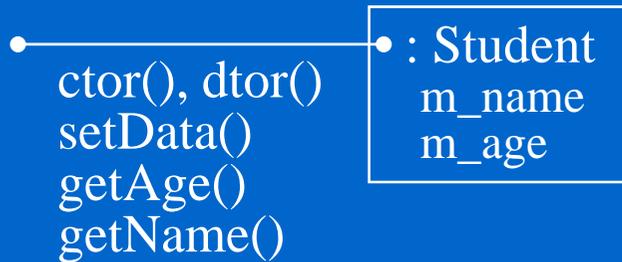
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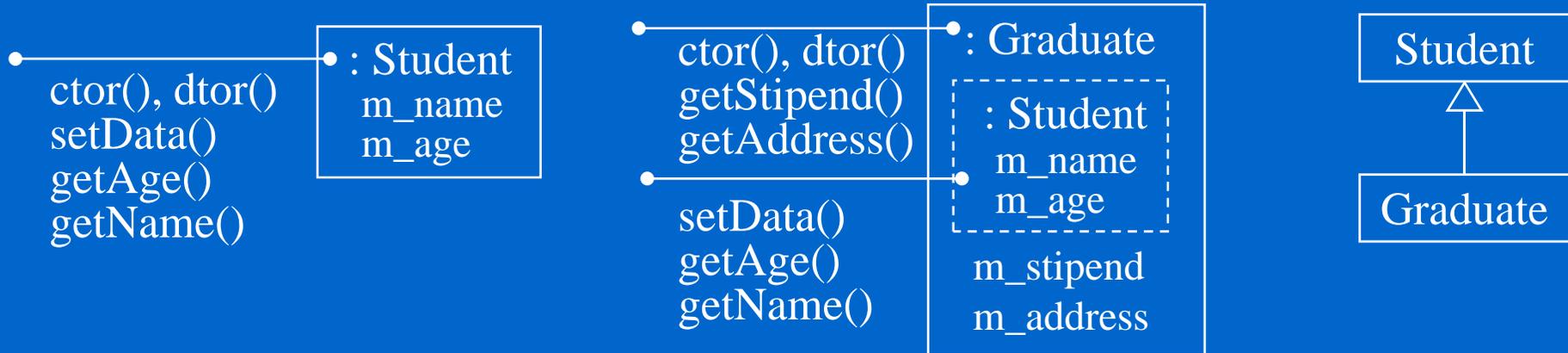
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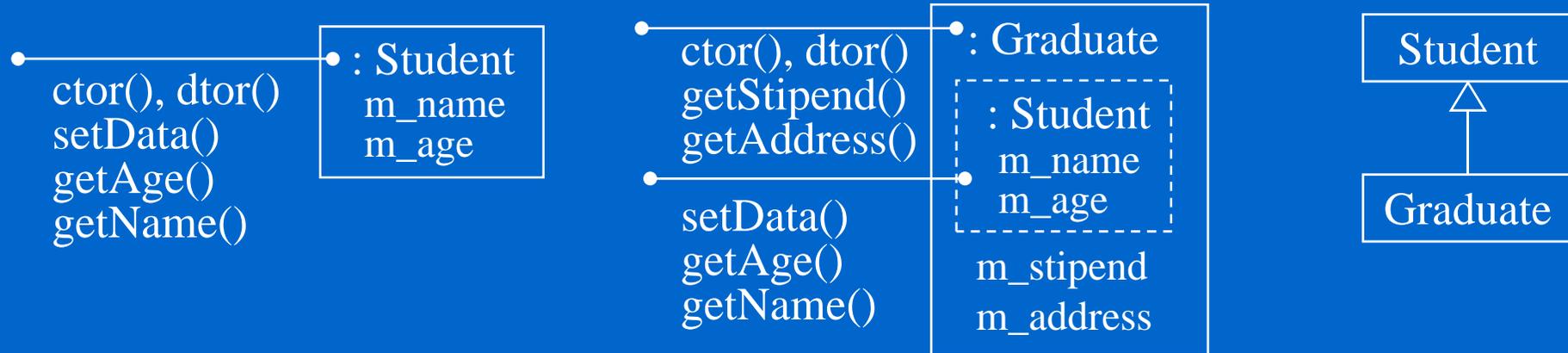
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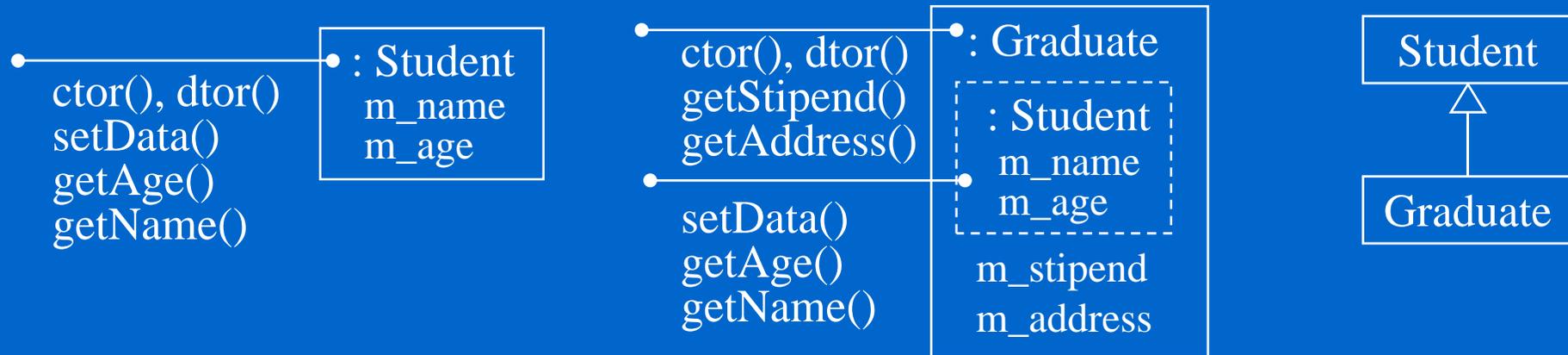
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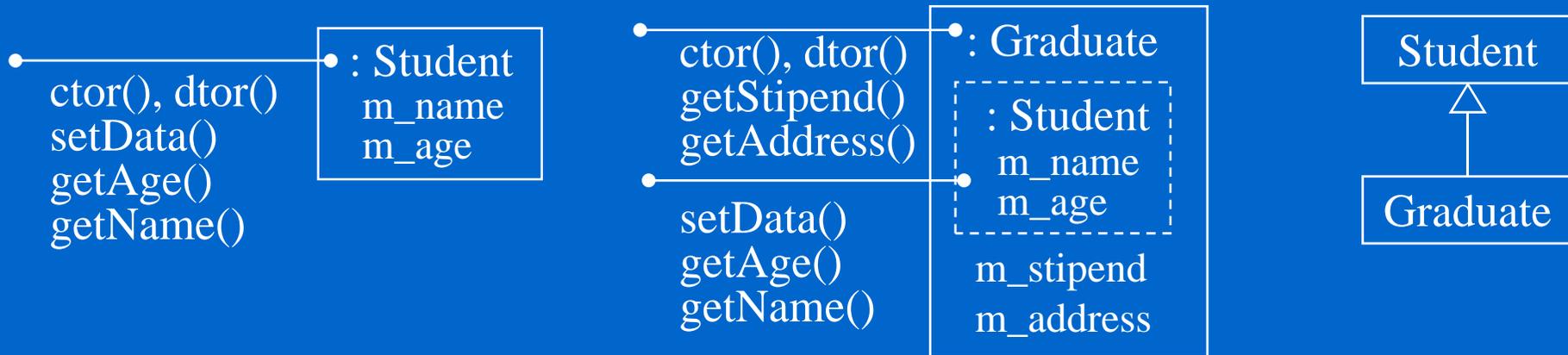


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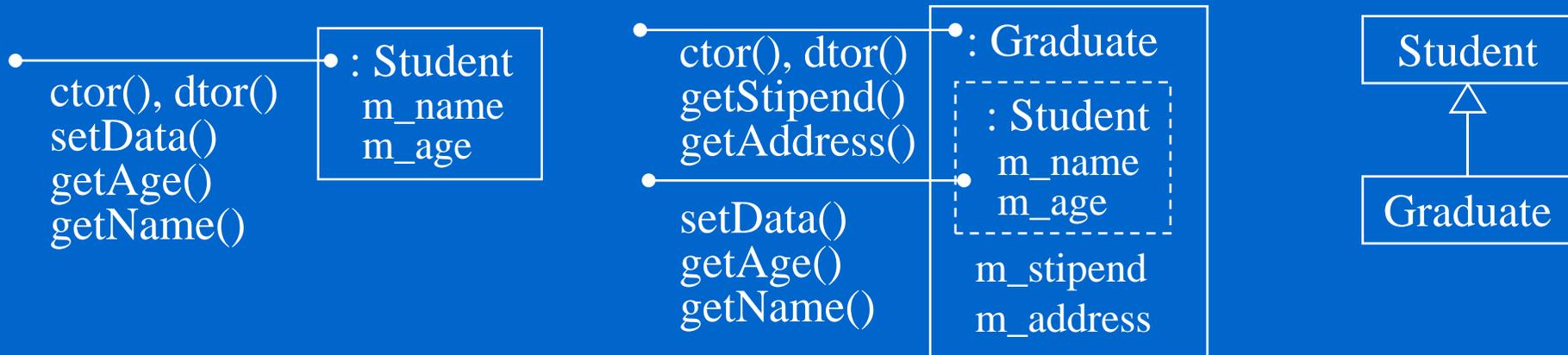


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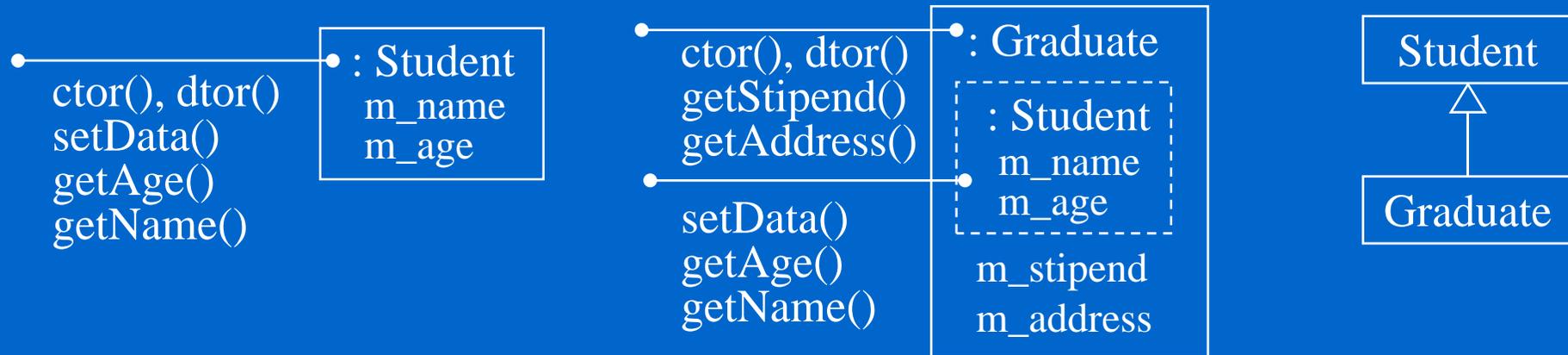
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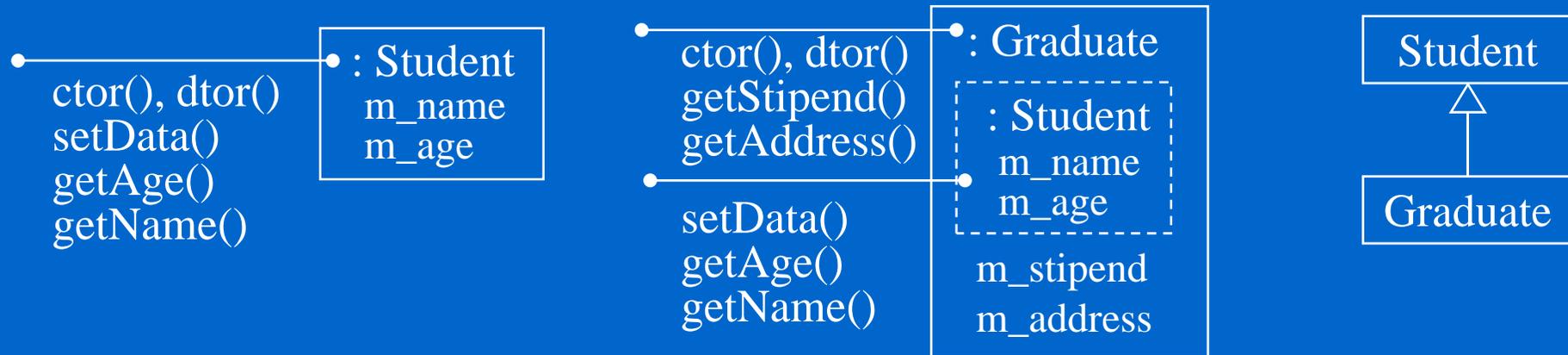
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- ❖ Should Faculty be derived from Student or Graduate or none of both?
- ❖ Let us first try inheriting Faculty from Graduate since the two groups have so much data in common

# Exploring Solutions (cont'd)

- ✧ Deriving Faculty from Graduate makes a very **efficient reuse of codes**

# Exploring Solutions (cont'd)

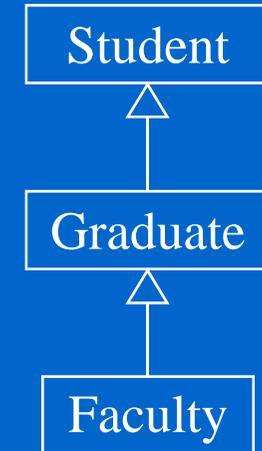
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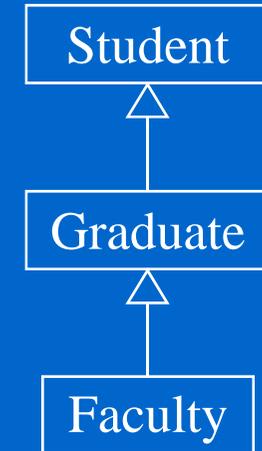


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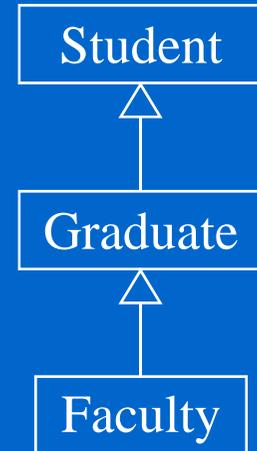
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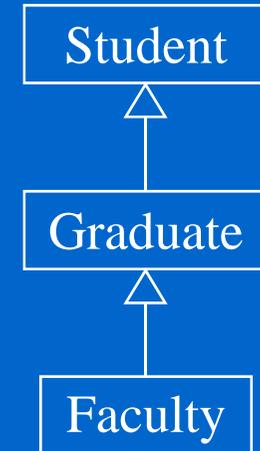
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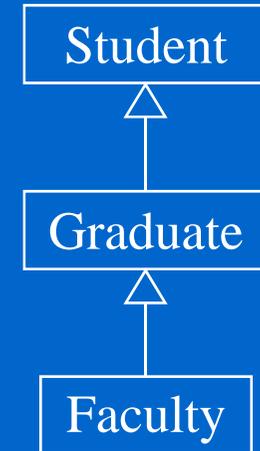
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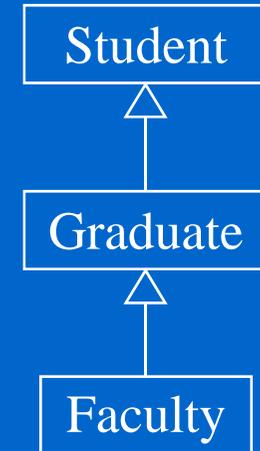
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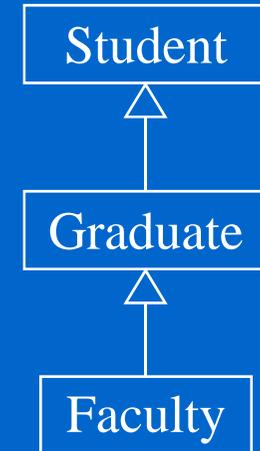
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This is **NOT** a good solution!

# Another Possible Solution

- ❖ How about deriving Faculty from Student because Faculty requires all of the data from Student

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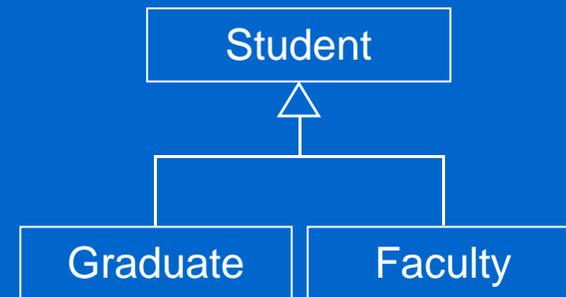
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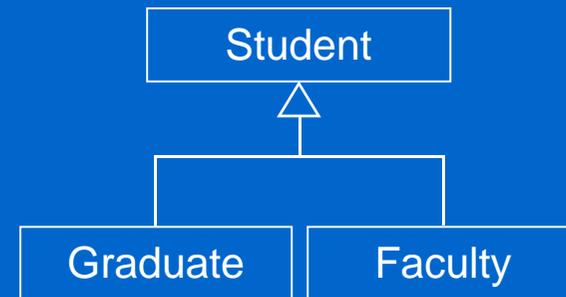
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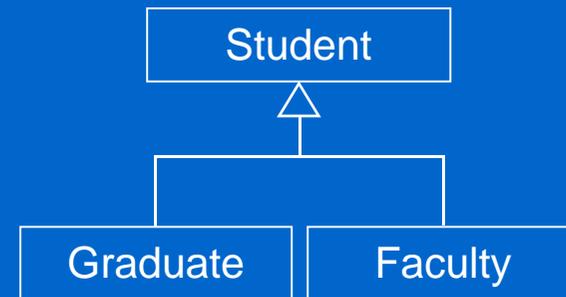


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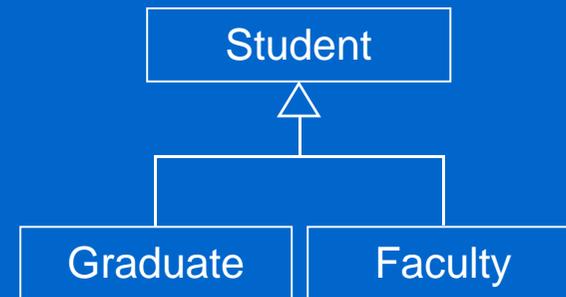


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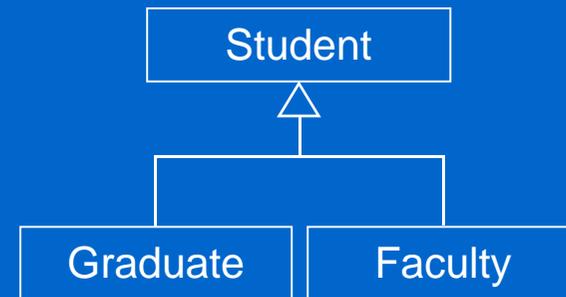


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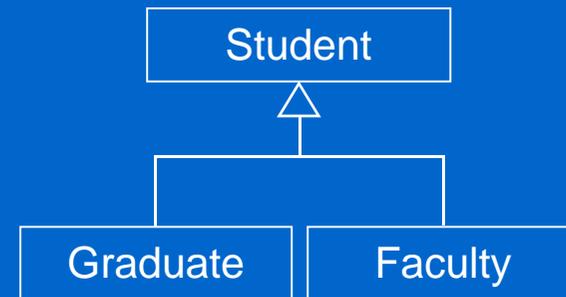


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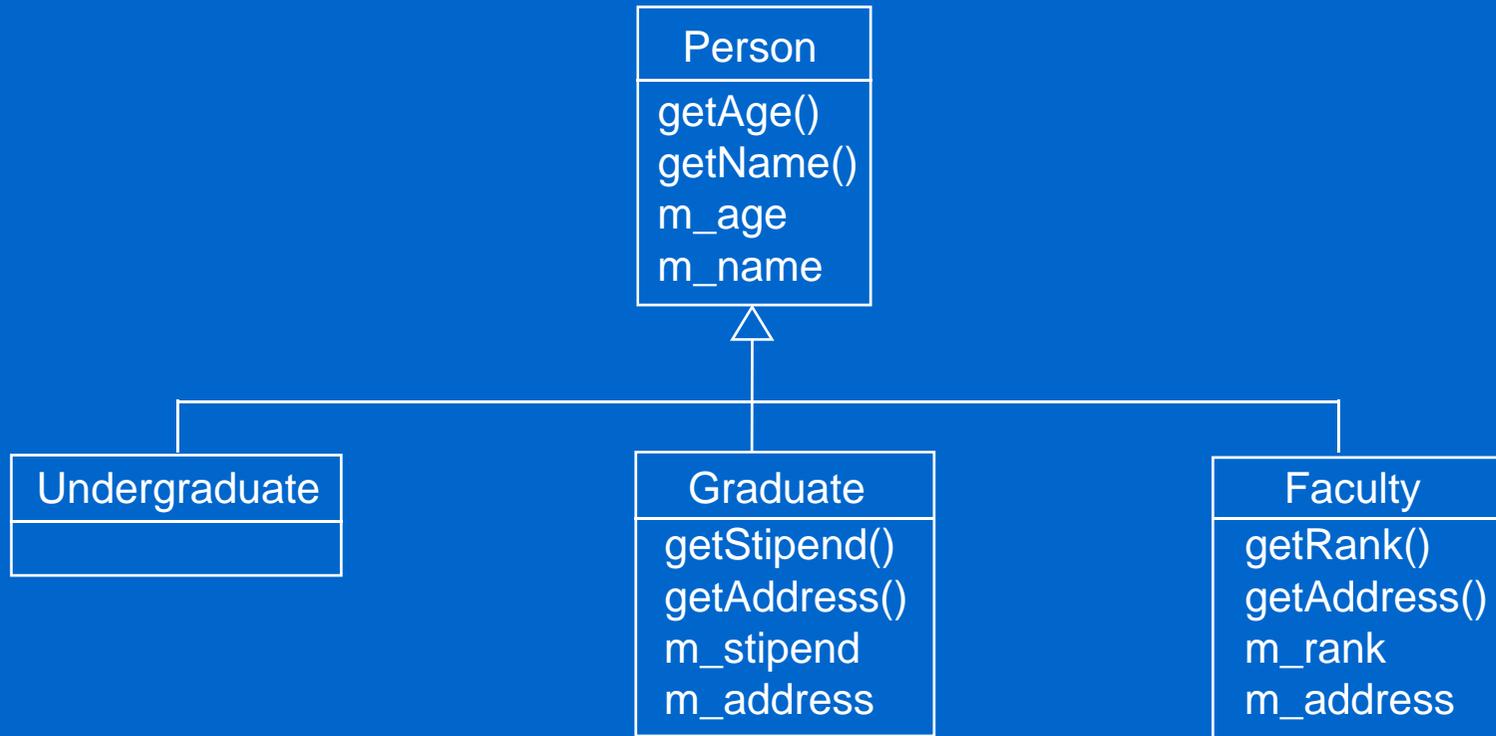
“Inheritance **SHOULD NOT** be designed based on solely implementation considerations – eg. code reuse.”

# A Better Design

- ❖ Create a **Person** class and put everything common to all people in that class, all other classes are derived from this class.

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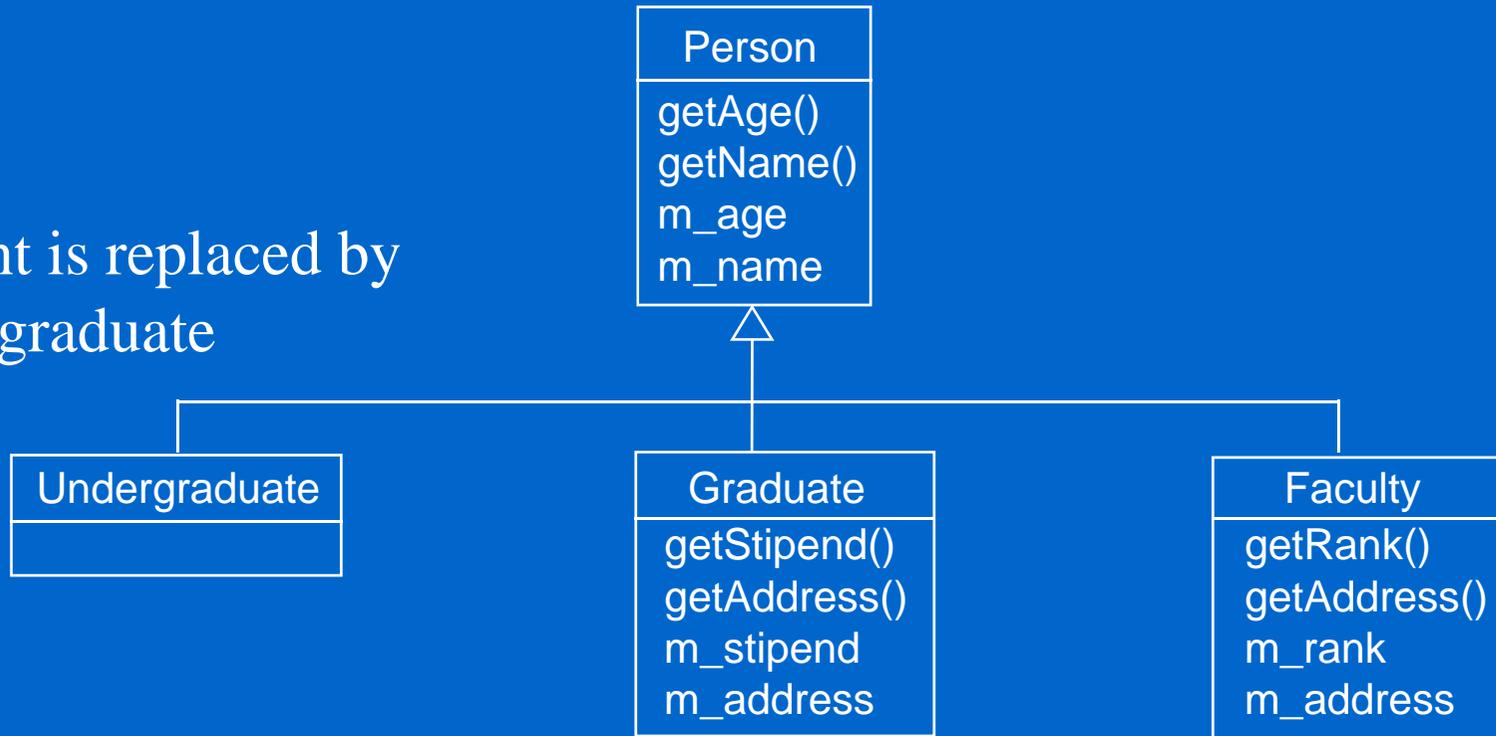
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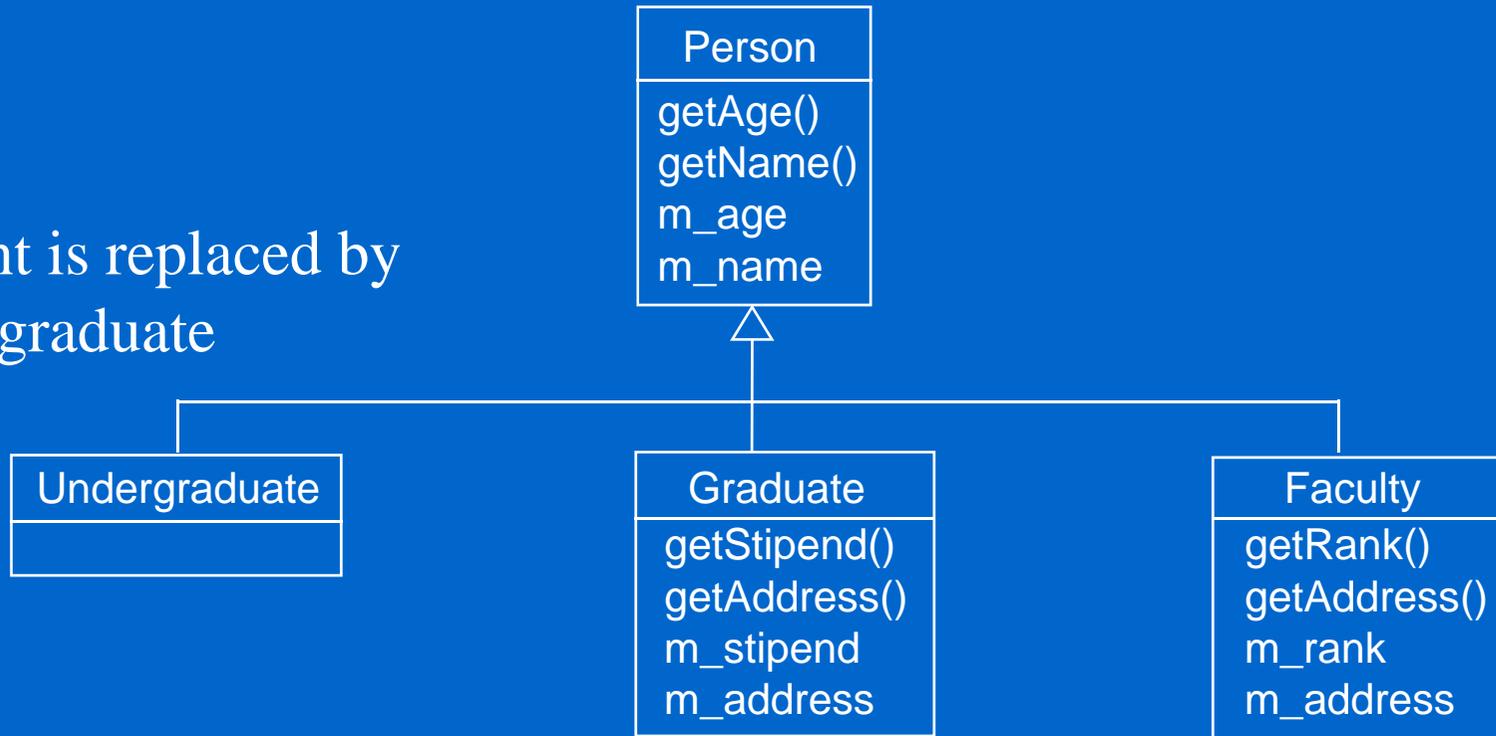
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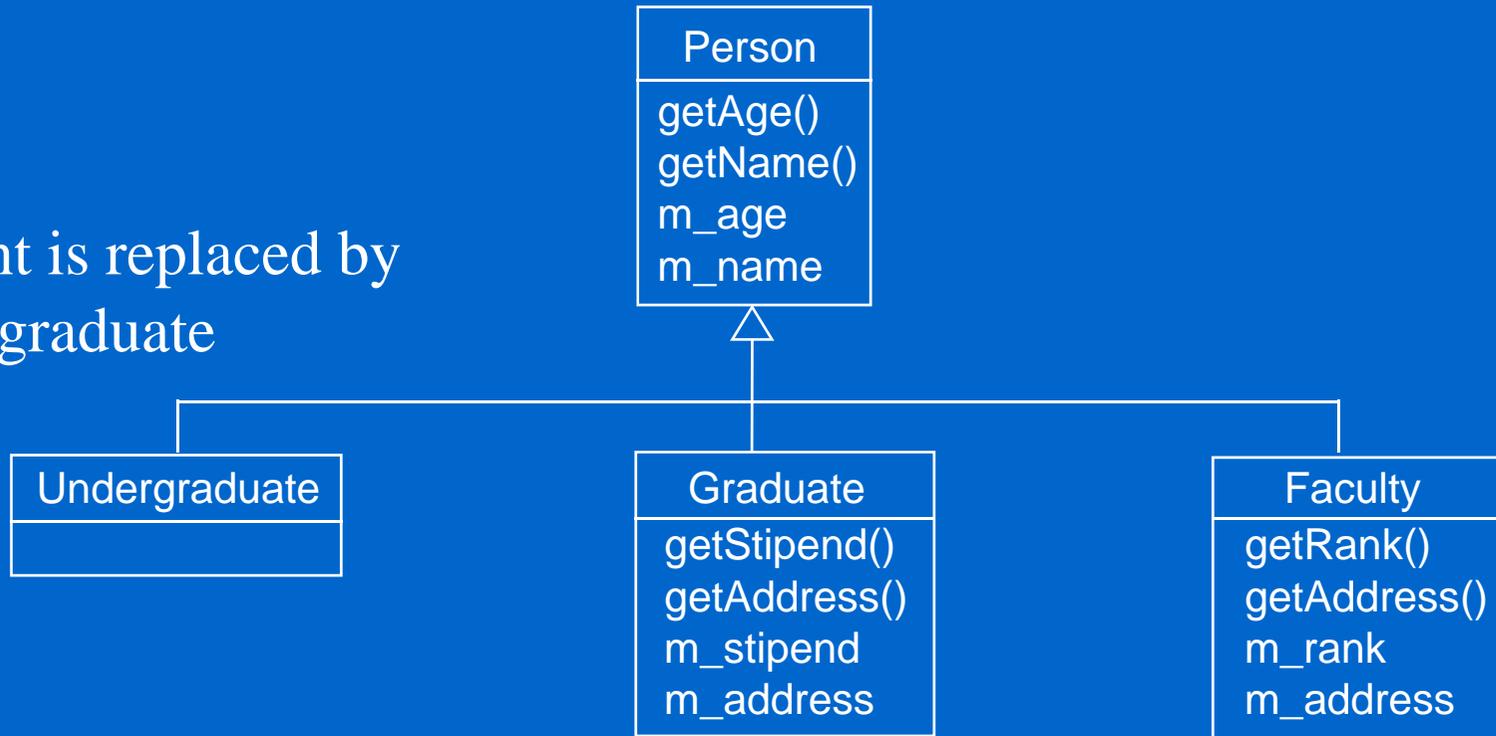


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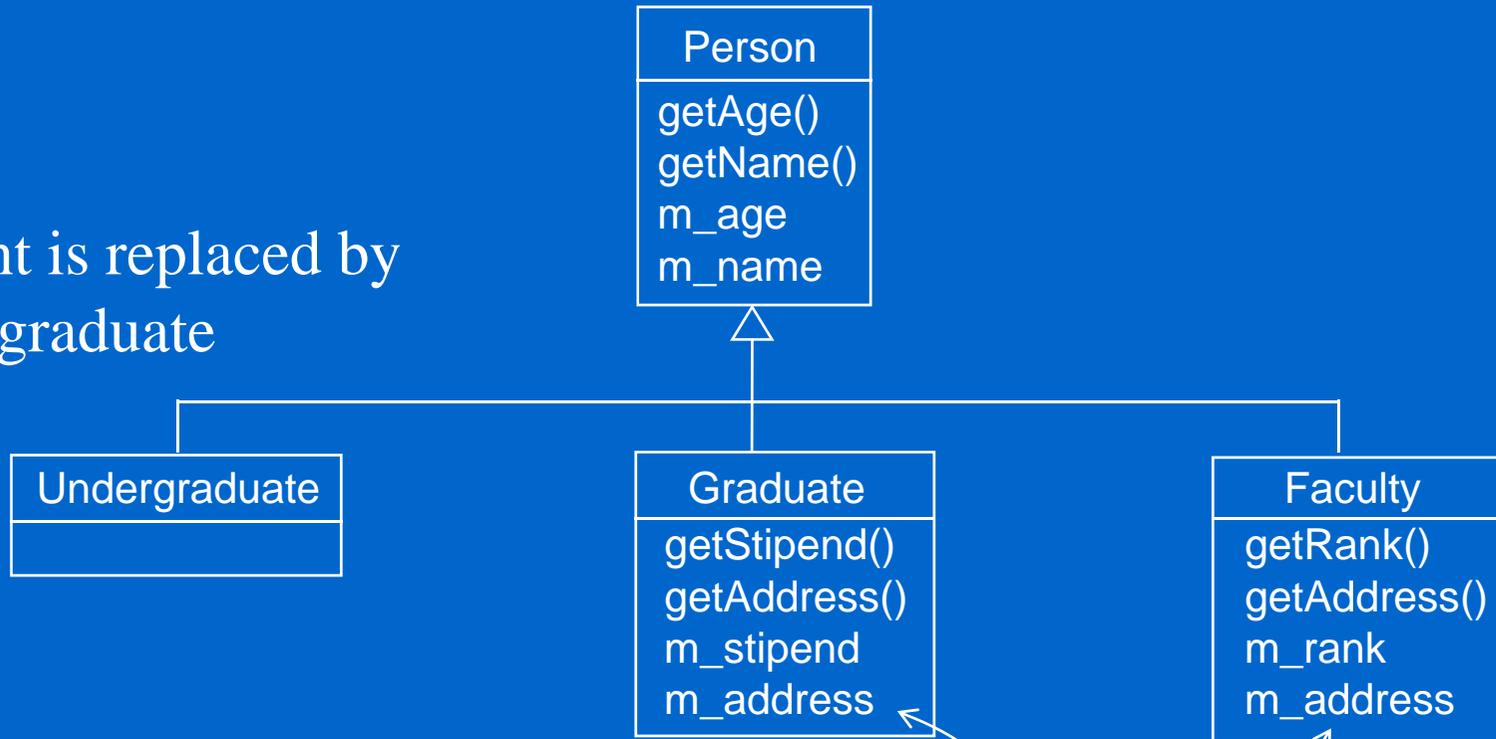


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**Is there any redundancy?**

- ❖ Should Graduate be derived from Undergraduate?

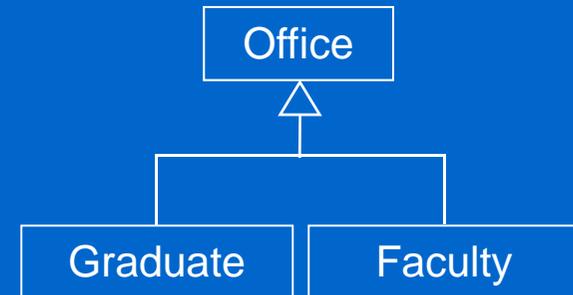
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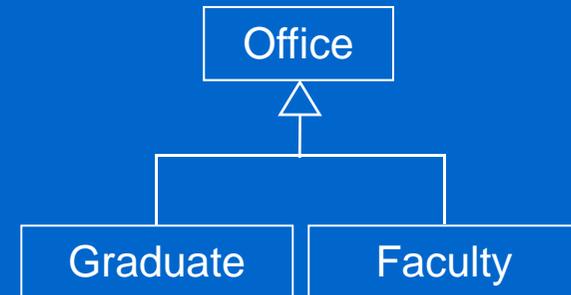
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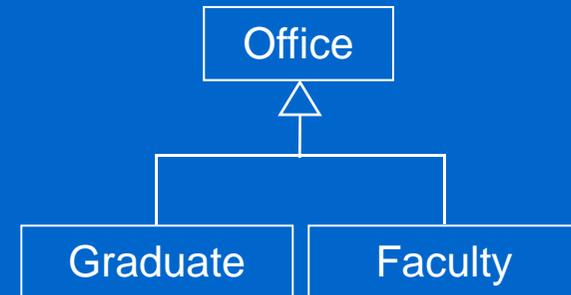
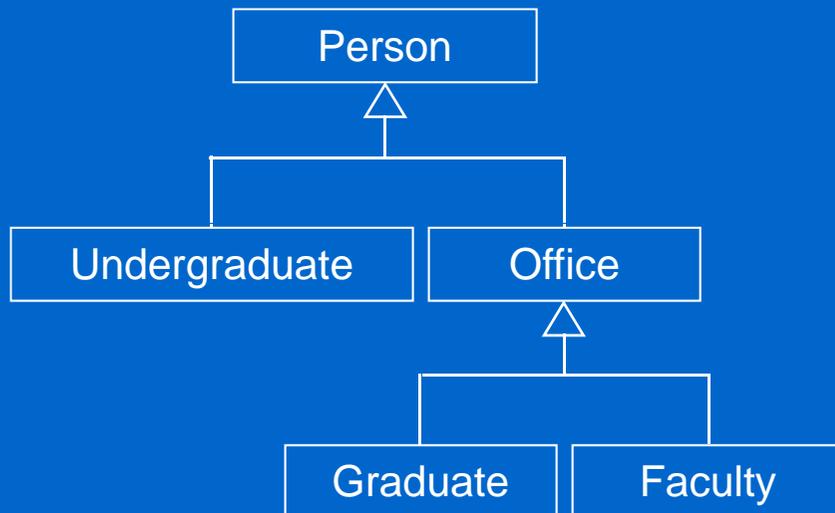
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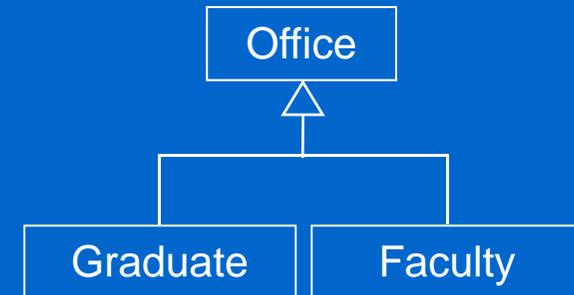
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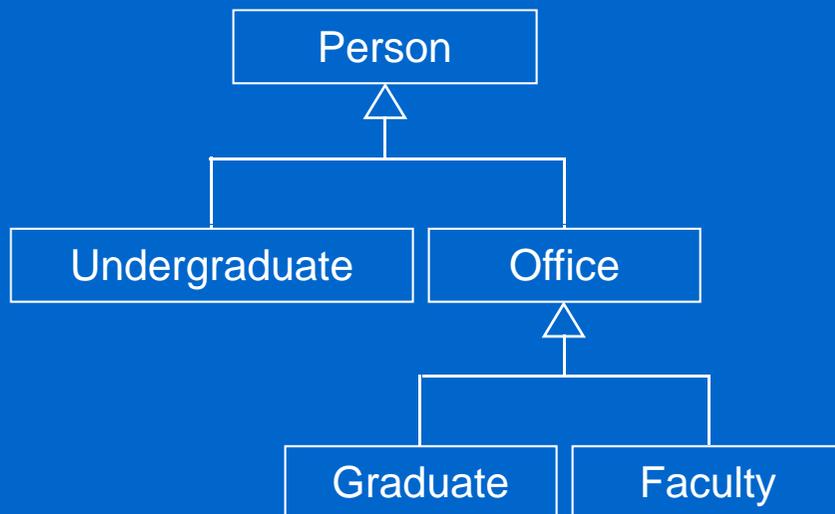


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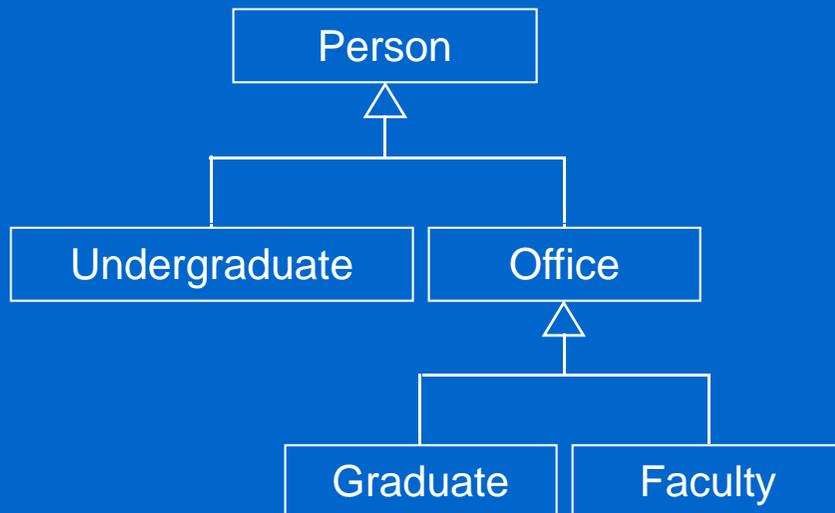
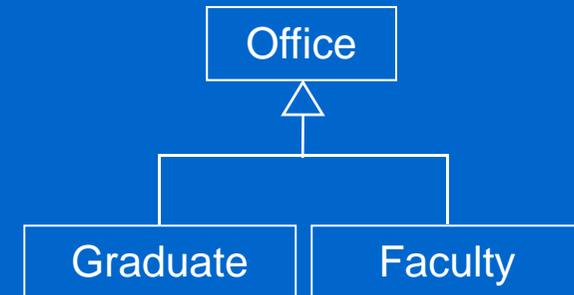


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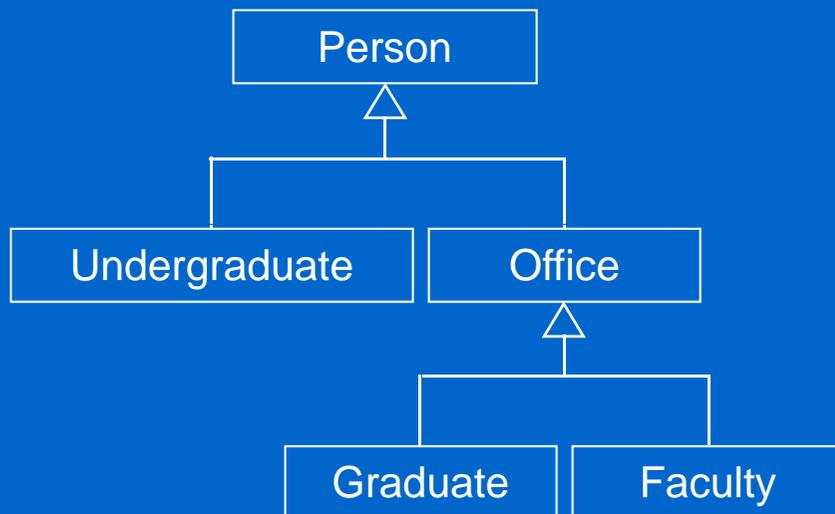
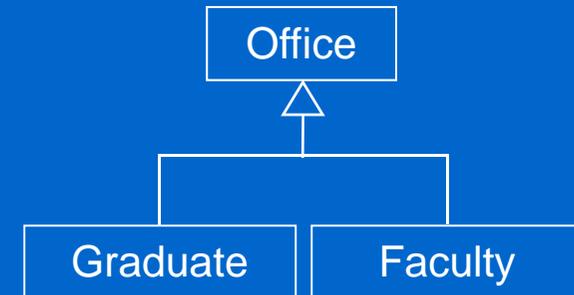


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**What's wrong?**

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**Bad design!! Problematic!!?**

**What's wrong?**

- **If the Office has a clean() method, The Faculty automatically has a clean() method. What does it mean?**
- **What if a faculty has two offices?**

# Code for Office Solution

```
class Office: public Person {  
public:  
    Office(char *name, int age, char address);  
    ~Office()  
    const char *getAddress() const;  
private:  
    char *m_address;  
};
```

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class Office: public Person {  
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};  
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class Graduate: public Office {  
public:  
    Graduate(char *name, int age, int stipend, char *address);  
    int getStipend() const;  
private:  
    int m_stipend;  
};
```

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};
-----
class Faculty: public Office {
public:
    Faculty(char *name, int age, char *address, char *rank);
    ~Faculty();
    const char *getRank() const;
private:
    char *m_rank;
};
```

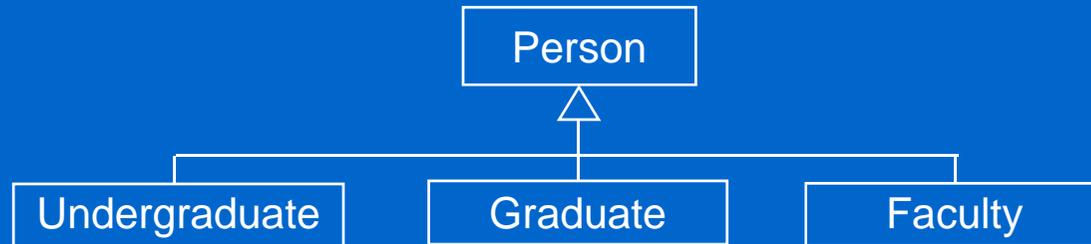
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public:
    Faculty(char *name, int age, char *address, char *rank);
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};
```

Poor design!!  
Problematic!!?

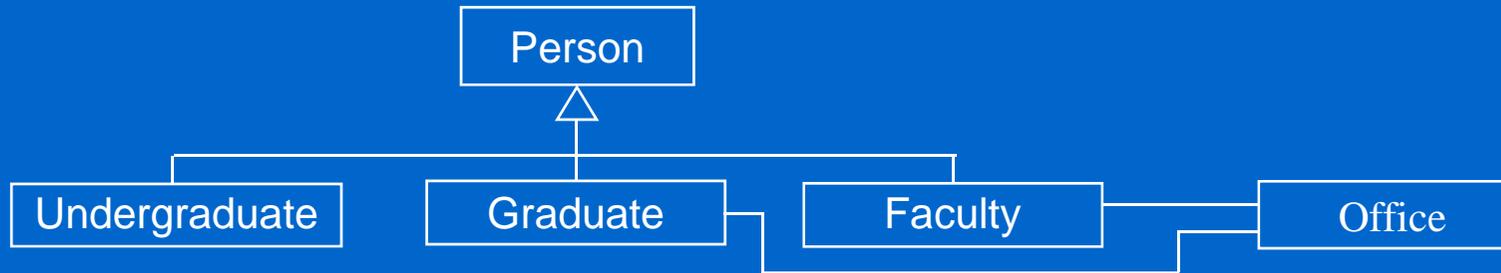
# Final Solution

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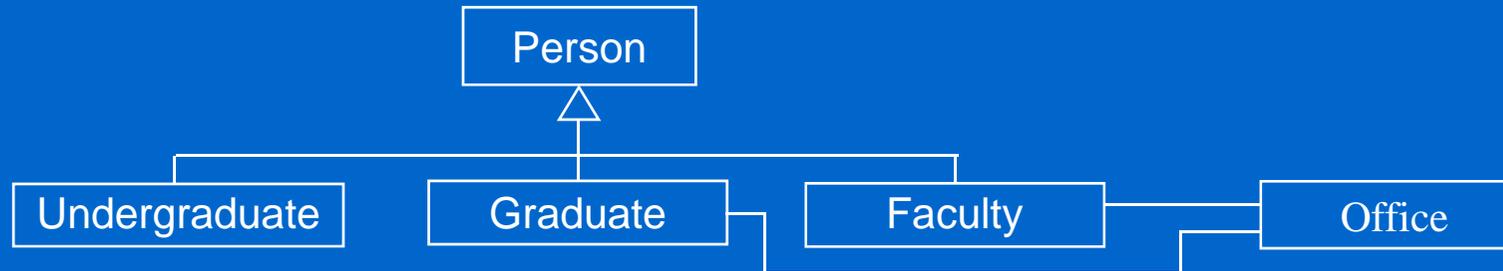
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- ❖ Instead of having Graduate and Faculty inherit from Office, we store an Office object within each classes

# Final Solution

- ❖ Back to our original inheritance design (good design)



- ❖ Instead of having **Graduate** and **Faculty** inherit from **Office**, we store an **Office** object within each classes
- ❖ The office class exists separately, without involving any inheritance
- ❖ Codes:

```
class Office {
public:
    Office(char *address);
    ~Office();
    const char *getAddress() const;
private:
    char *m_address;
};
```

# Final Solution (cont'd)

```
class Graduate: public Person {  
public:  
    Graduate(char *name, int age, int stipend, char *address);  
    int getStipend() const;  
    const char* getAddress() const;  
private:  
    int m_stipend;  
    Office m_office;  
};
```

# Final Solution (cont'd)

```
class Graduate: public Person {
```

```
public:
```

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```
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```

```
class Faculty: public Person
```

```
{
```

```
public:
```

```
    Faculty(char *name, int age, char *address, char *rank);
```

```
    ~Faculty();
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```
    const char* getAddress() const;
```

```
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```
private:
```

```
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```
    Office m_office;
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```
};
```

```
const char* Graduate::
```

```
    getAddress() const {
```

```
    return m_office.getAddress();
```

```
}
```

```
class Faculty: public Person
```

```
{
```

```
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```

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    Faculty(char *name, int age, char *address, char *rank);
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delegation

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const char* Graduate::
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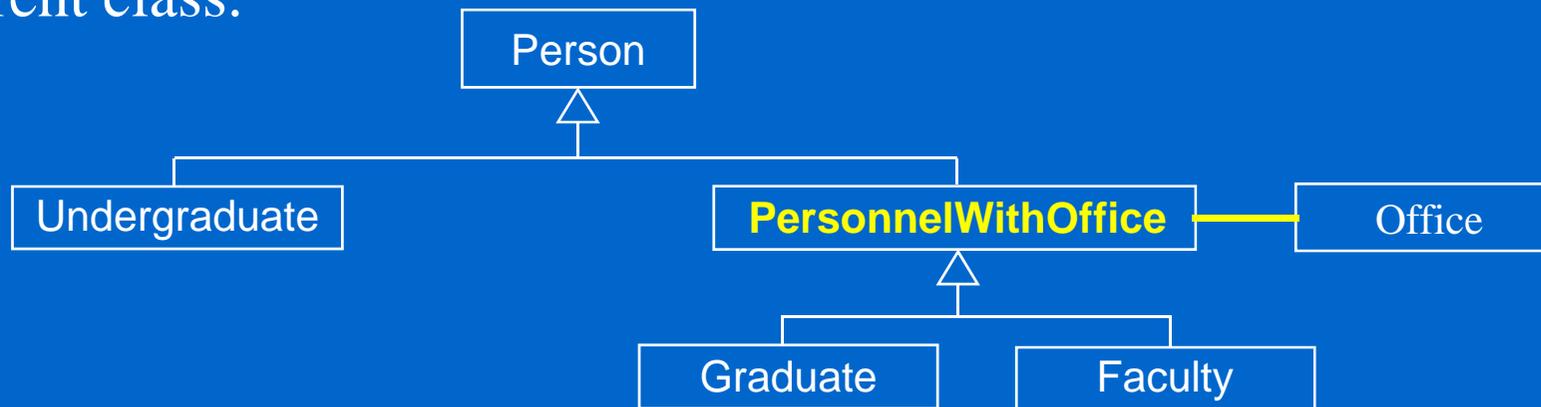
- ✧ Note: the data part `m_office` in Graduate and Faculty is replicated. However, the code to handle address is reduced to a single copy, i.e. `Office::getAddress()`. If we want to maintain a single object for the same office, we can use pointer or reference to implement `m_office`.

# Further Abstraction

- ✧ When the relationships between Graduate or Faculty objects and other objects are **common**, we can model their relationships within a parent class.

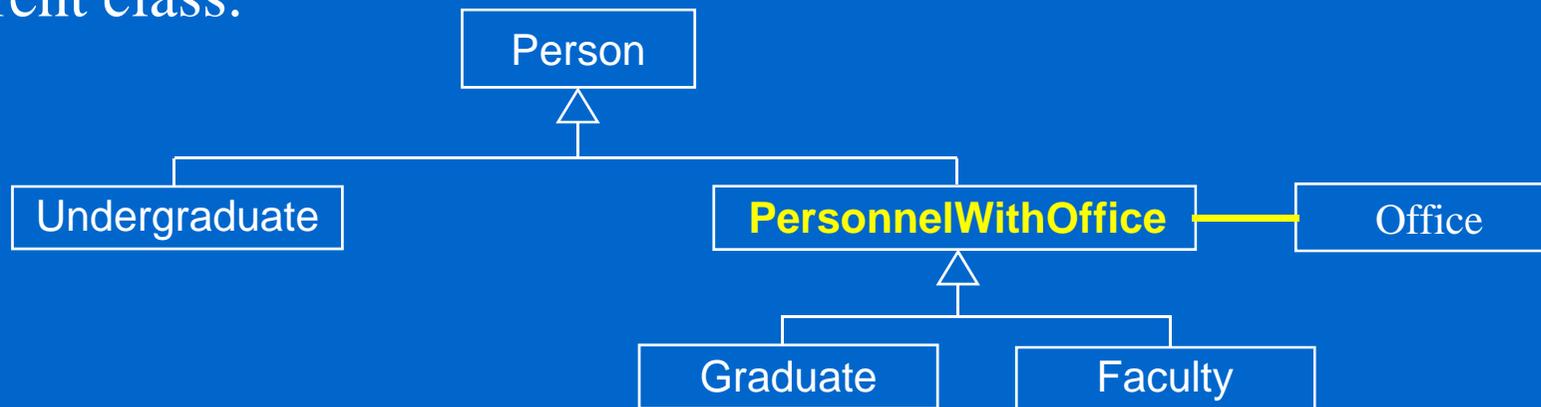
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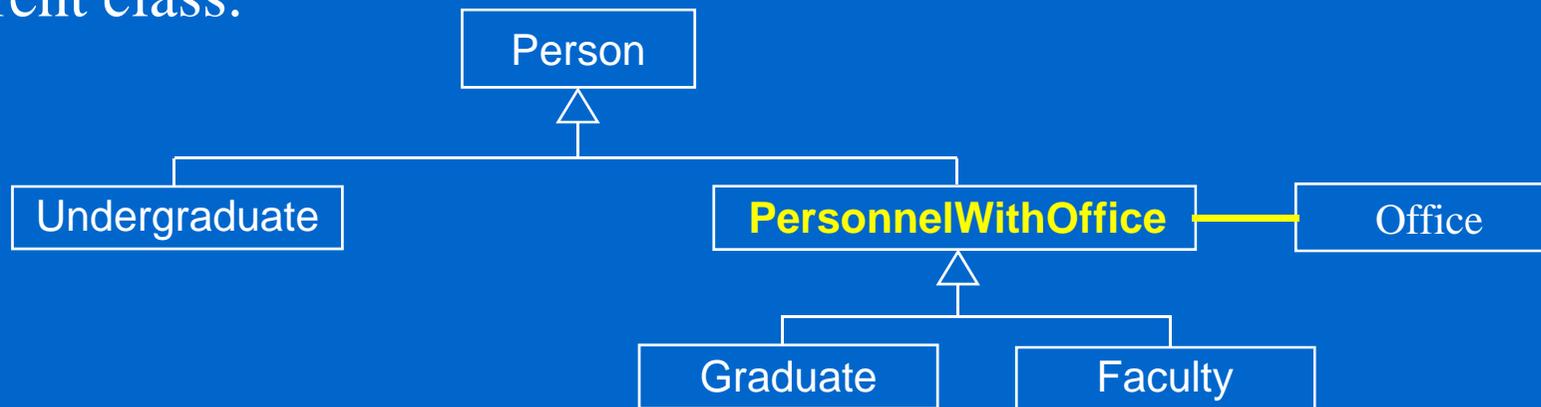
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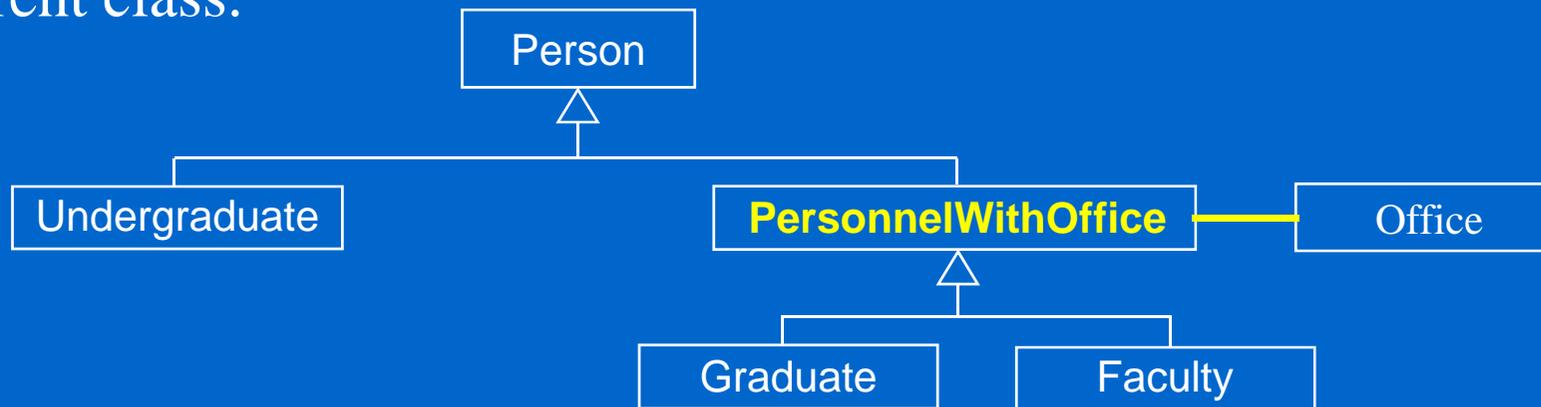


```
class PersonnelWithOffice {
public:
    const char *getAddress() const;
private:
    Office m_office;
};
```

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**Note: in the above class diagram, each Graduate object or Faculty object has an association with an Office object**

- If there could be several offices for a certain personnel, the private member could be a container, ex. `vector<Office> m_offices;`

# Design Rules for Inheritance

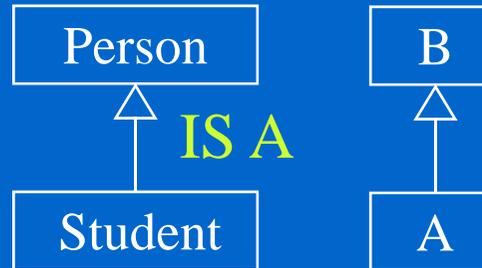
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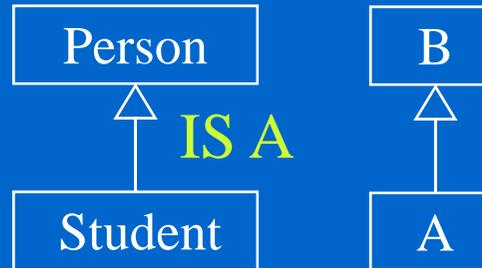
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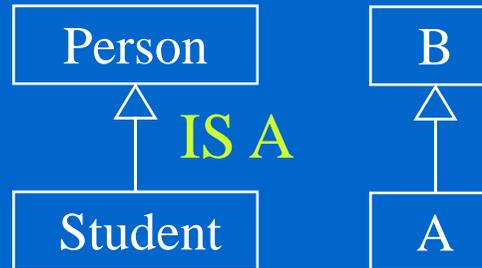
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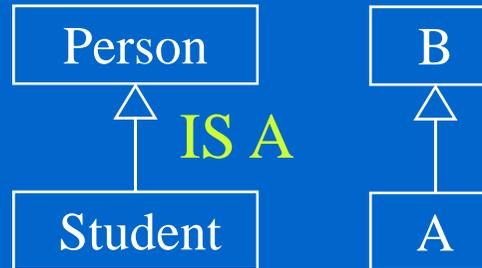
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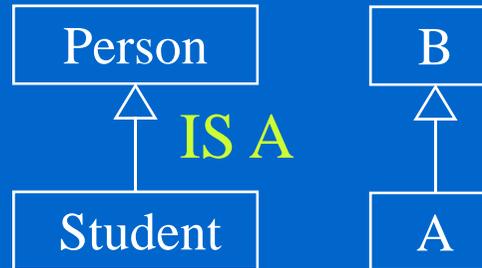
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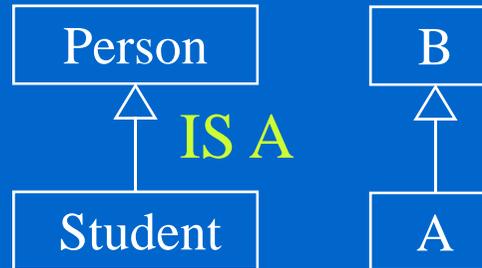
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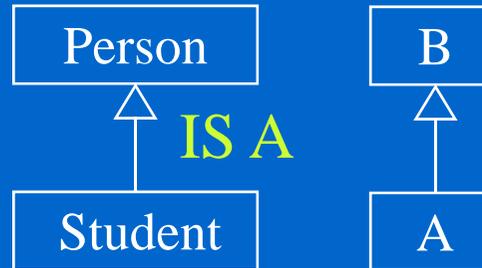
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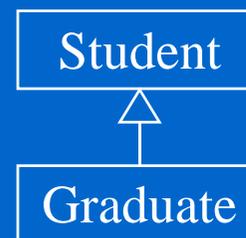
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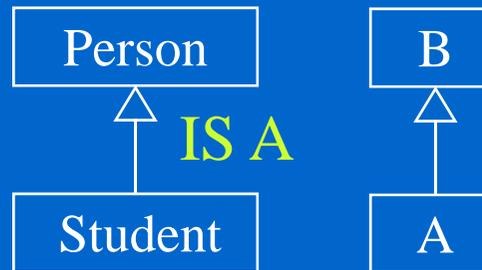
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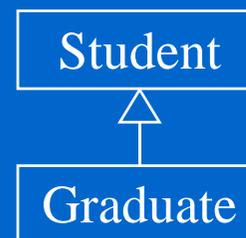
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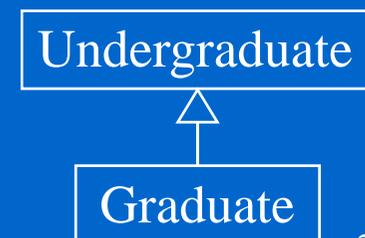
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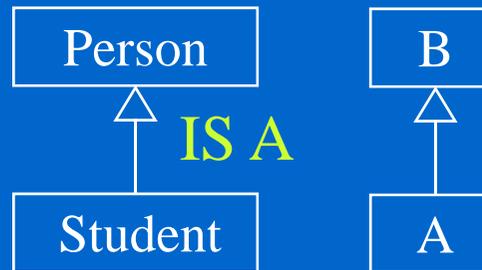
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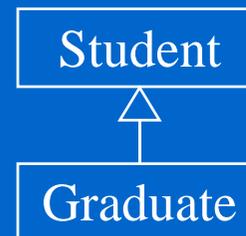
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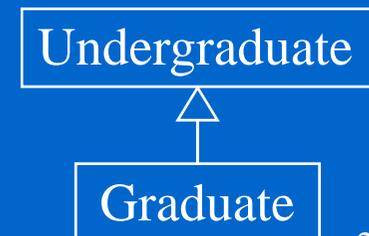
- ❖ Inheritance should be “natural”

- ★ The second case is a bad inheritance even if Undergraduate is internally identical to Student.

**Proper inheritance**



**Improper inheritance**



# Design Rules (cont'd)

# Design Rules (cont'd)

Undergraduate
---------------

m_advisor
-----------

# Design Rules (cont'd)

Undergraduate
m_advisor

Graduate
m_office
m_stipend

# Design Rules (cont'd)

Undergraduate
m_advisor

Graduate
m_office m_stipend

Faculty
m_office m_rank

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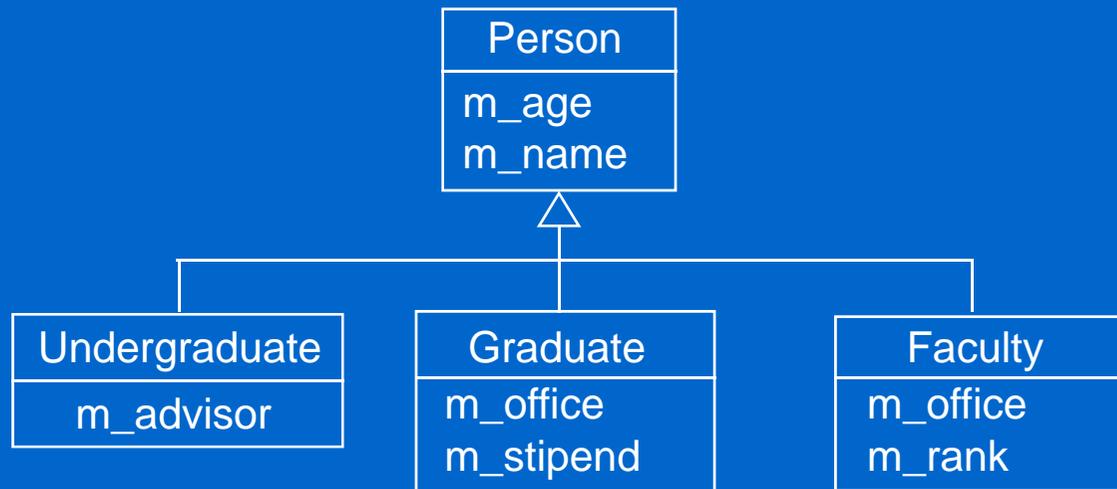
Person
m_age m_name

Undergraduate
m_advisor

Graduate
m_office m_stipend

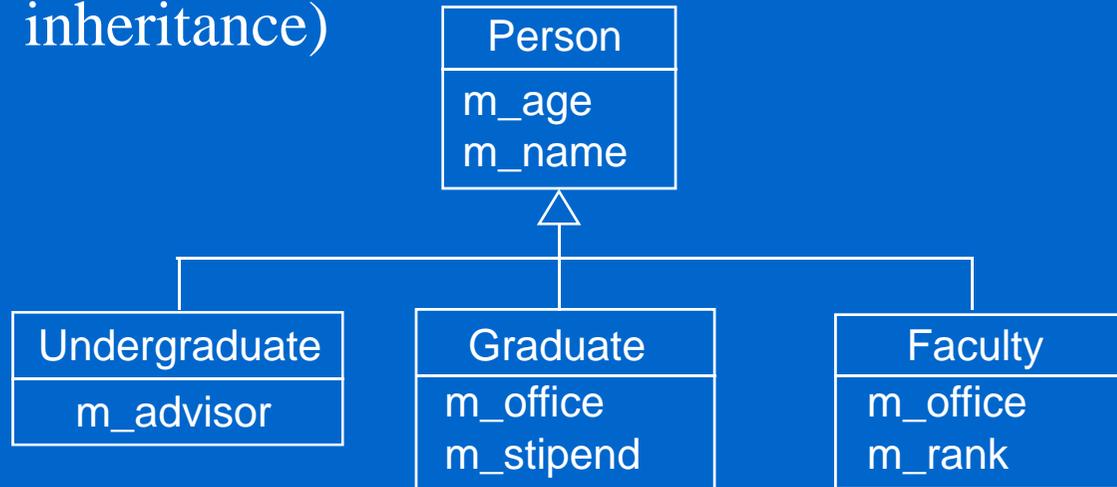
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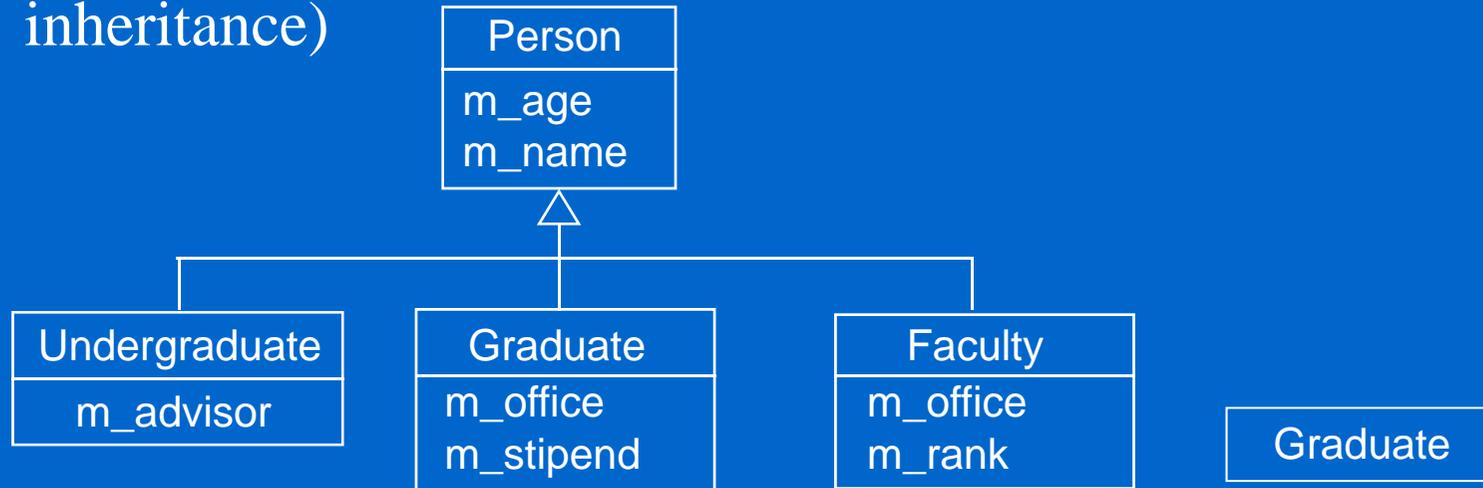
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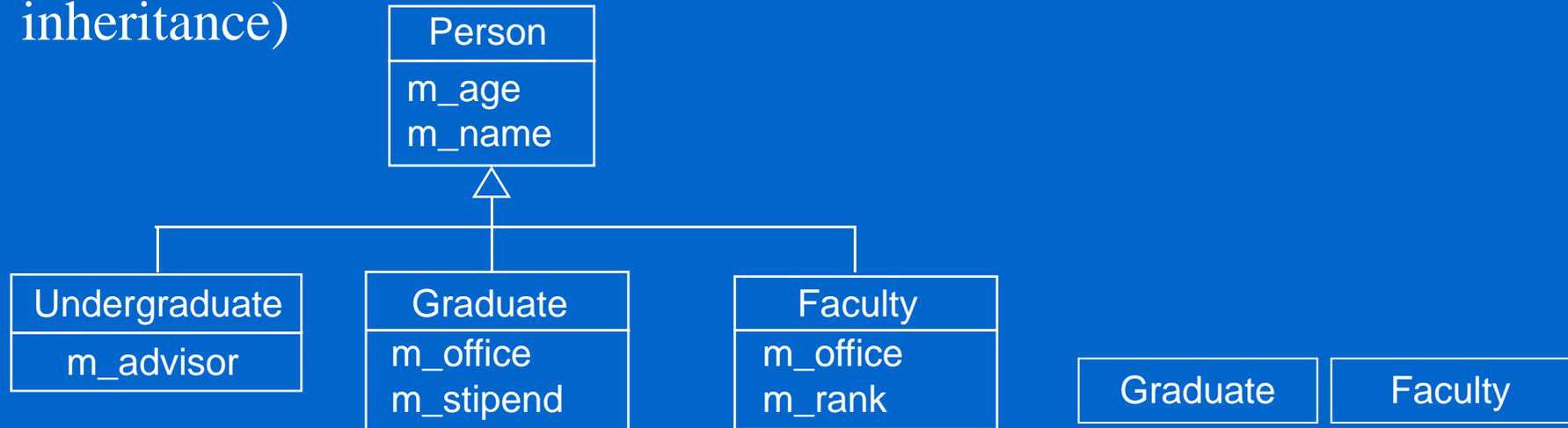
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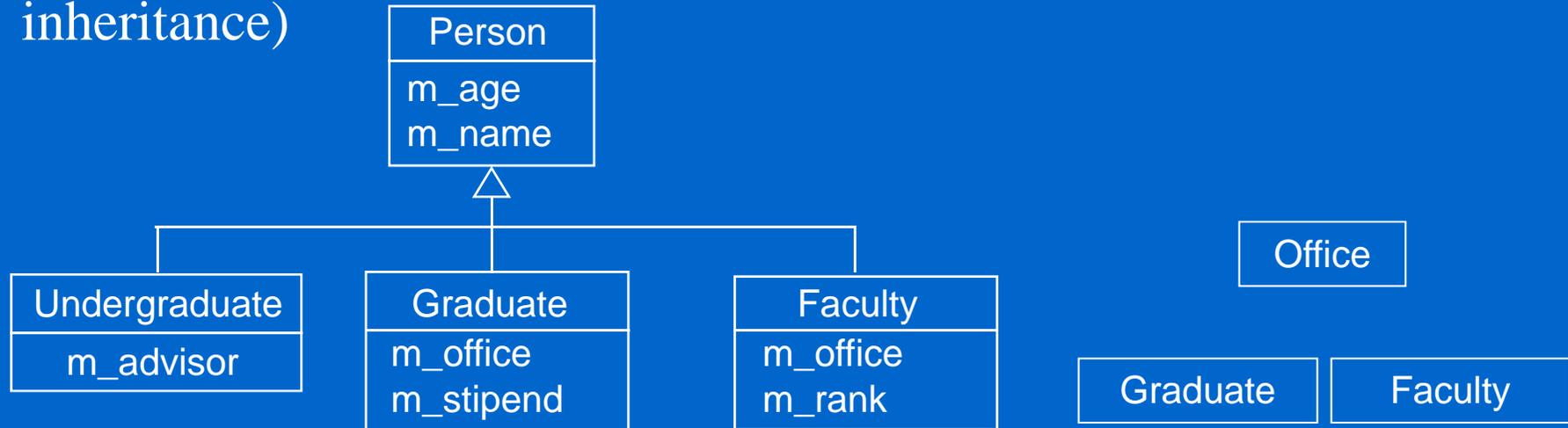
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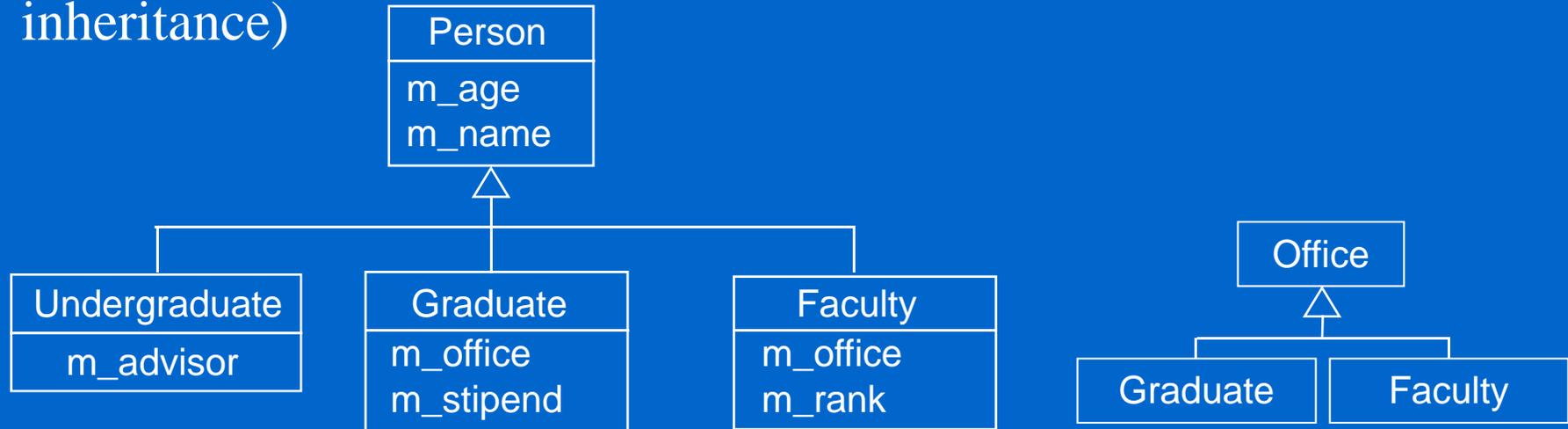
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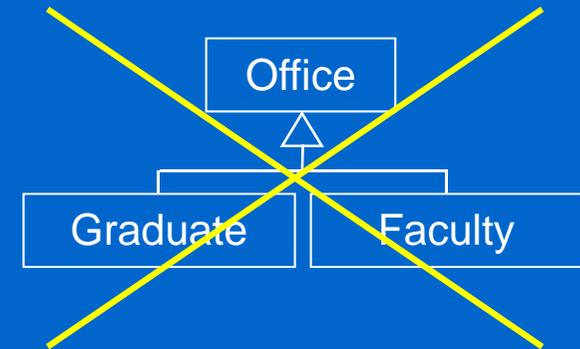
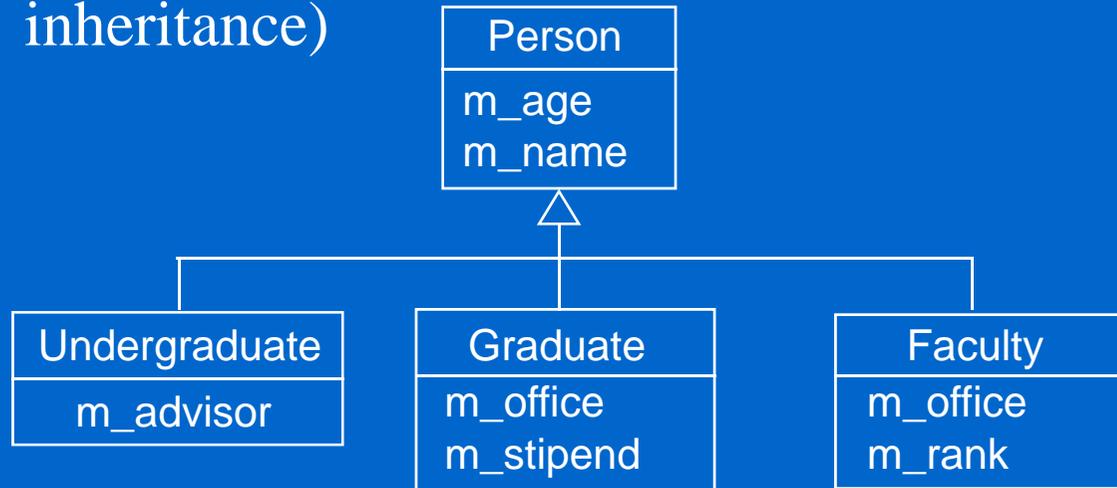
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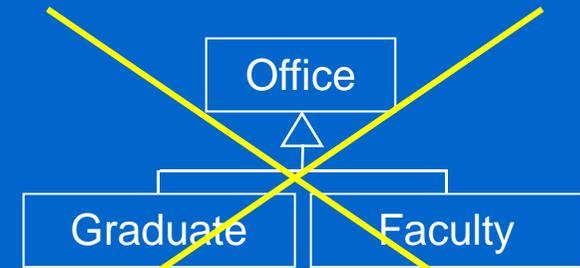
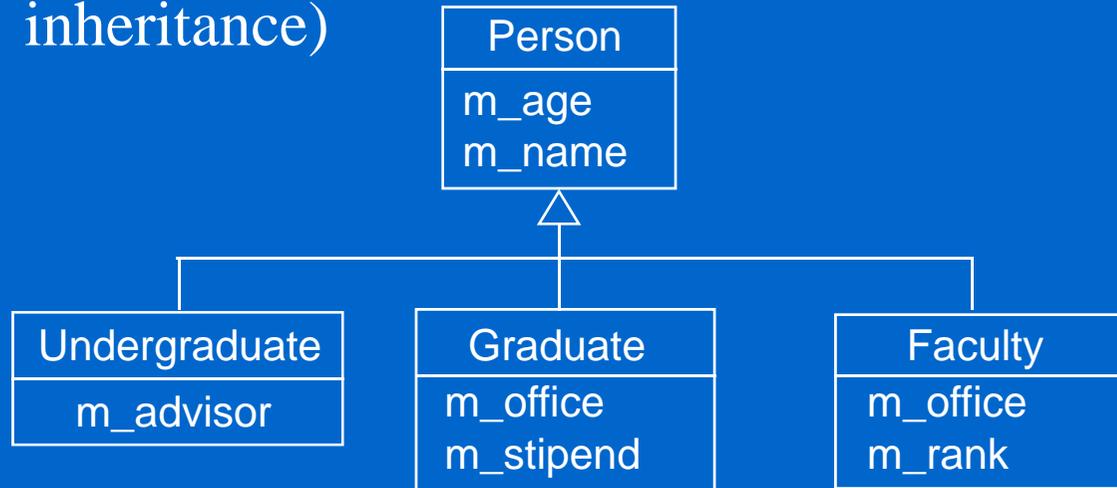
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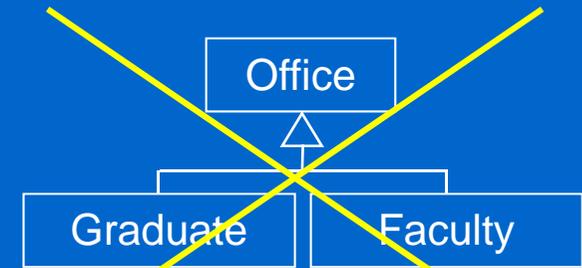
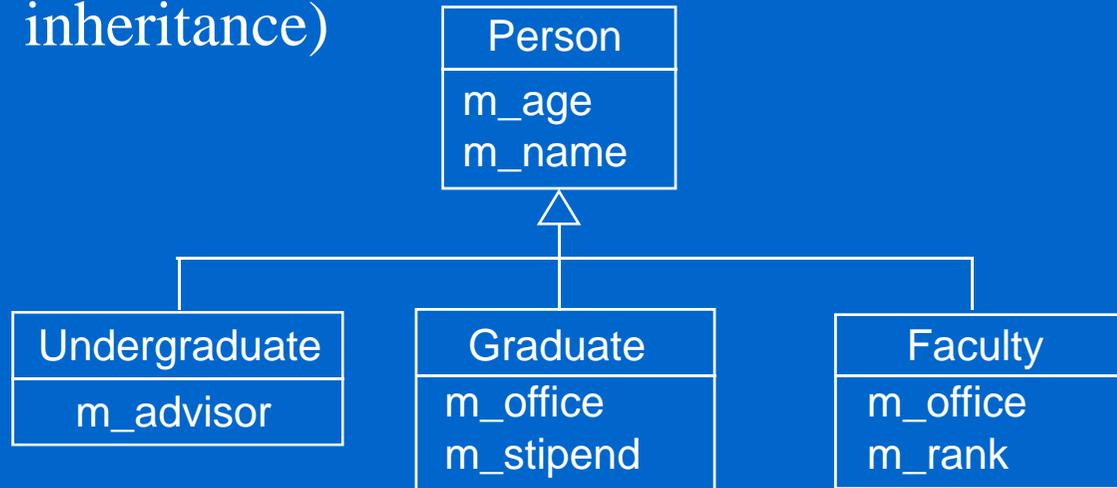
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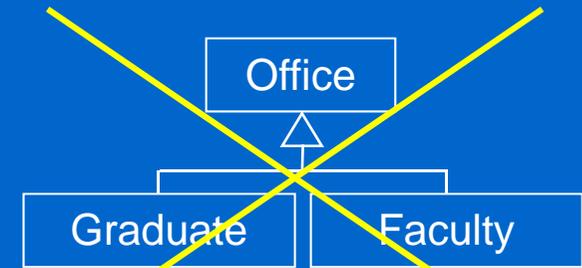
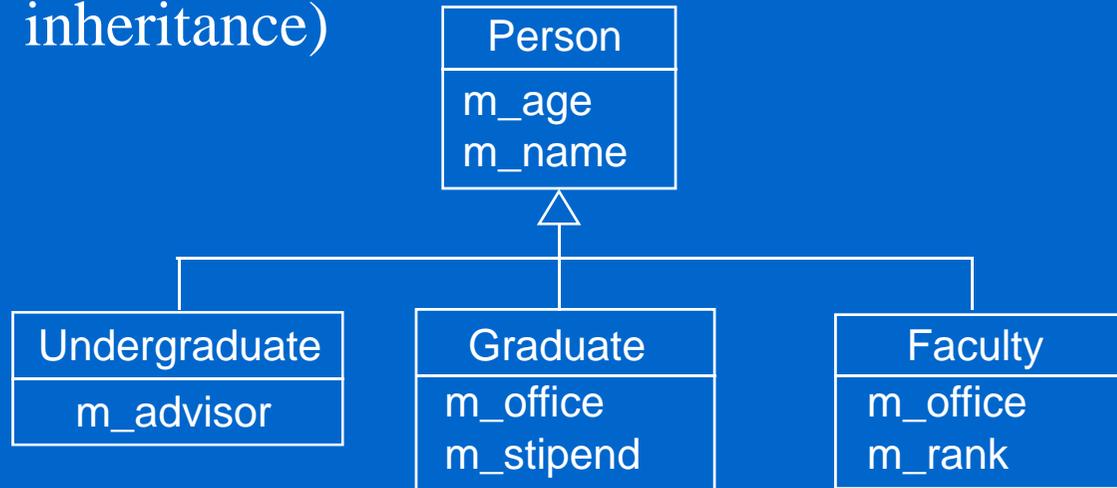
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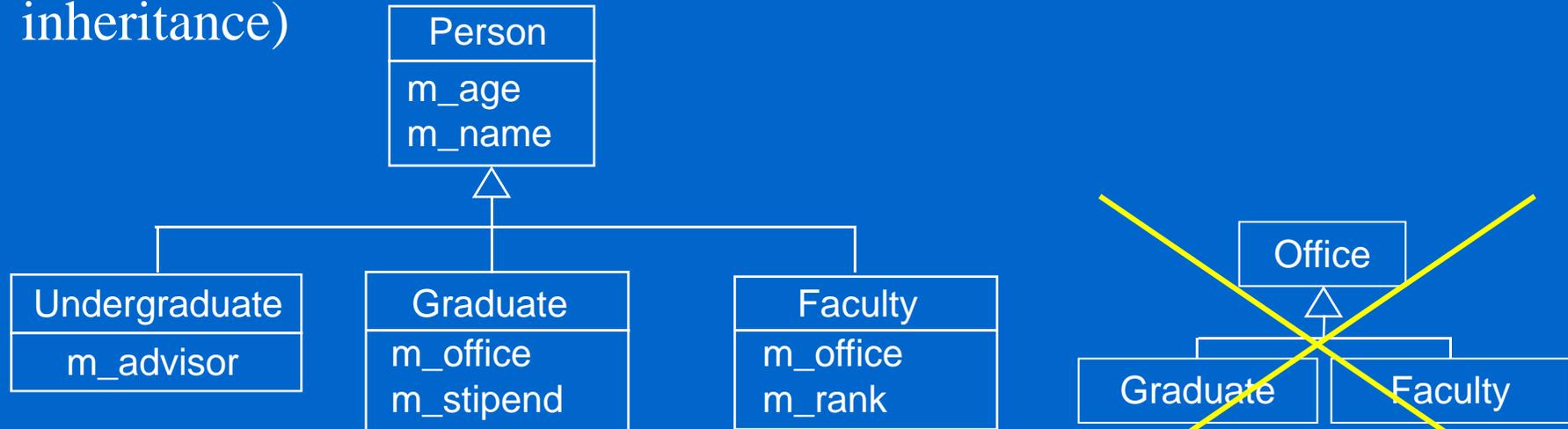


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This is referred to as the **HAS-A** relationship. It operates in the form of **delegation**.

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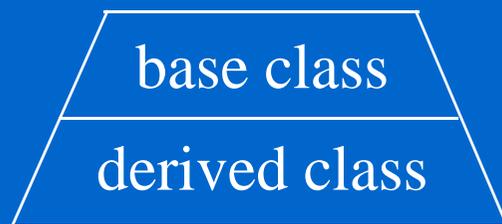
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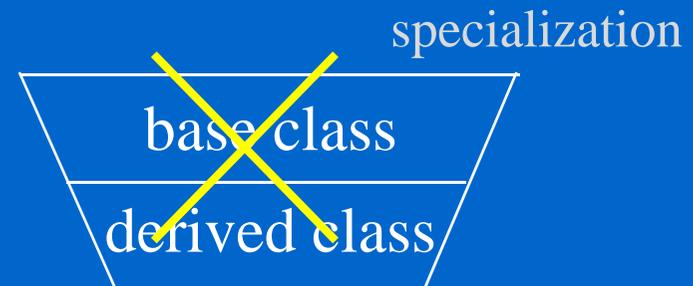
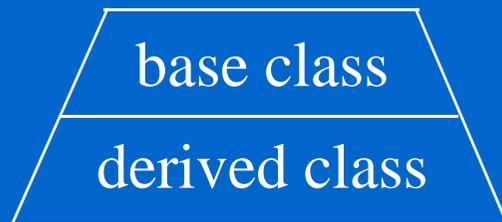
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Undergraduate
---------------

m_advisor
-----------

m_tuition
-----------

# Summary

Undergraduate
m_advisor m_tuition

Graduate
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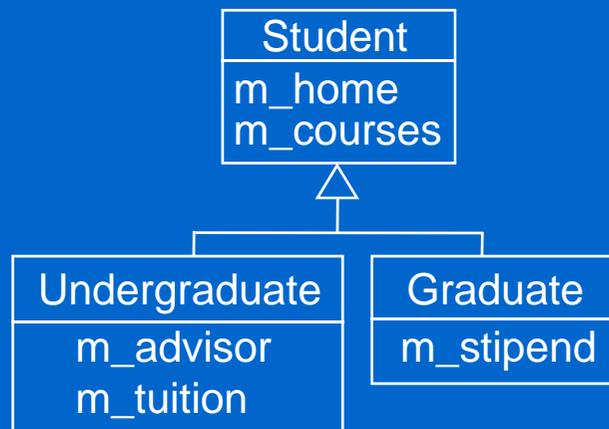
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m_home
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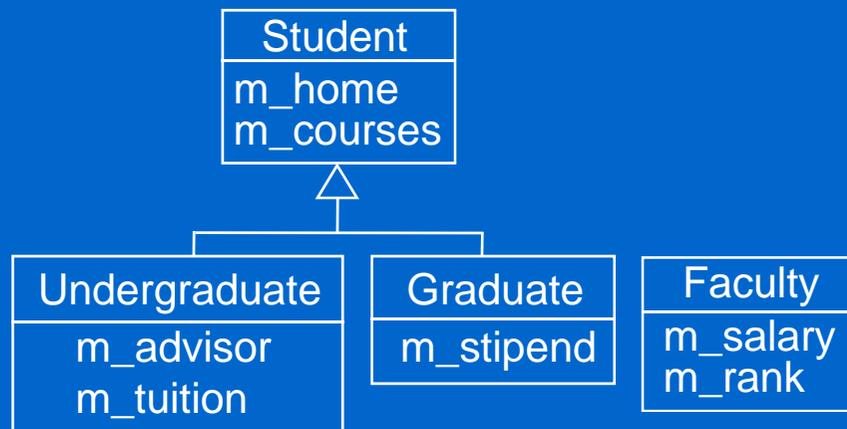
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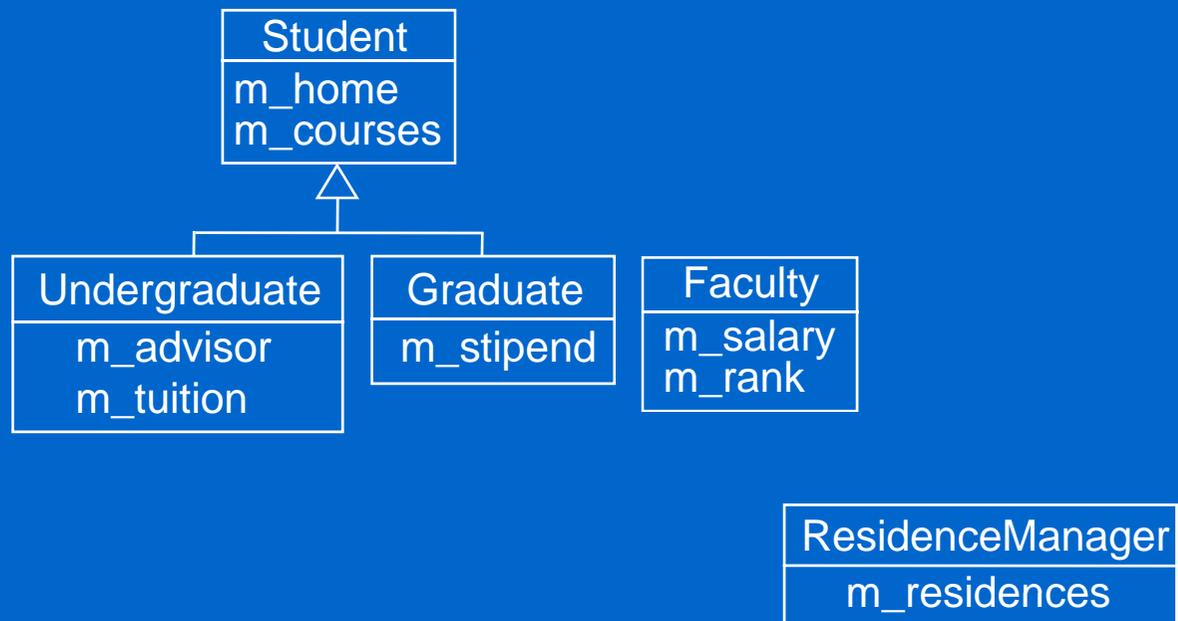
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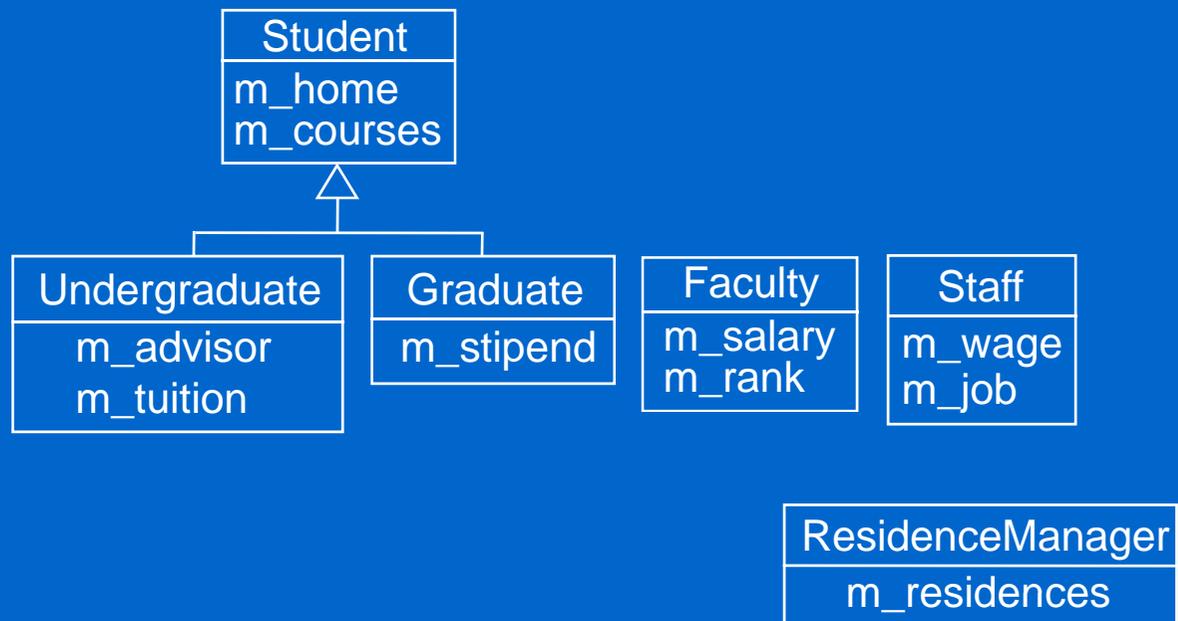
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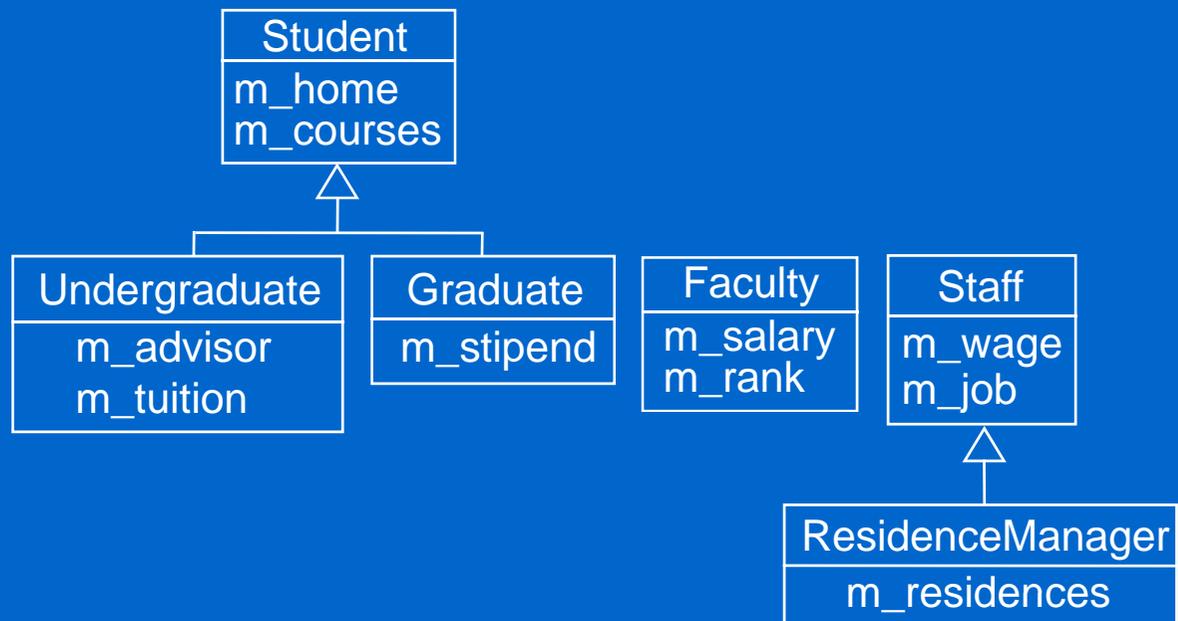
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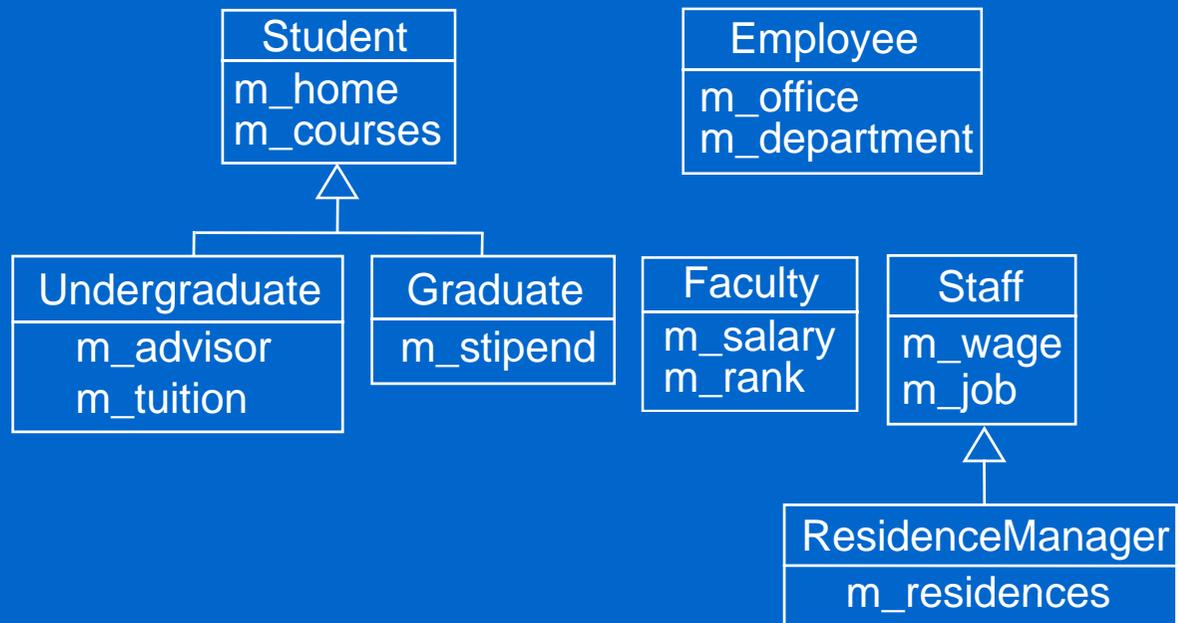
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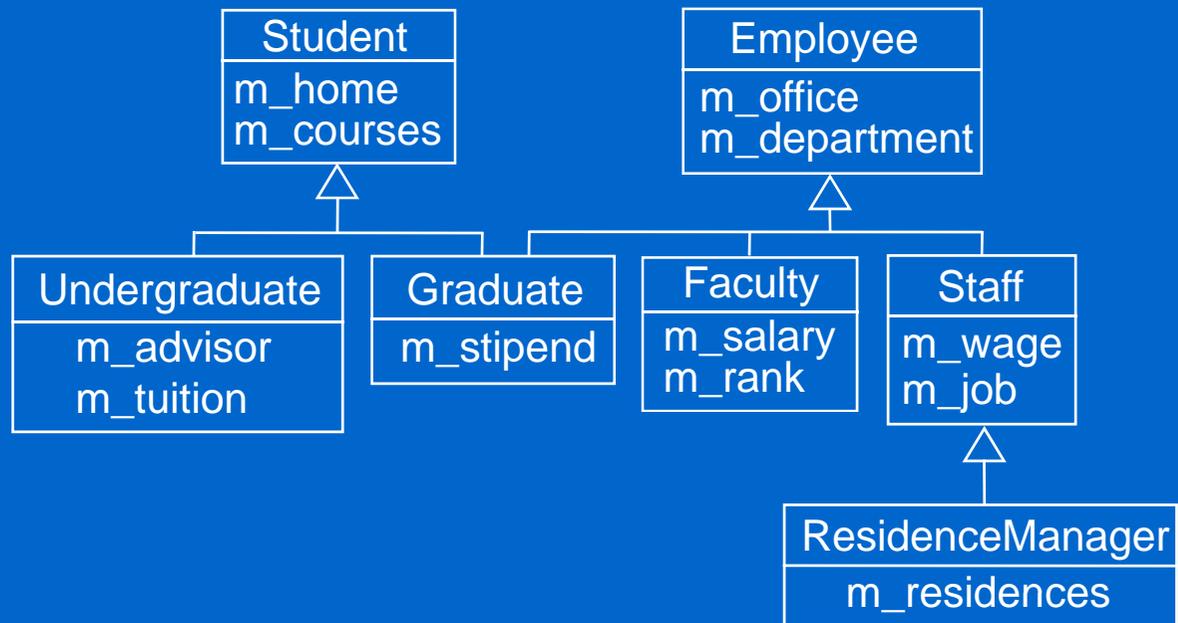
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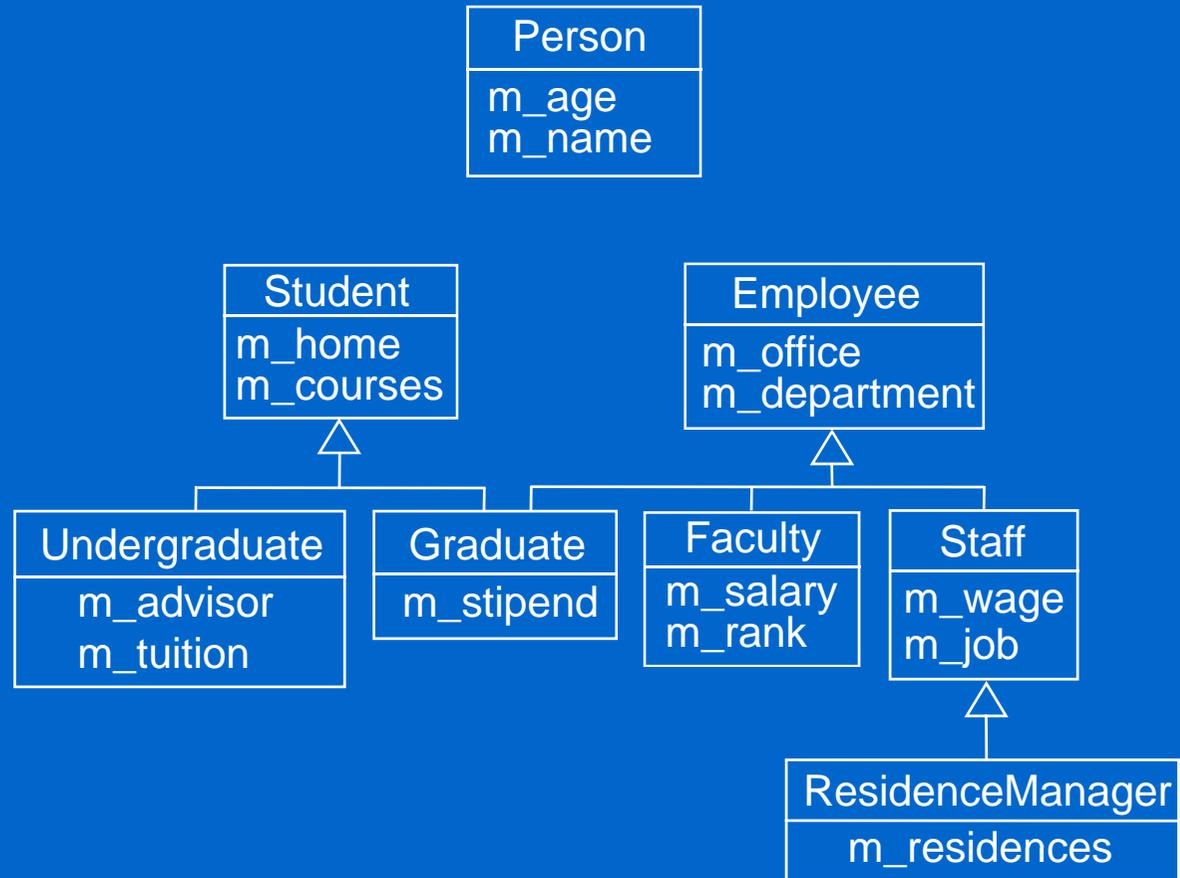
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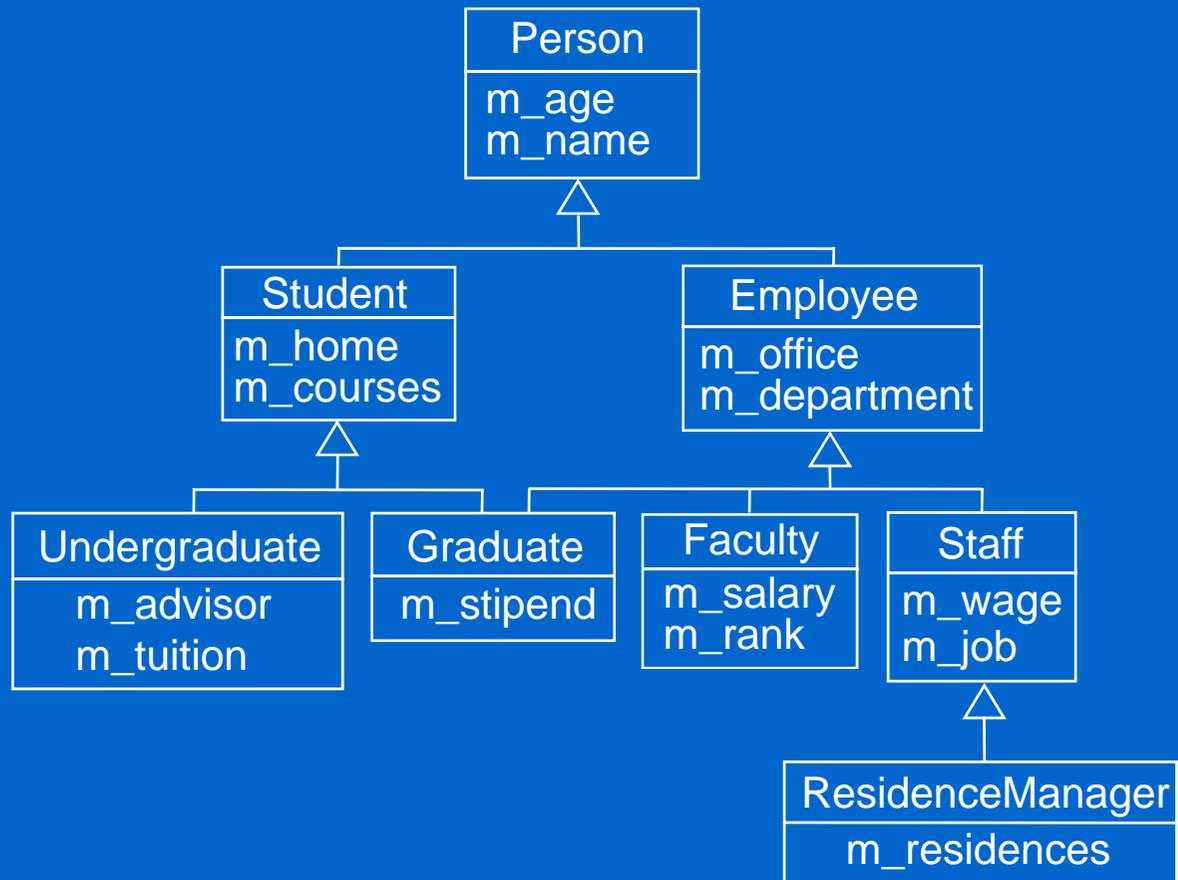
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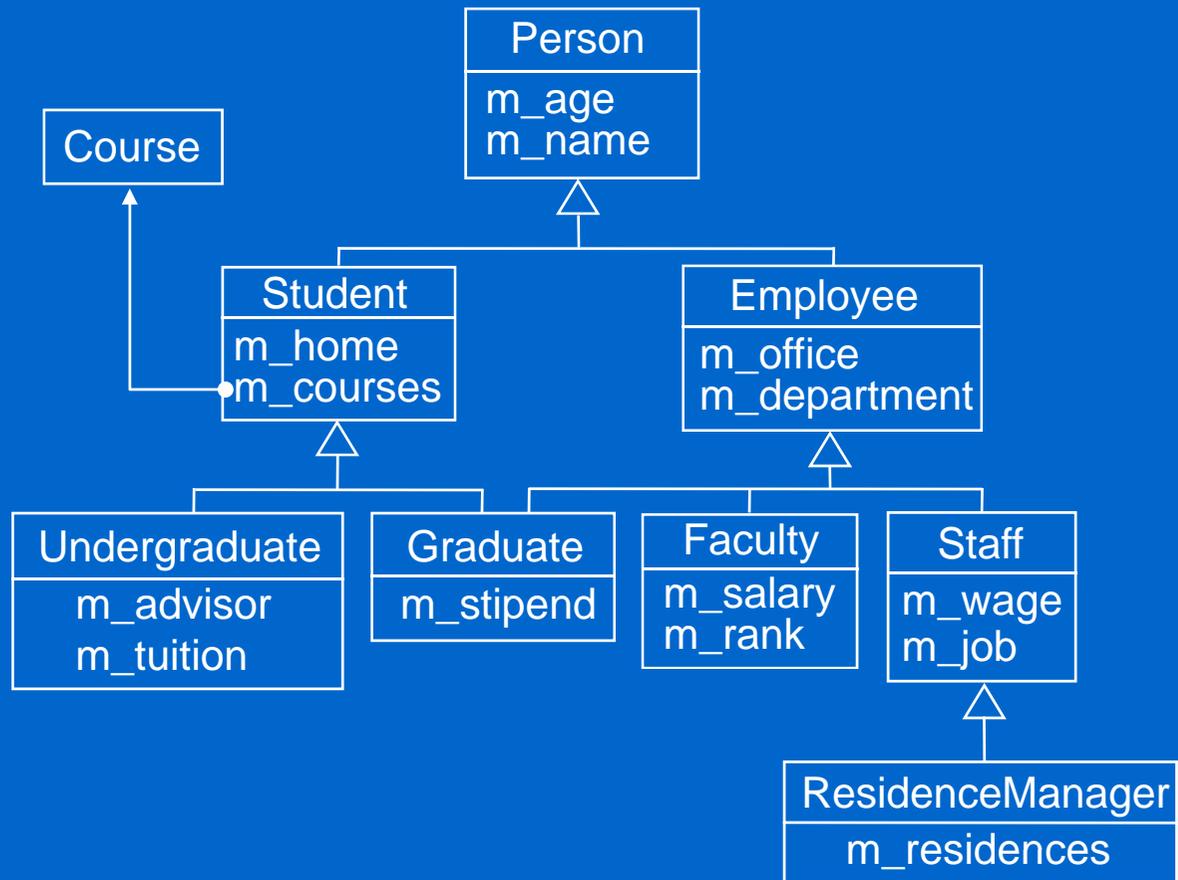
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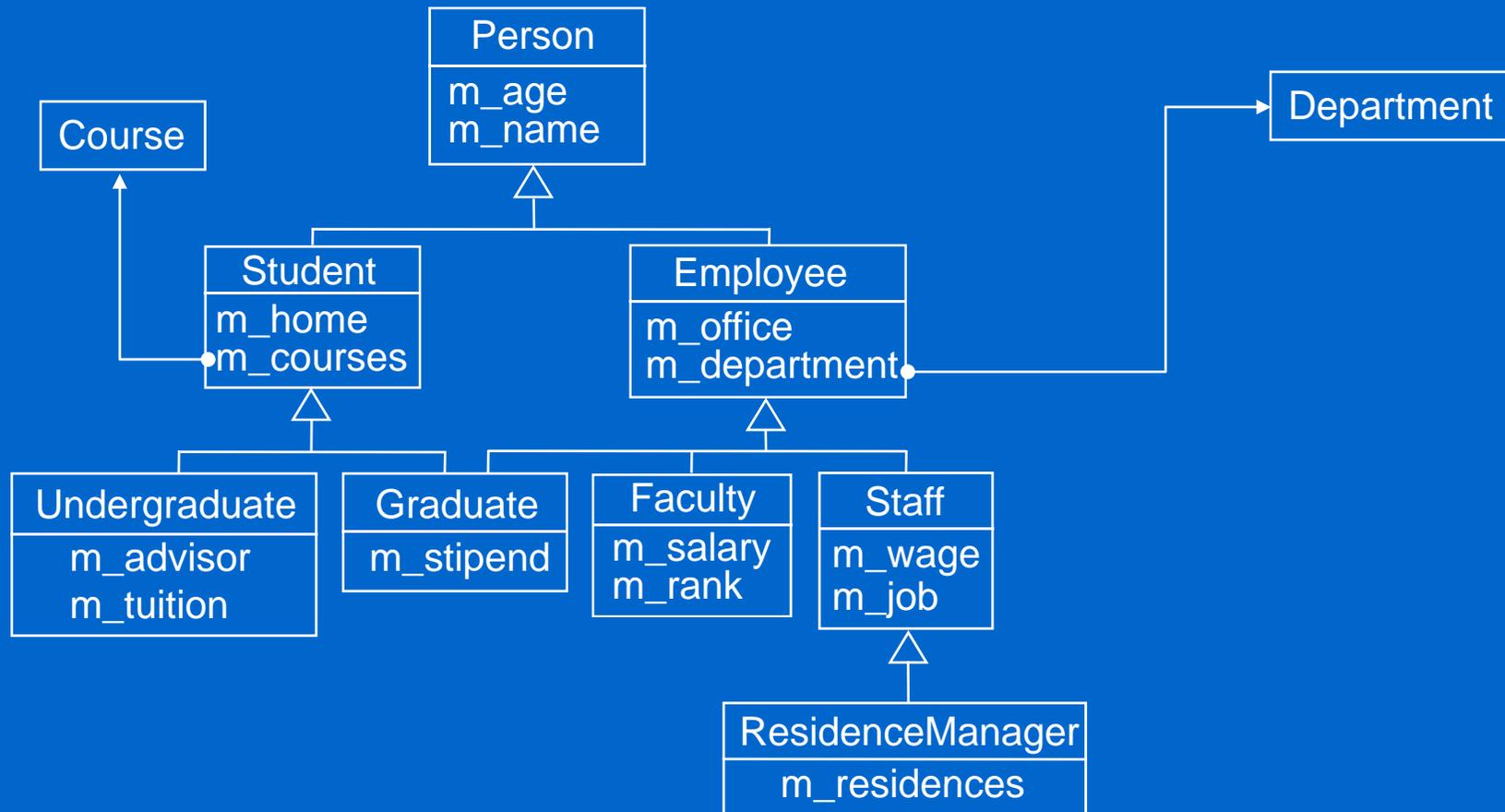
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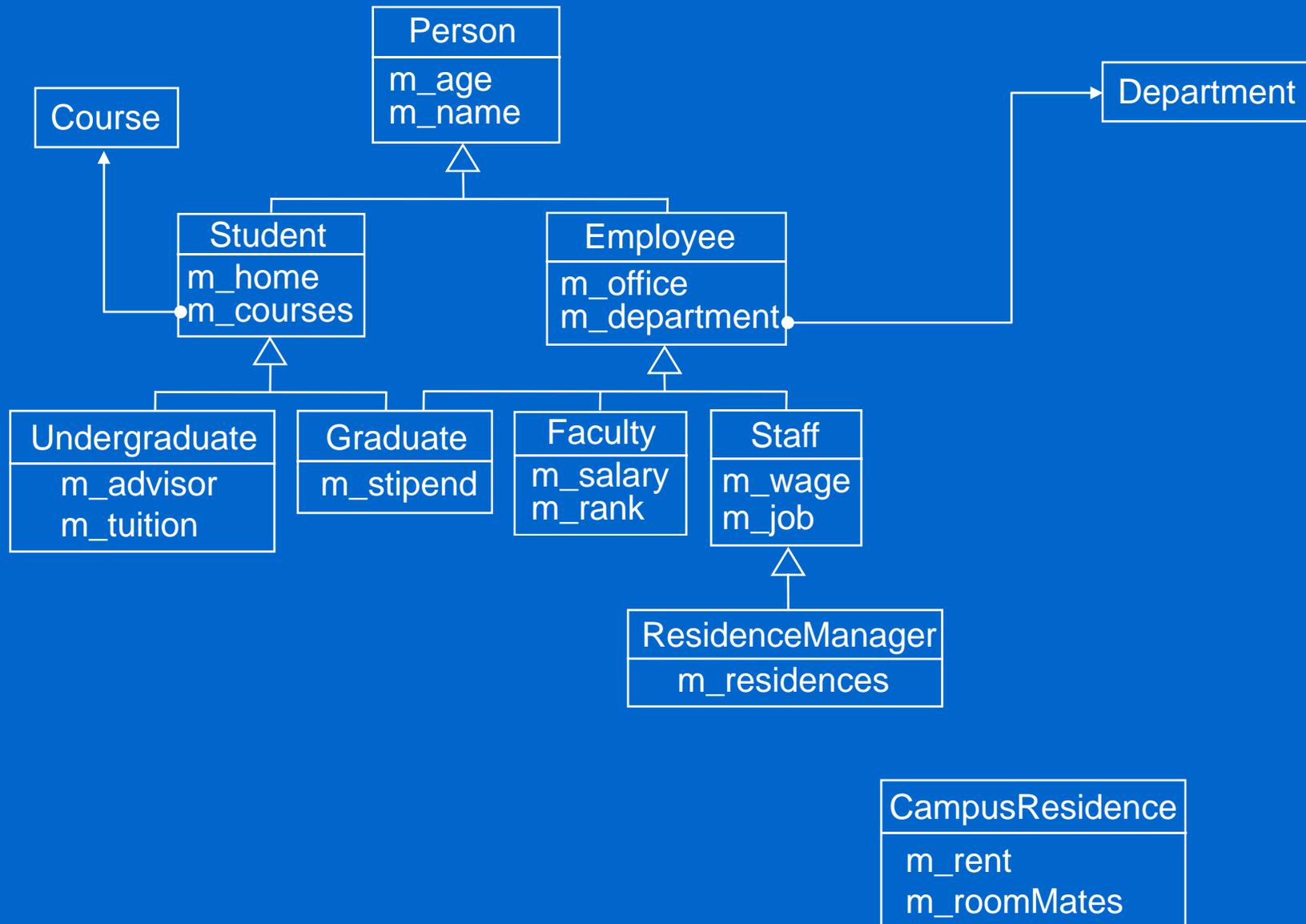
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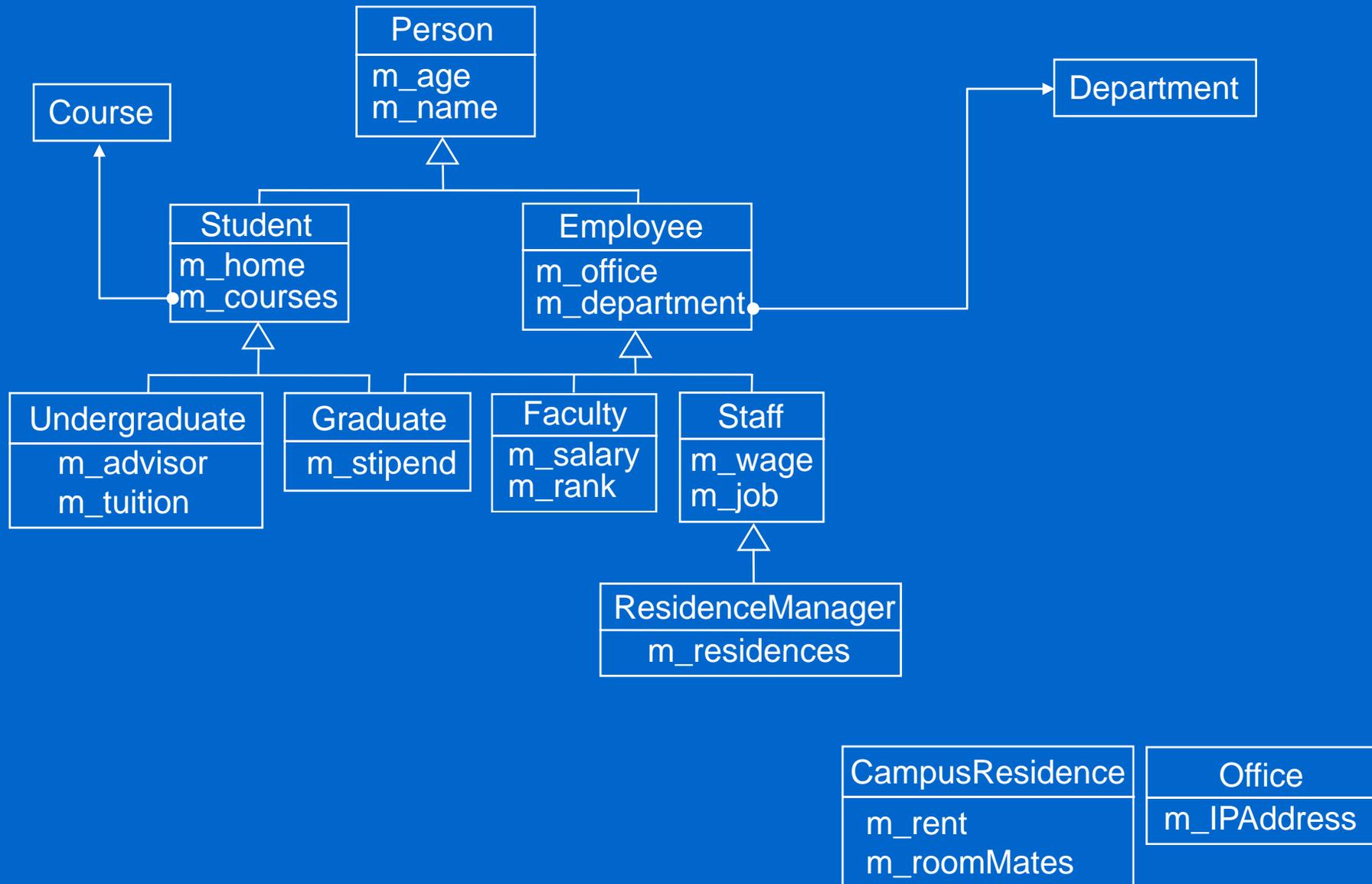
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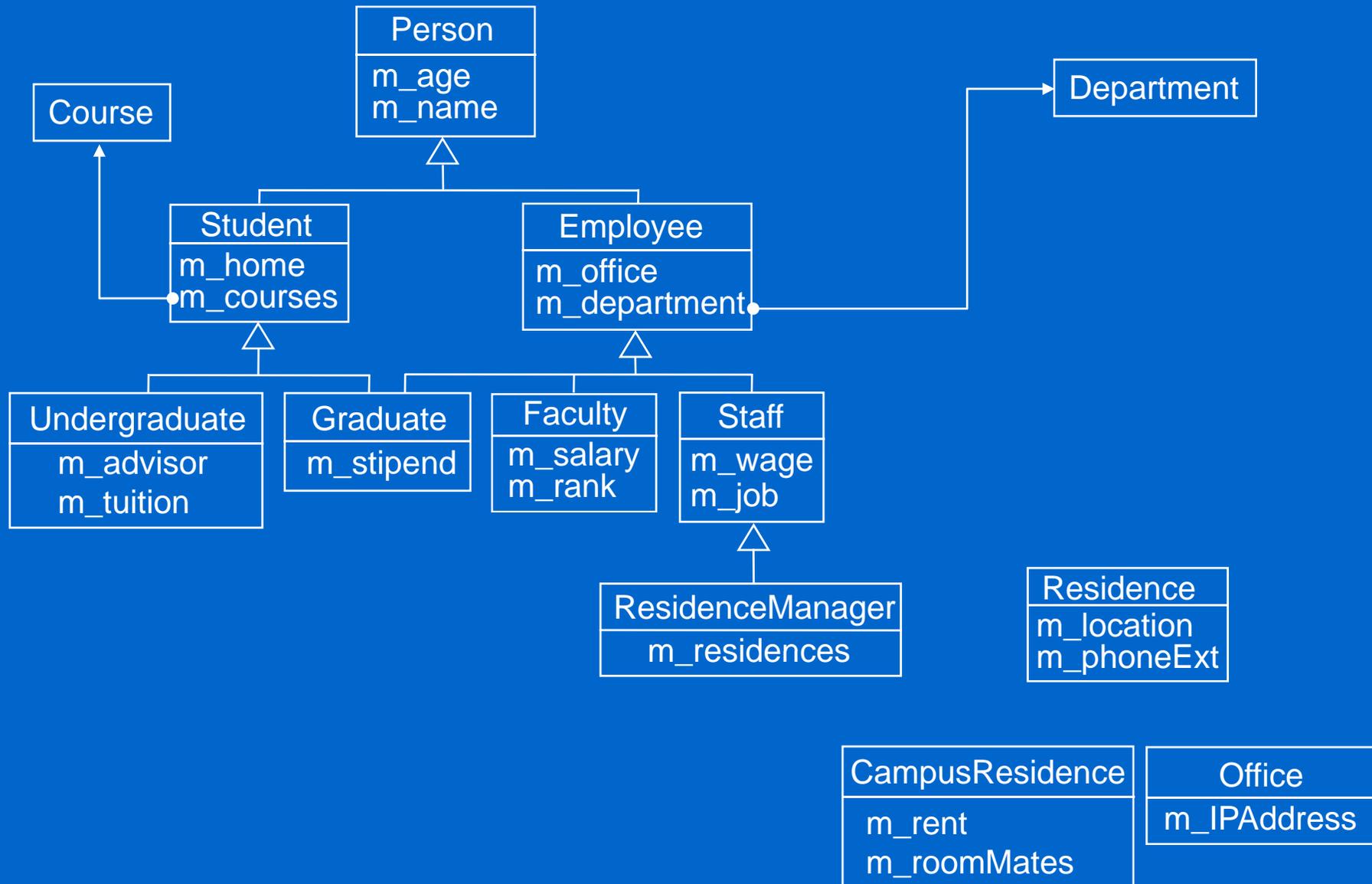
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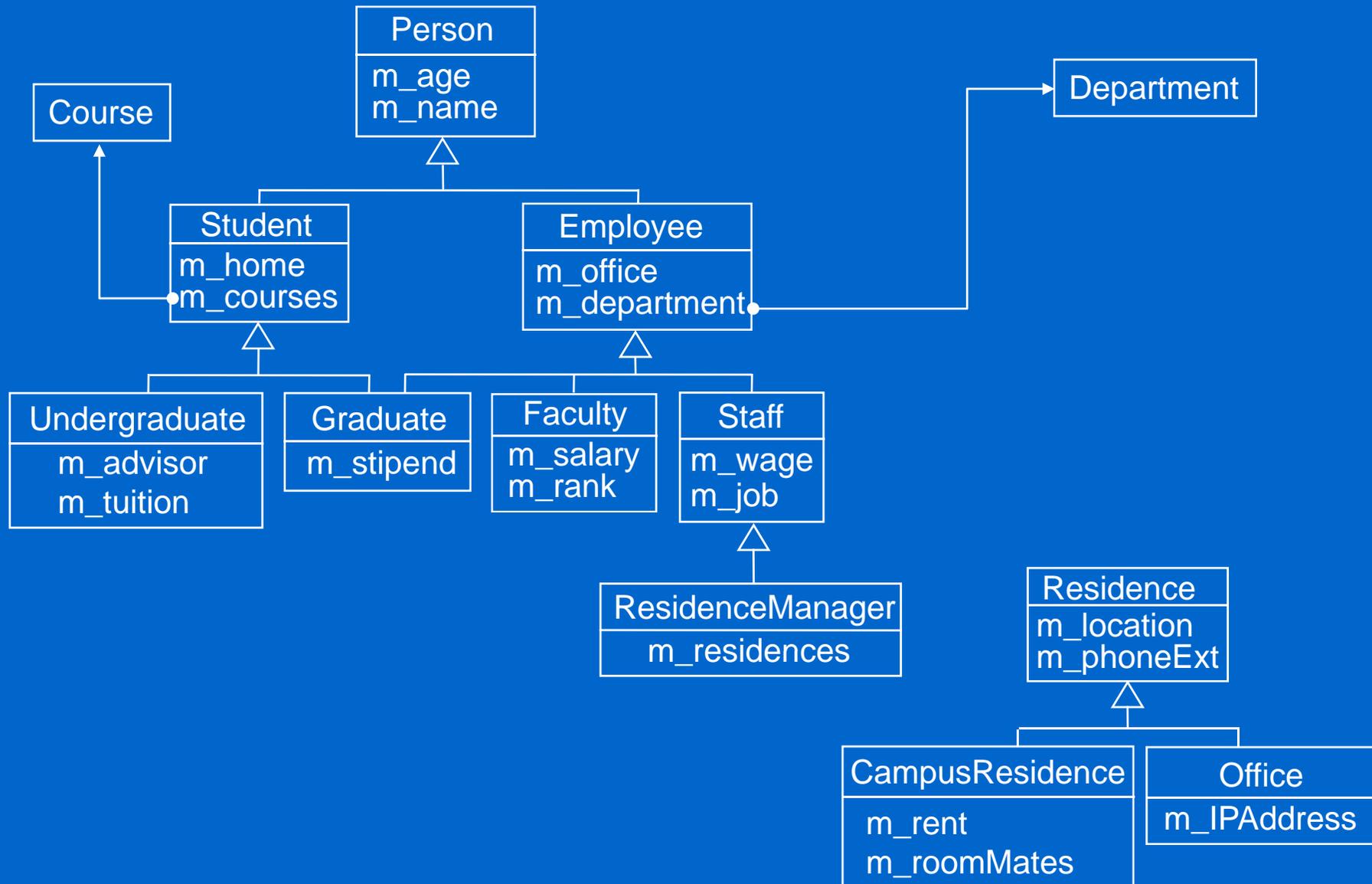
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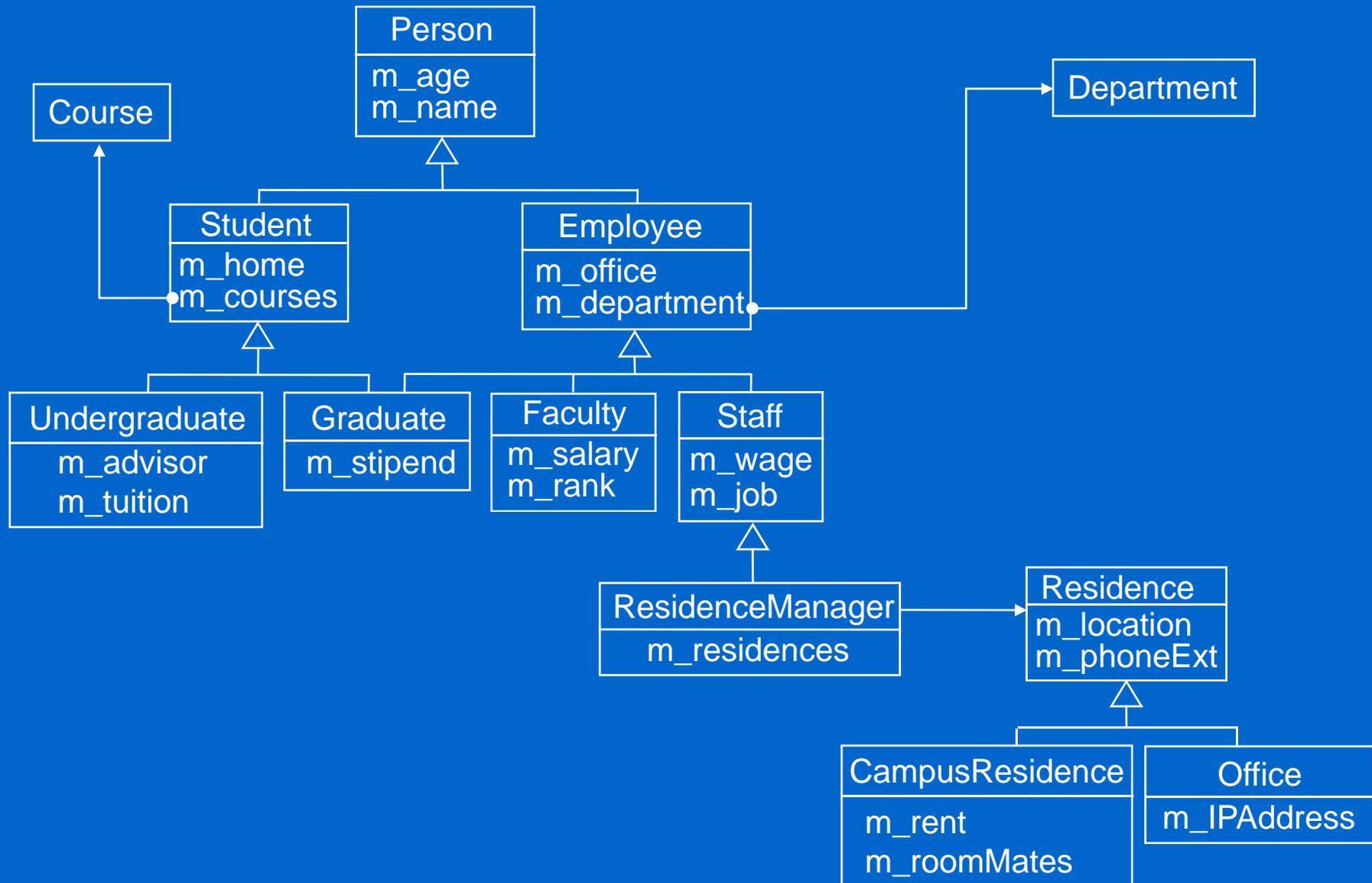
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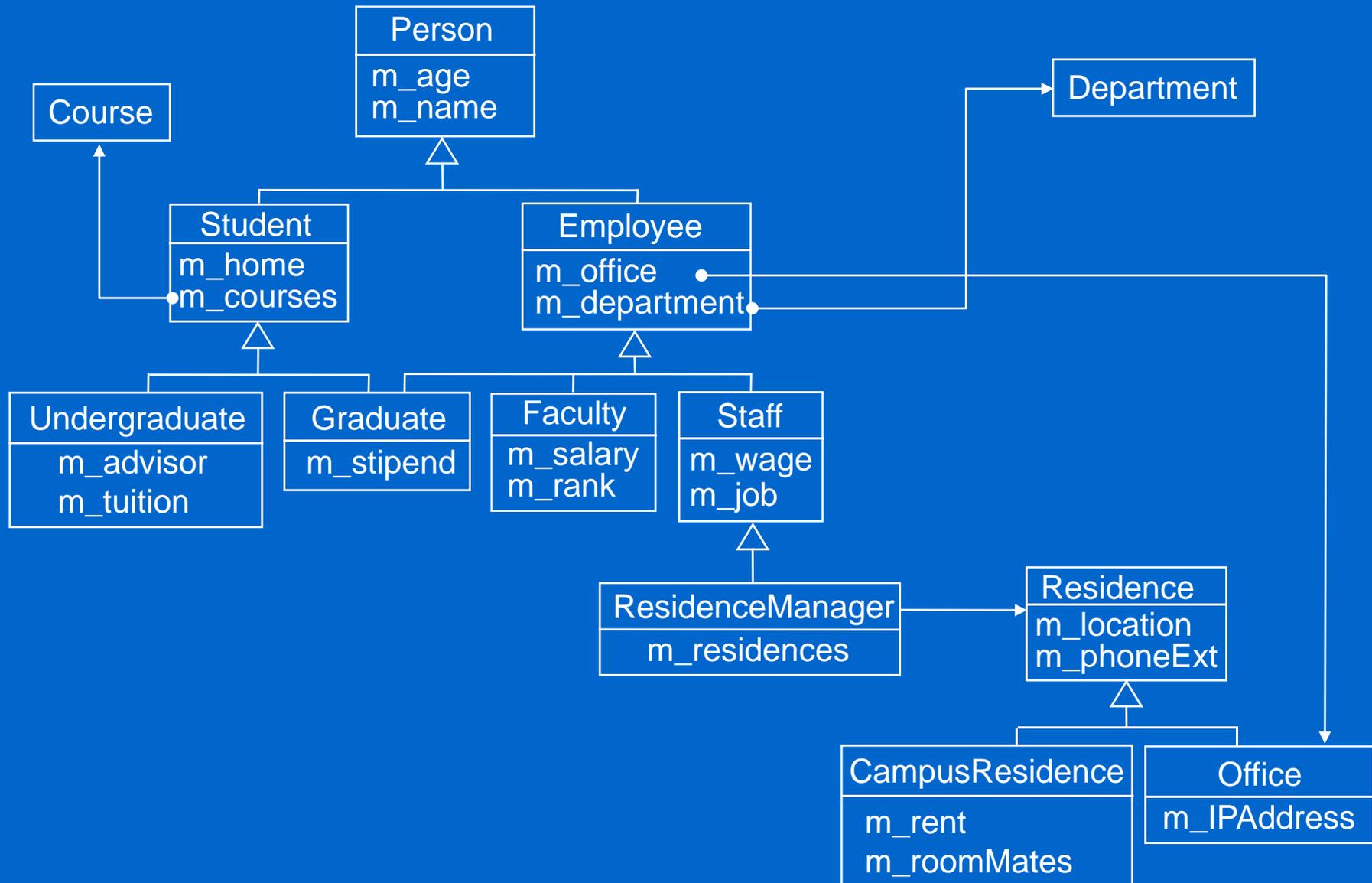
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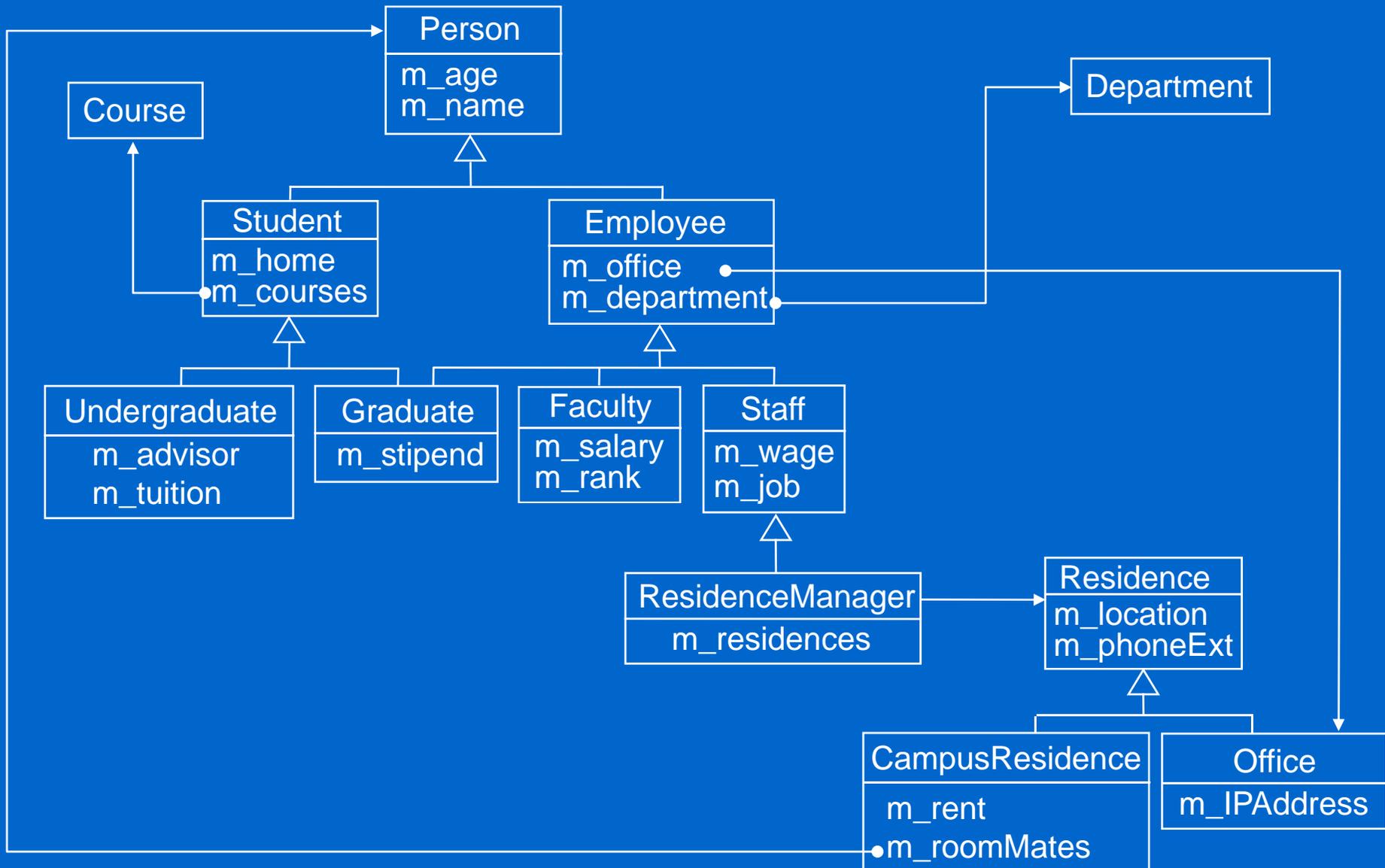
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