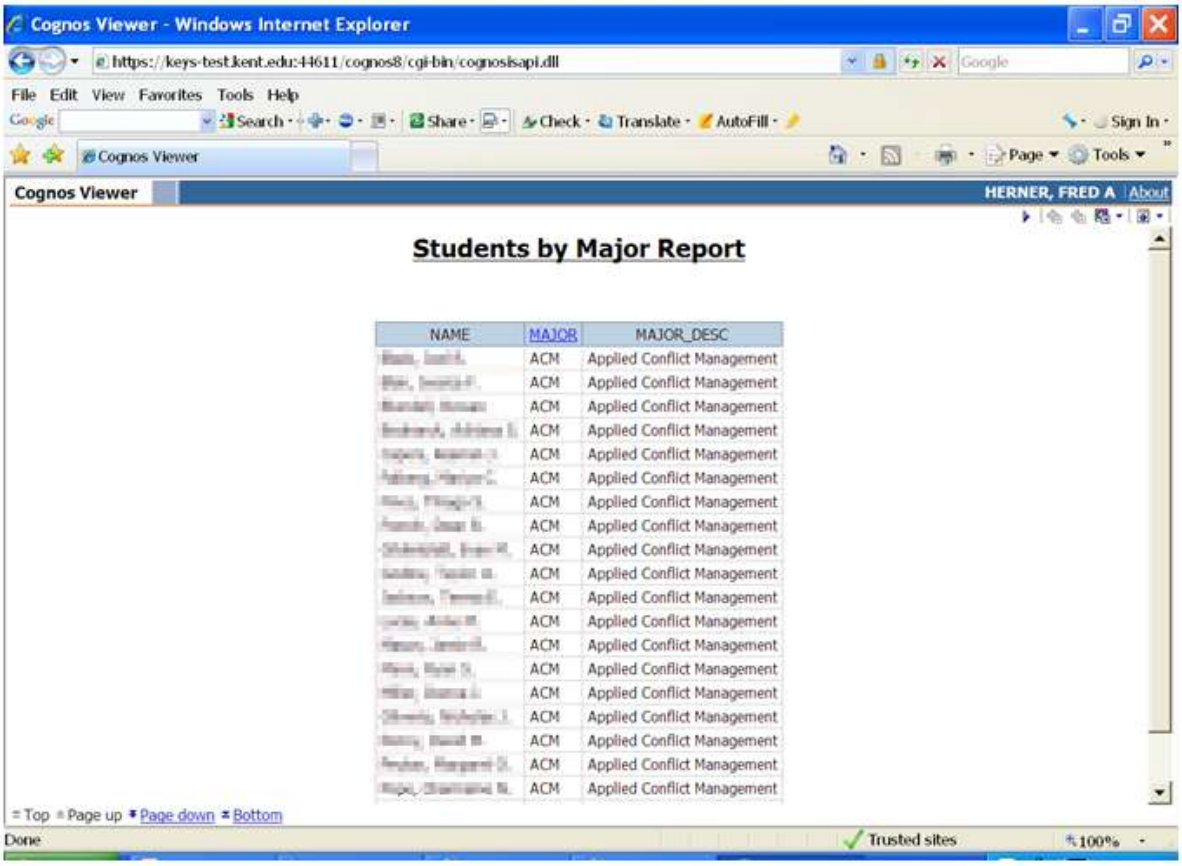
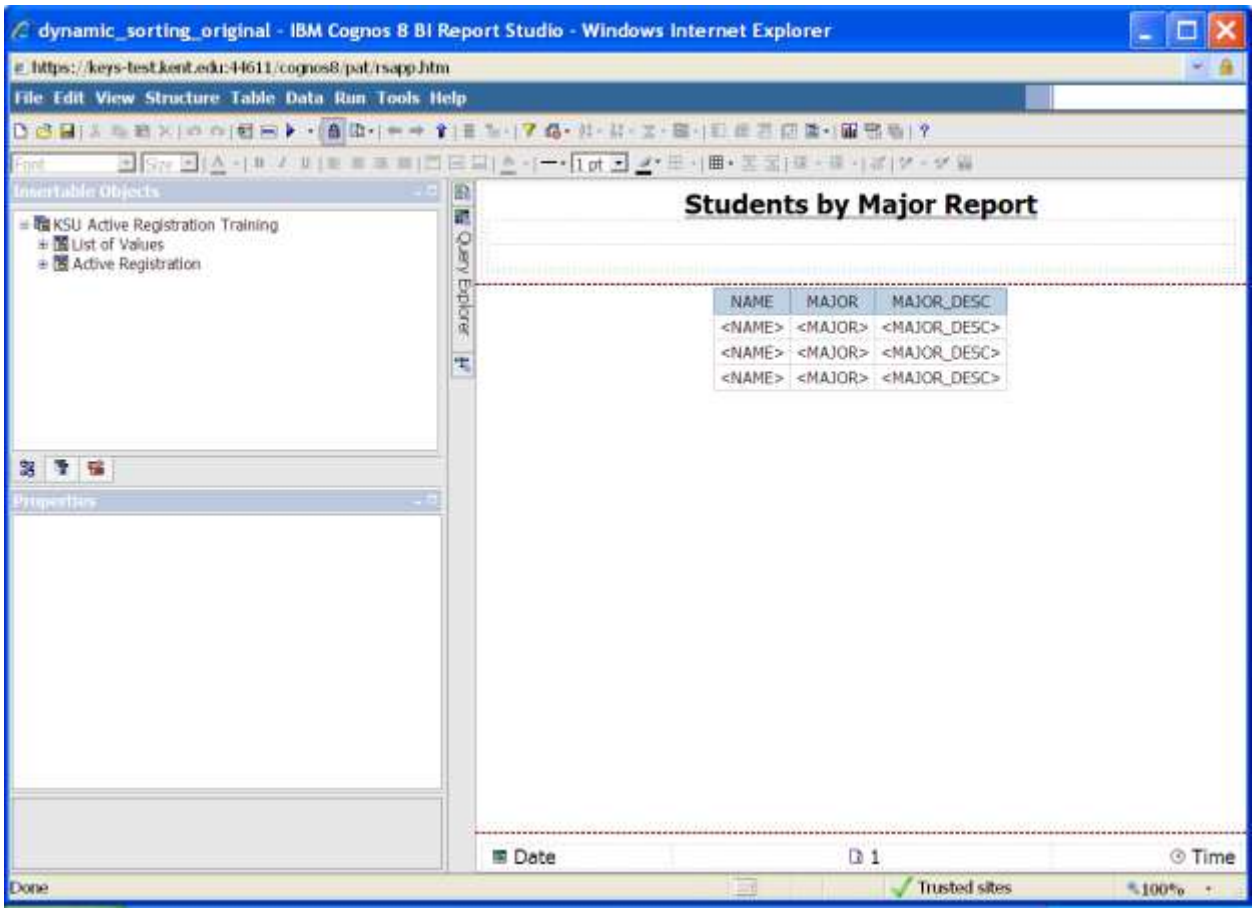
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
IS TECHNICAL TRAINING

COGNOS

Building Dynamic Sort Columns

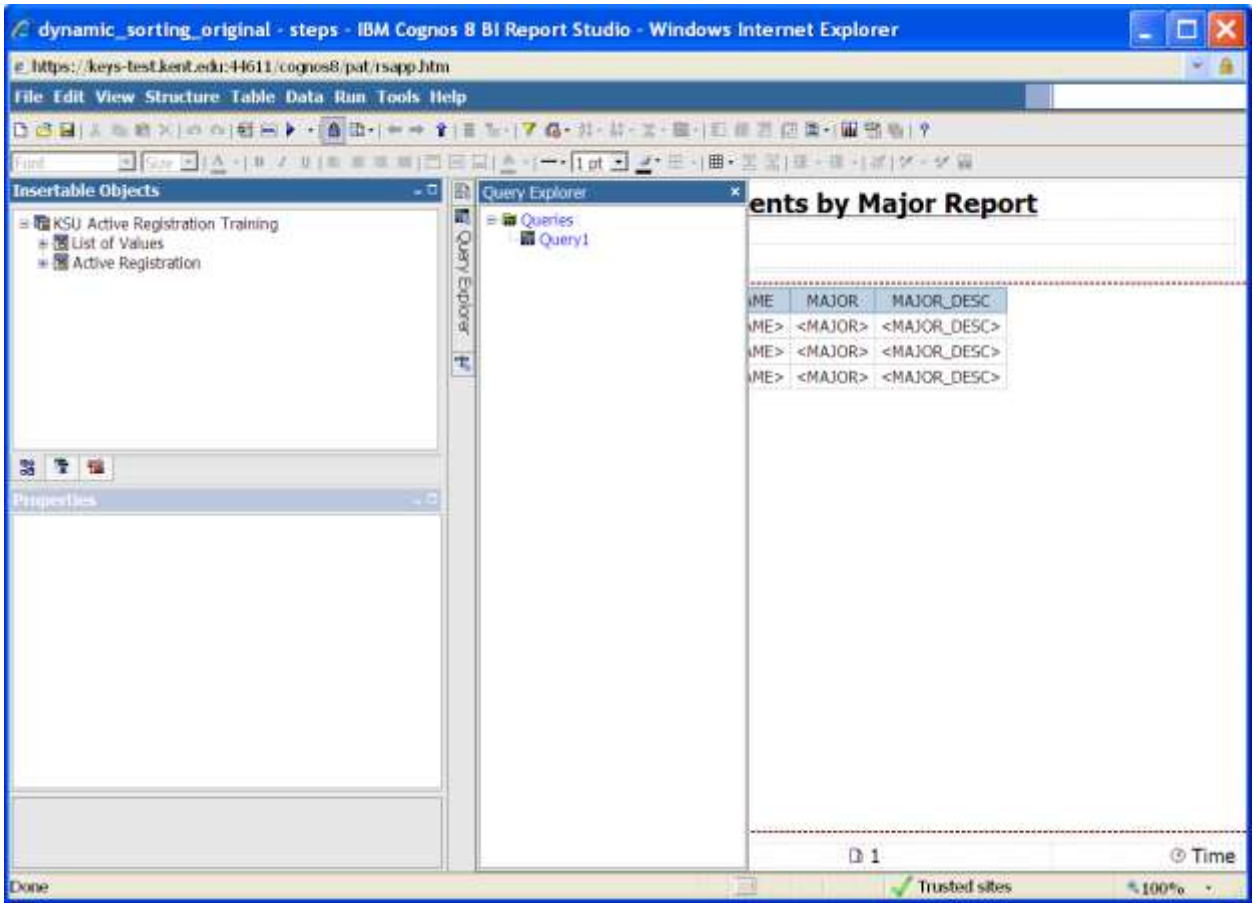
This technique allows you to dynamically sort a report by column by clicking on the column header. You can also change the sort order by repeating the click.



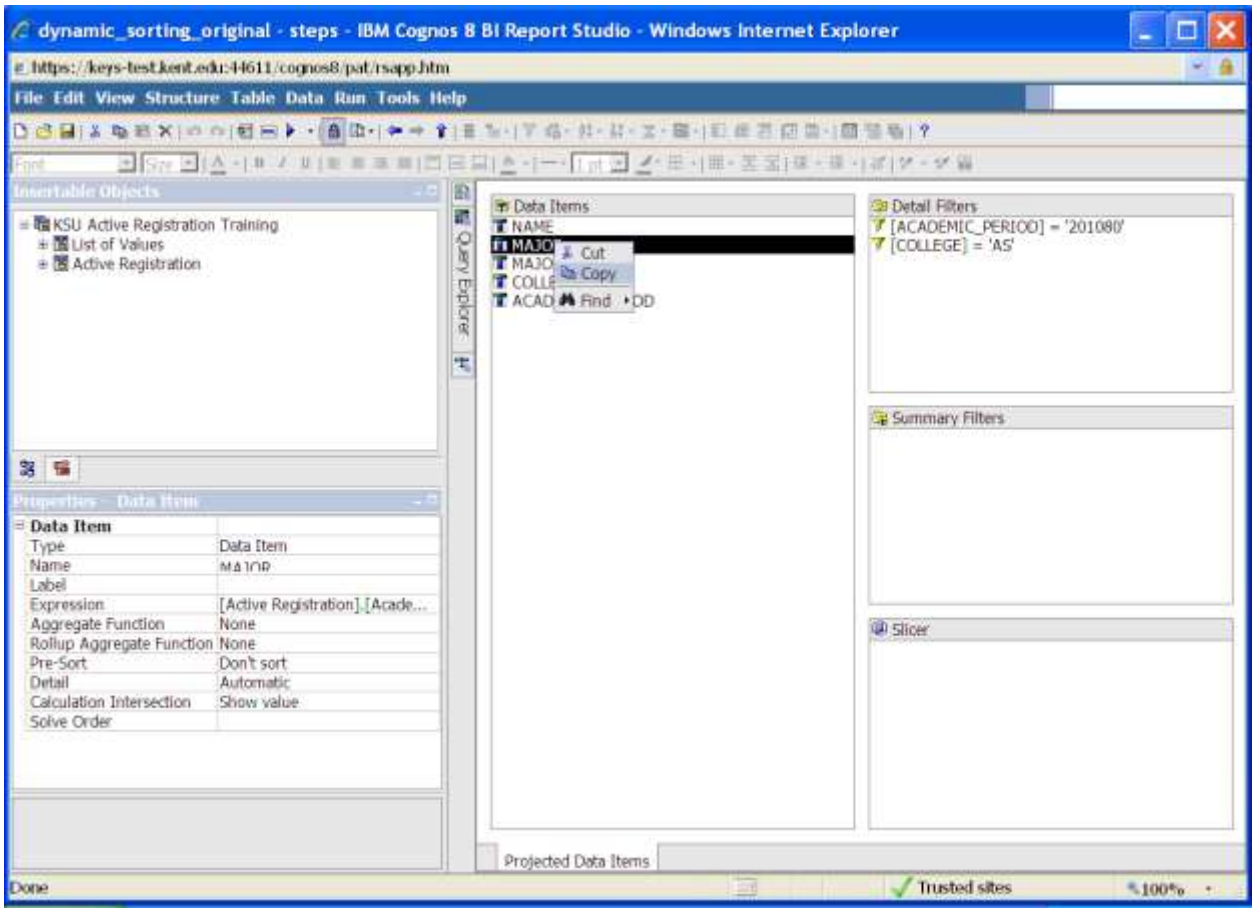


Follow these steps to create Dynamic Column Sorting:

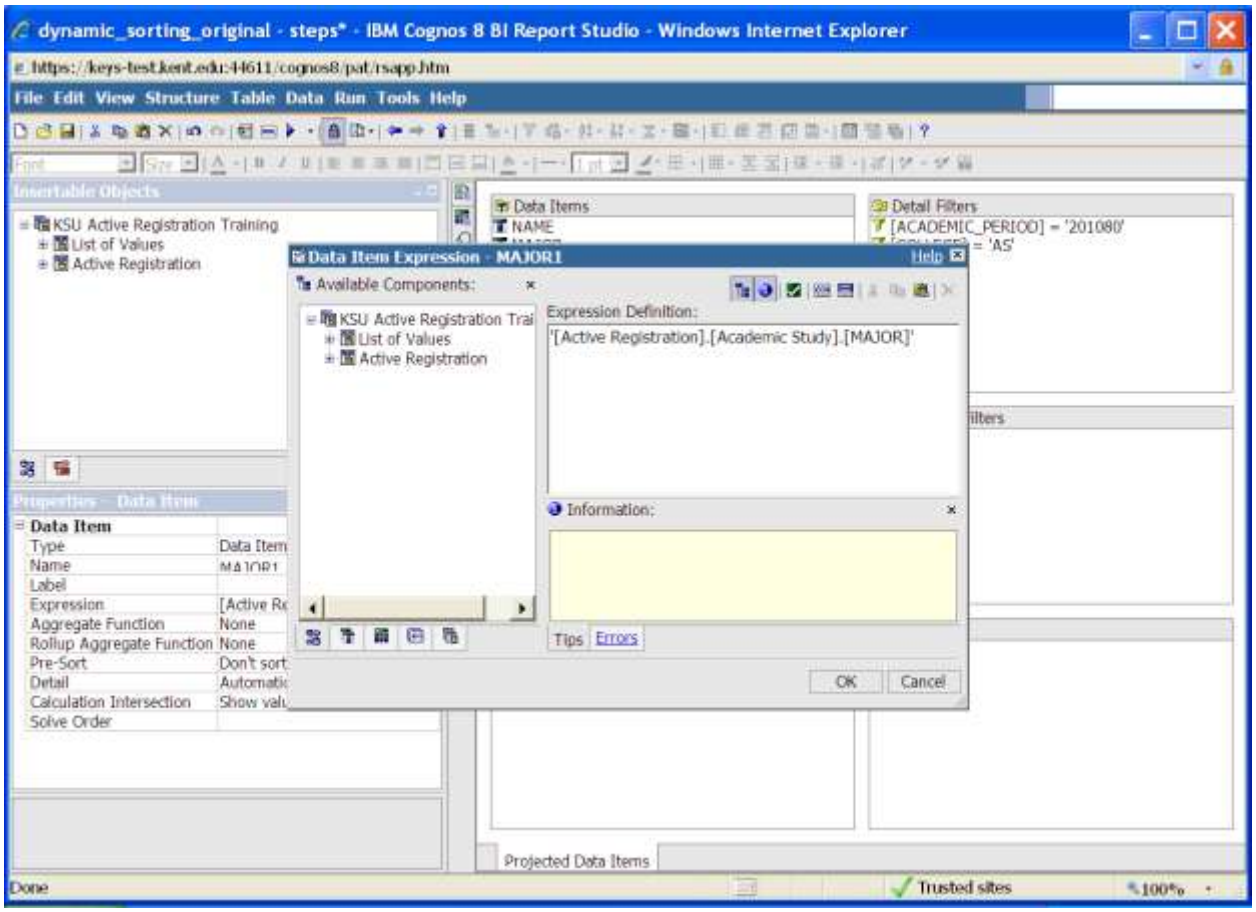
1. Open a report to create the sort column.



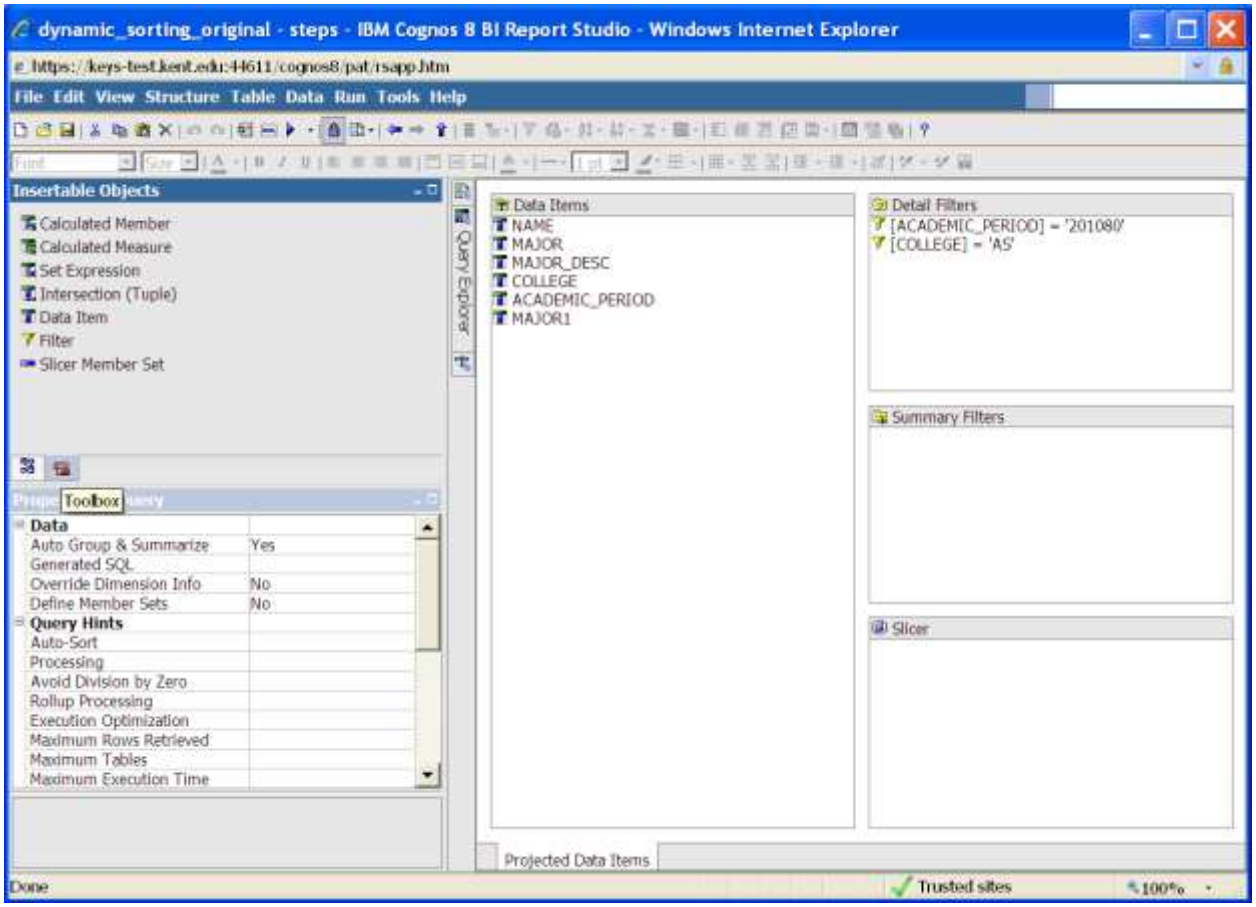
2. Go to the Explorer Bar and click on your query.



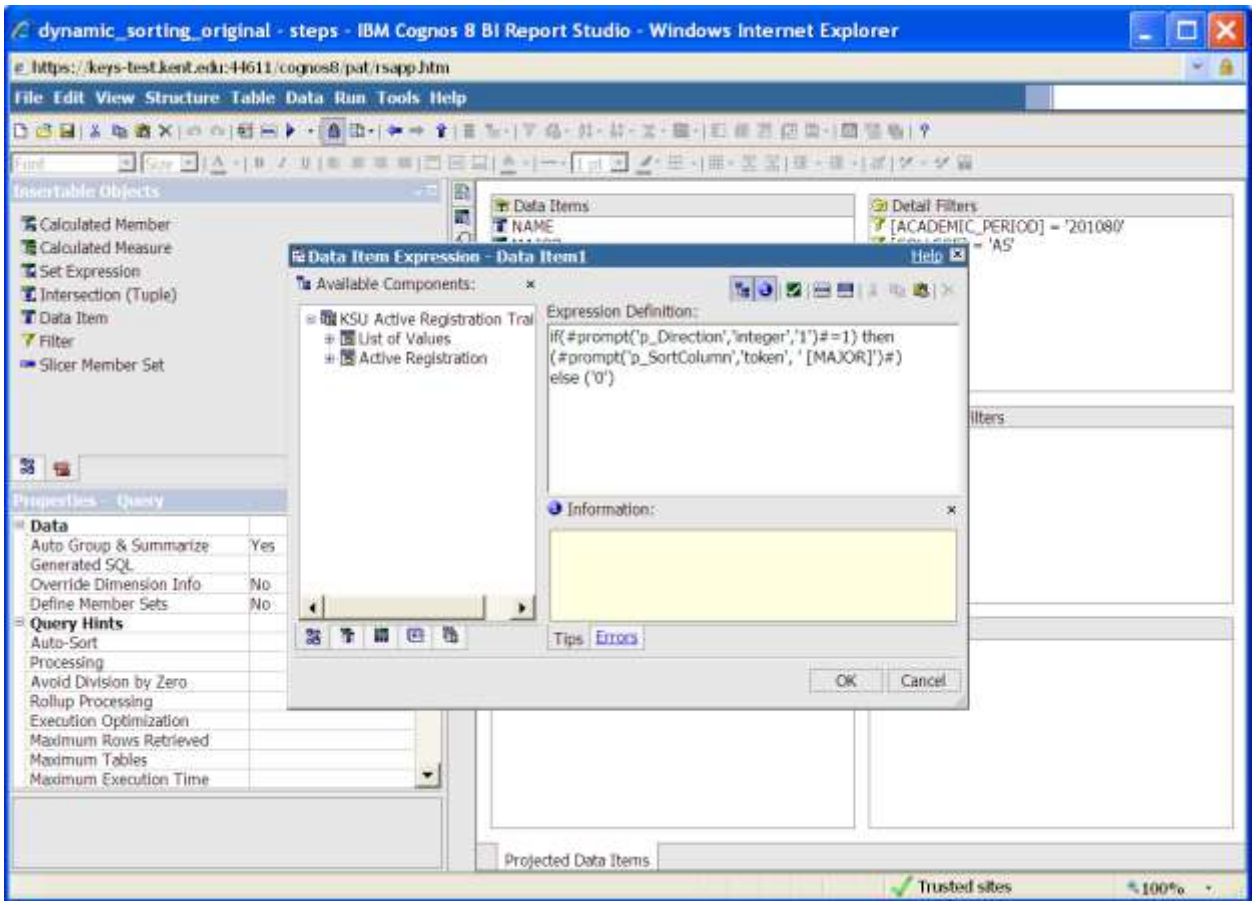
3. Right-click on the data item you wish to use in your sort. Choose Copy, then Right-click and chose Paste.



4. Double-click the new data item and surround the contents of the Expression Definition with single quotes.

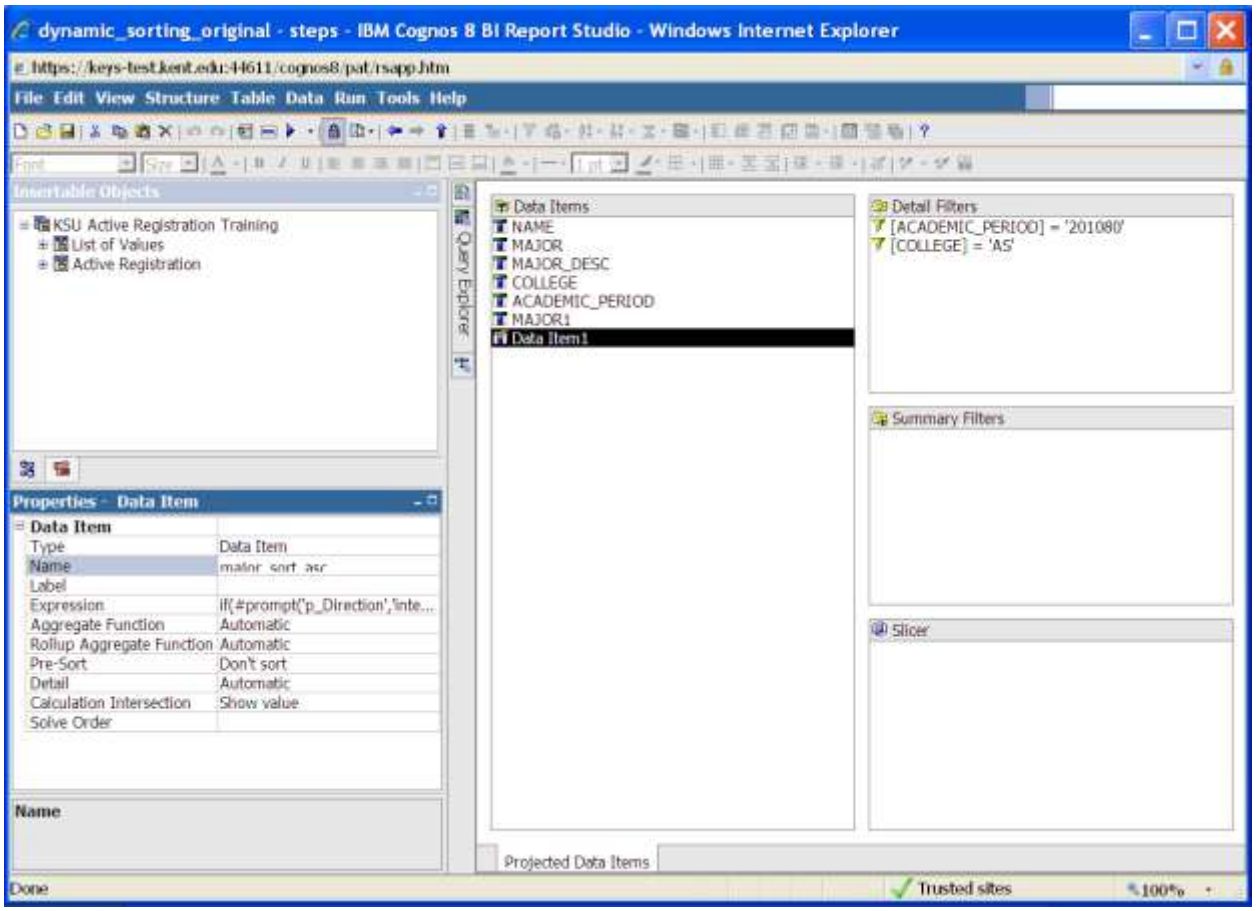


5. Go to the toolbox tab and drag a Data Item to the query.

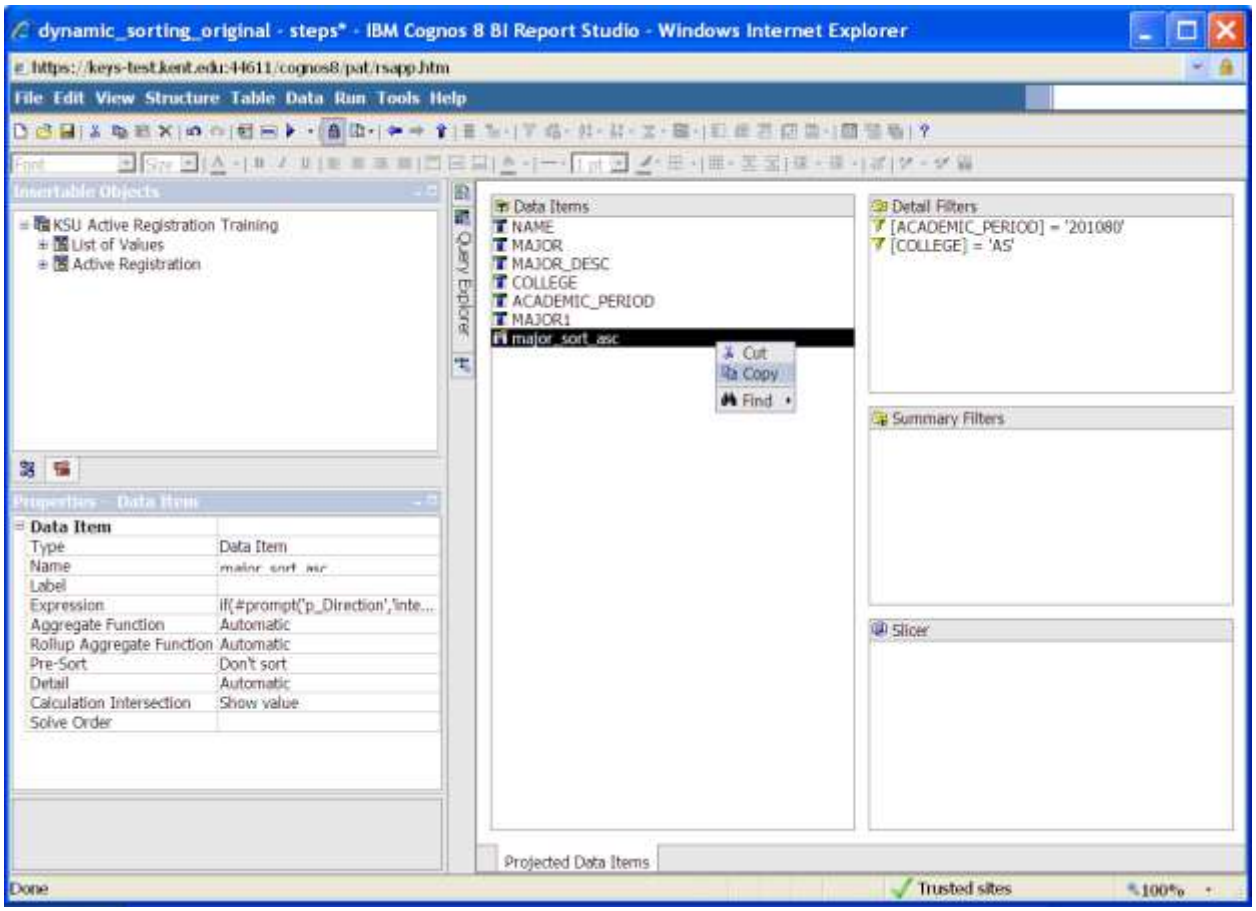


6. **In the Expression Definition, add the following code:**
   a. **if(#prompt('p_Direction','integer','1')#=1) then**
      (#prompt('p_SortColumn','token', ' [MAJOR]')#)

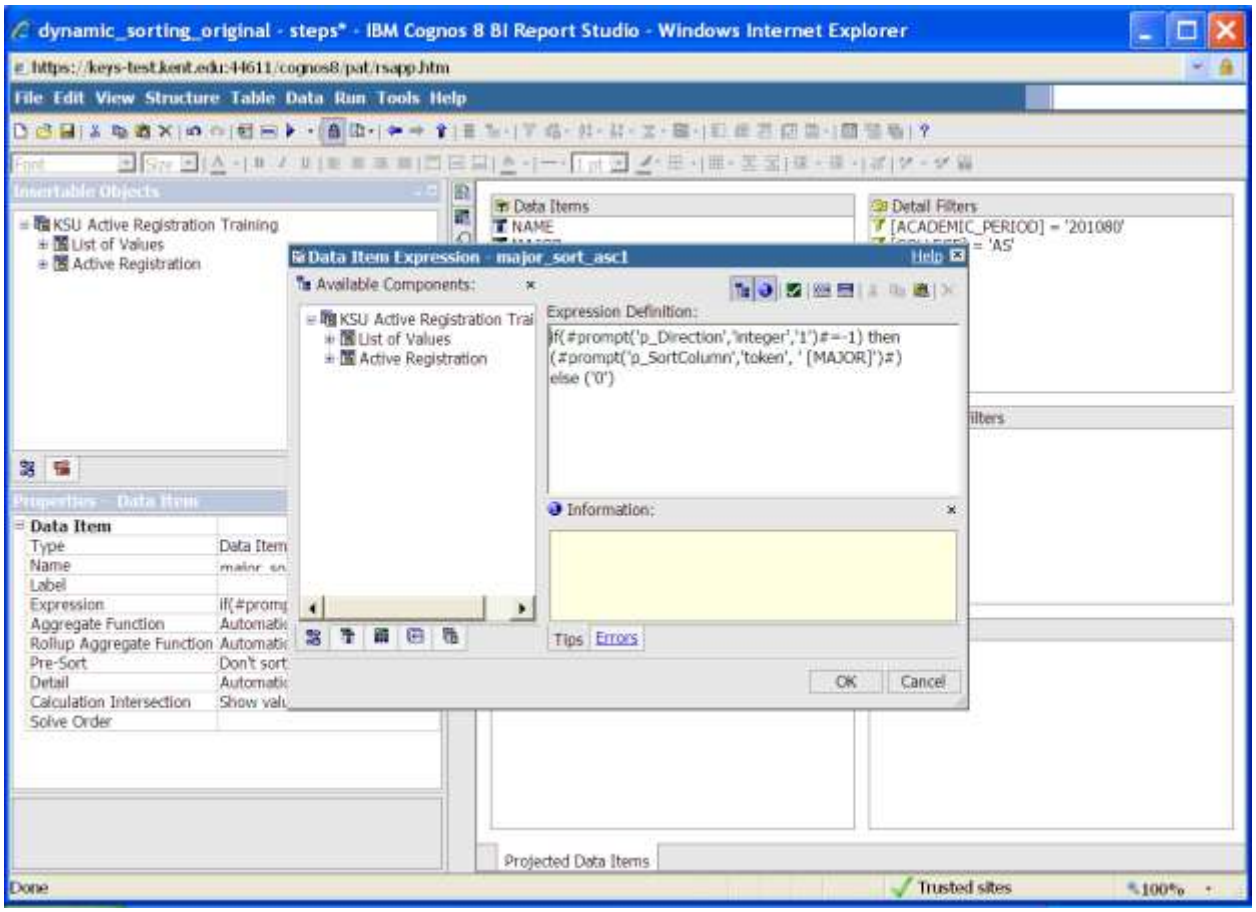
      else ('0')



7. In the properties pane, rename the data item. In this example, use **major_sort_asc.**

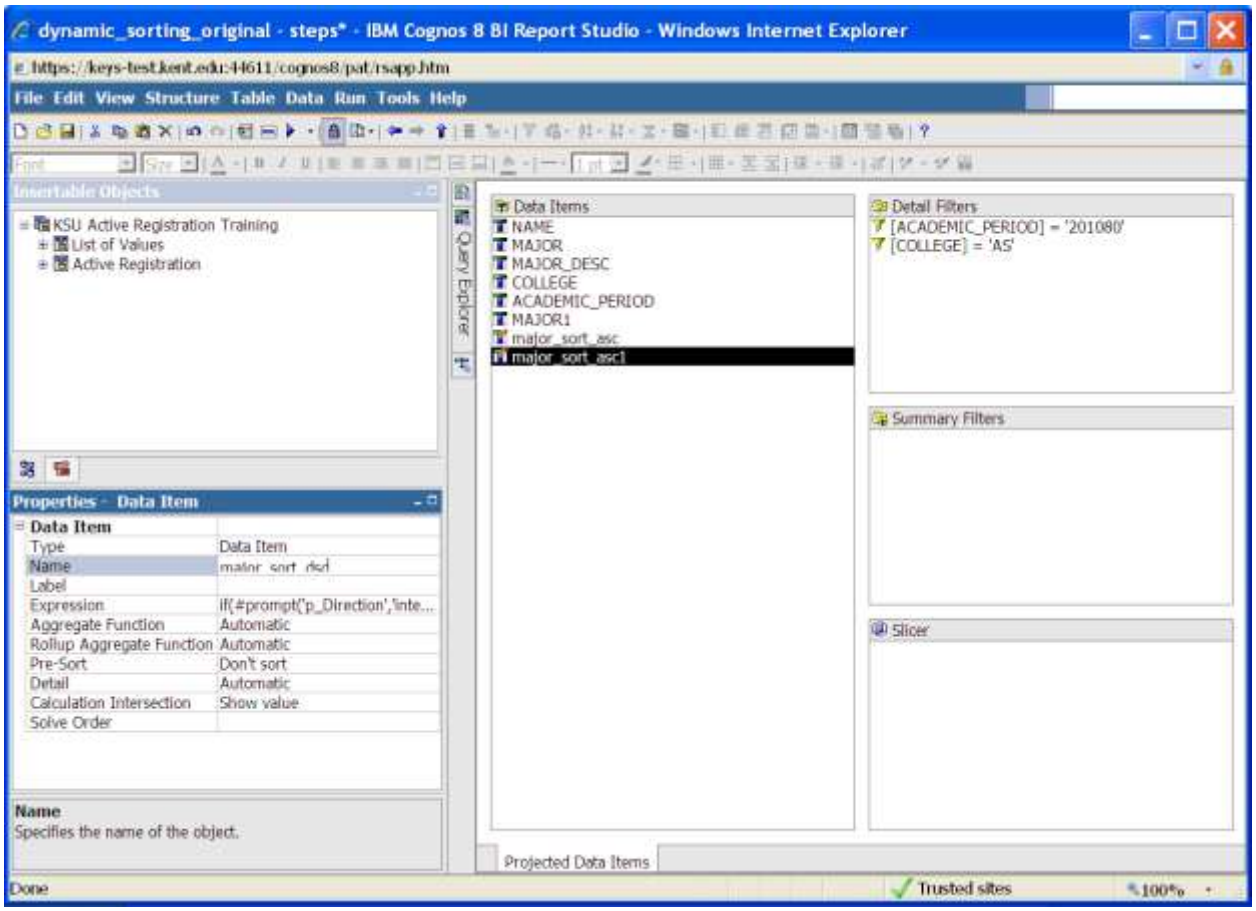


8. Right-click on the data item and select Copy. Then right-click and select Paste.

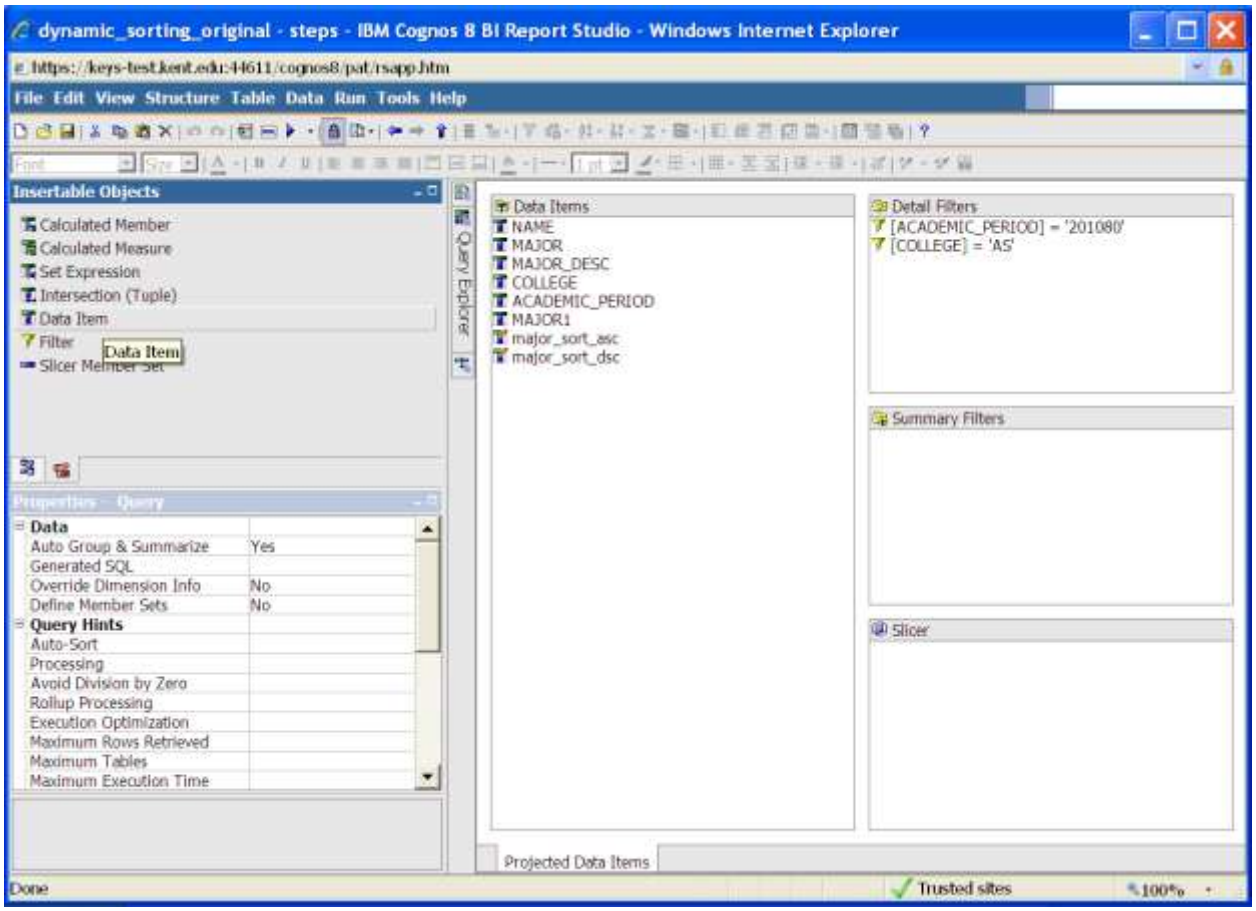


9. Double-click on the field you just copied and in the Expression Definition, add the following code:
    a. **if(#prompt('p_Direction','integer','1')#=-1) then (#prompt('p_SortColumn','token', ' [MAJOR]')#)**

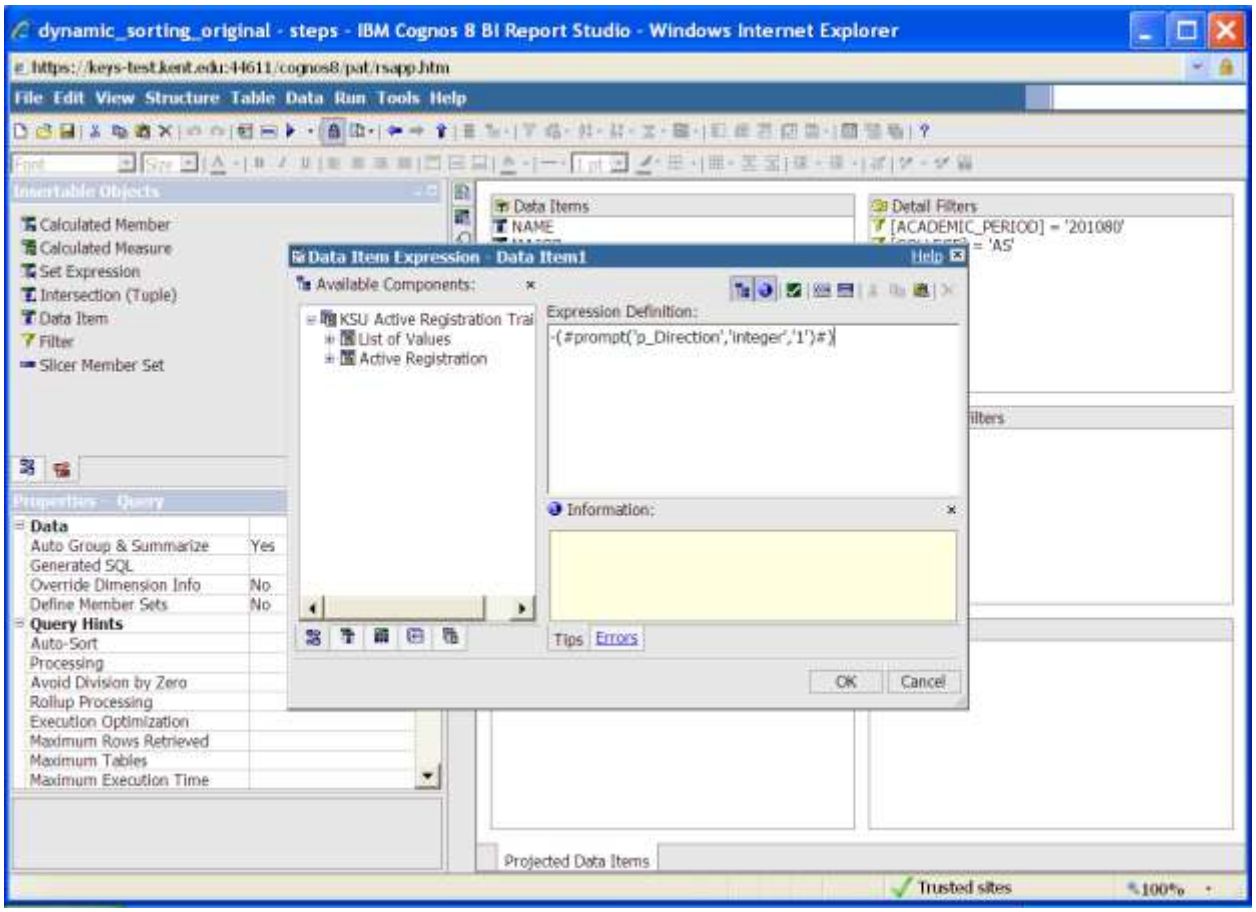
       else ('0')



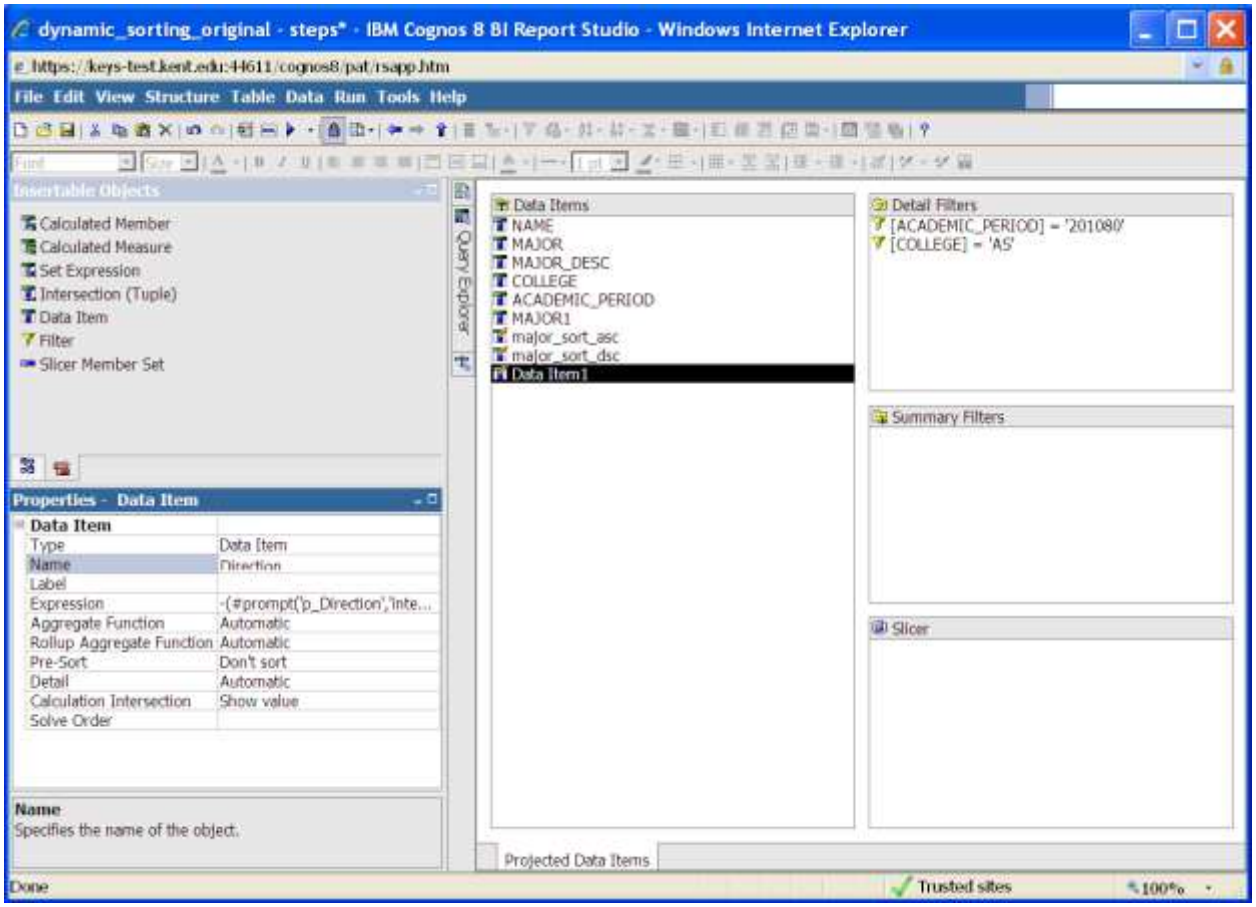
10. In the properties pane, rename the data item. In this example, use **major_sort_dsc.**



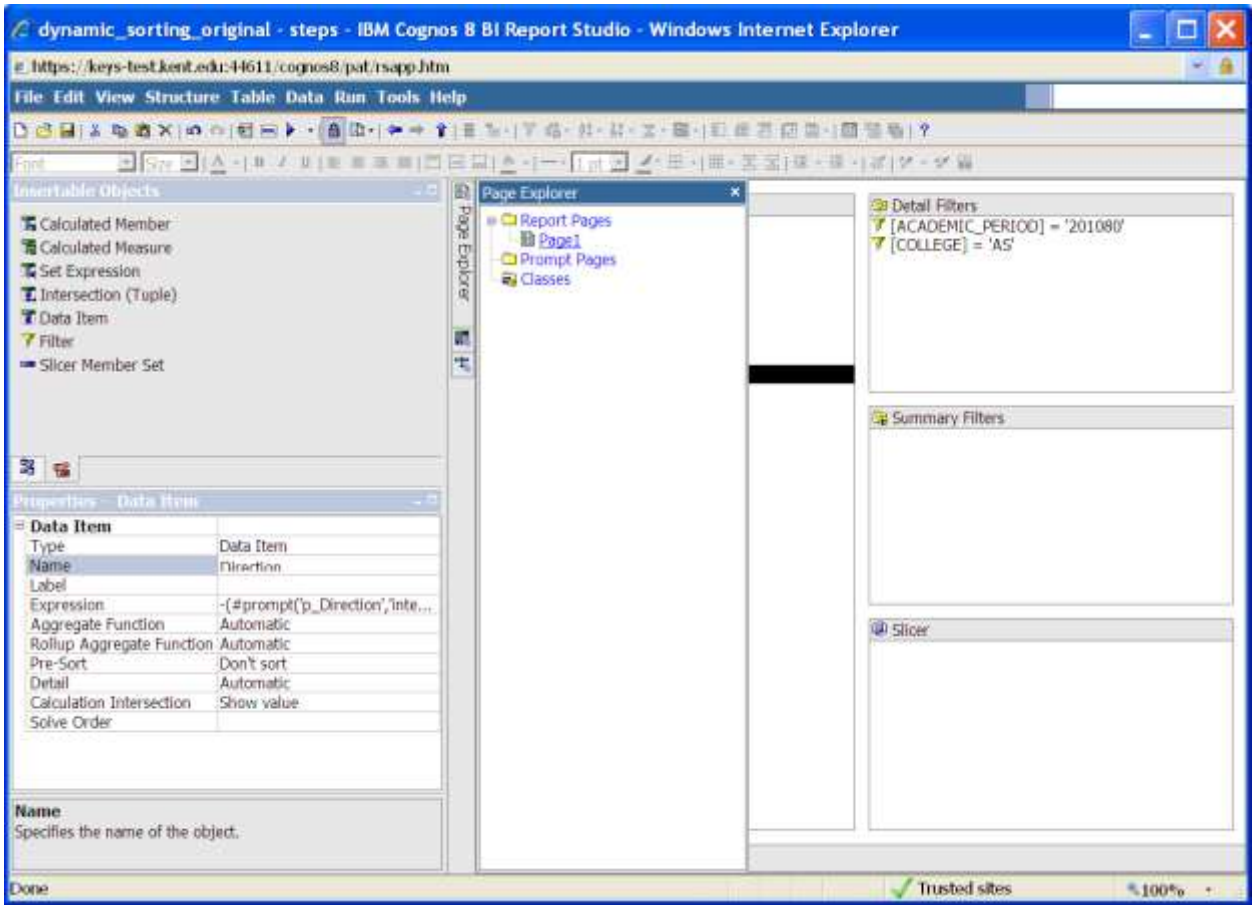
11. Go to the toolbox tab, and drag a new data item to the query.



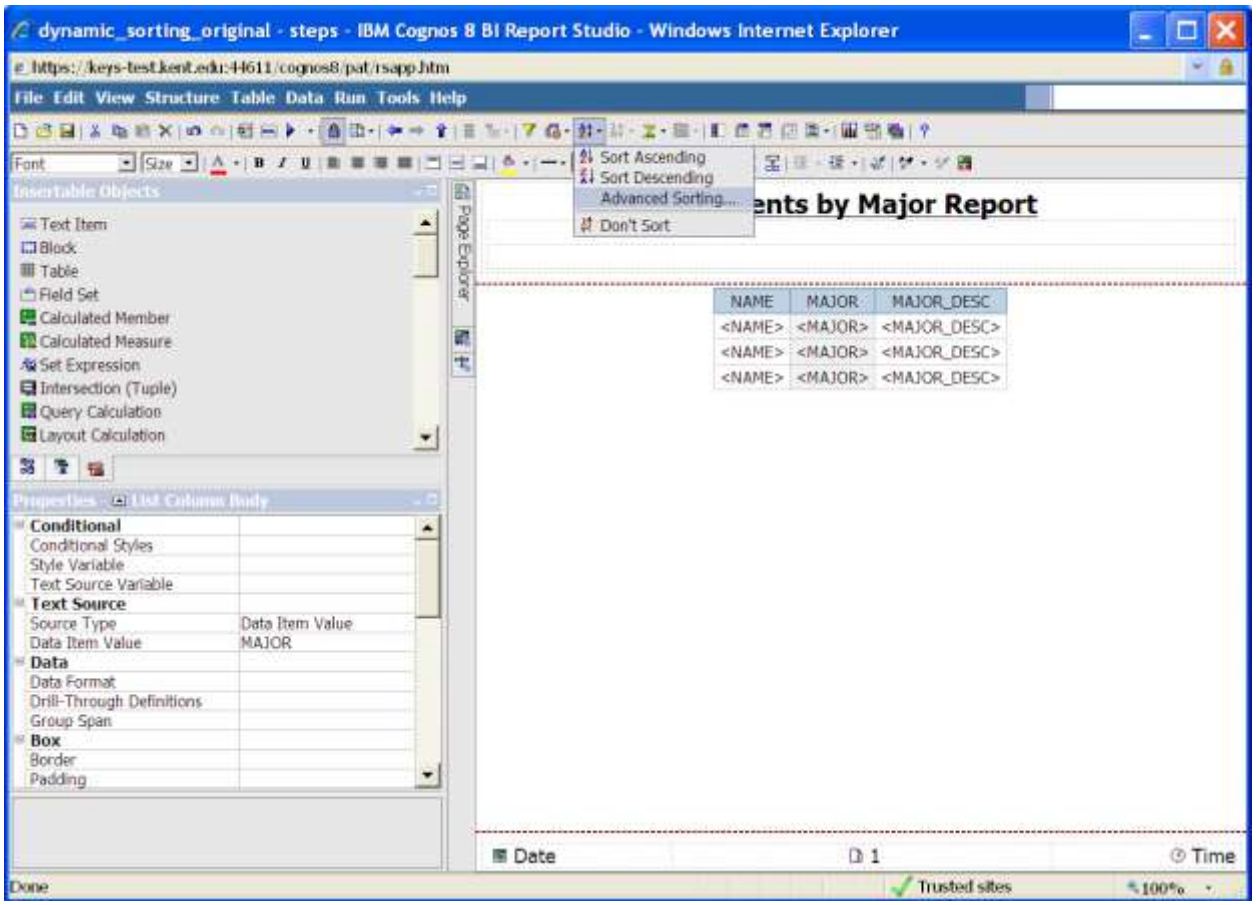
12. In the Expression Definition, enter the following code:
    a. **-(#prompt('p_Direction','integer','1')#)**



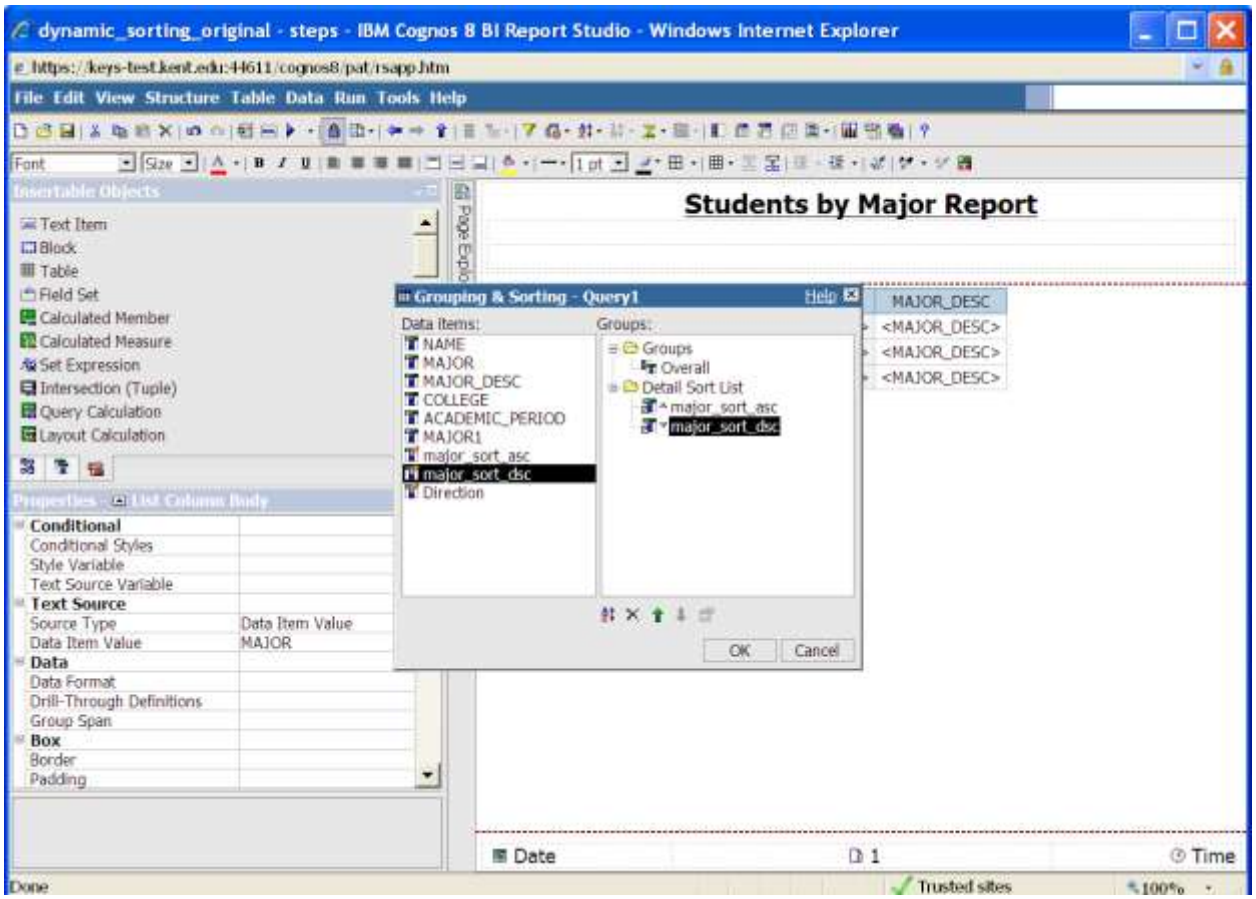
13. In the properties pane, rename the data item. In this example, use **Direction.**



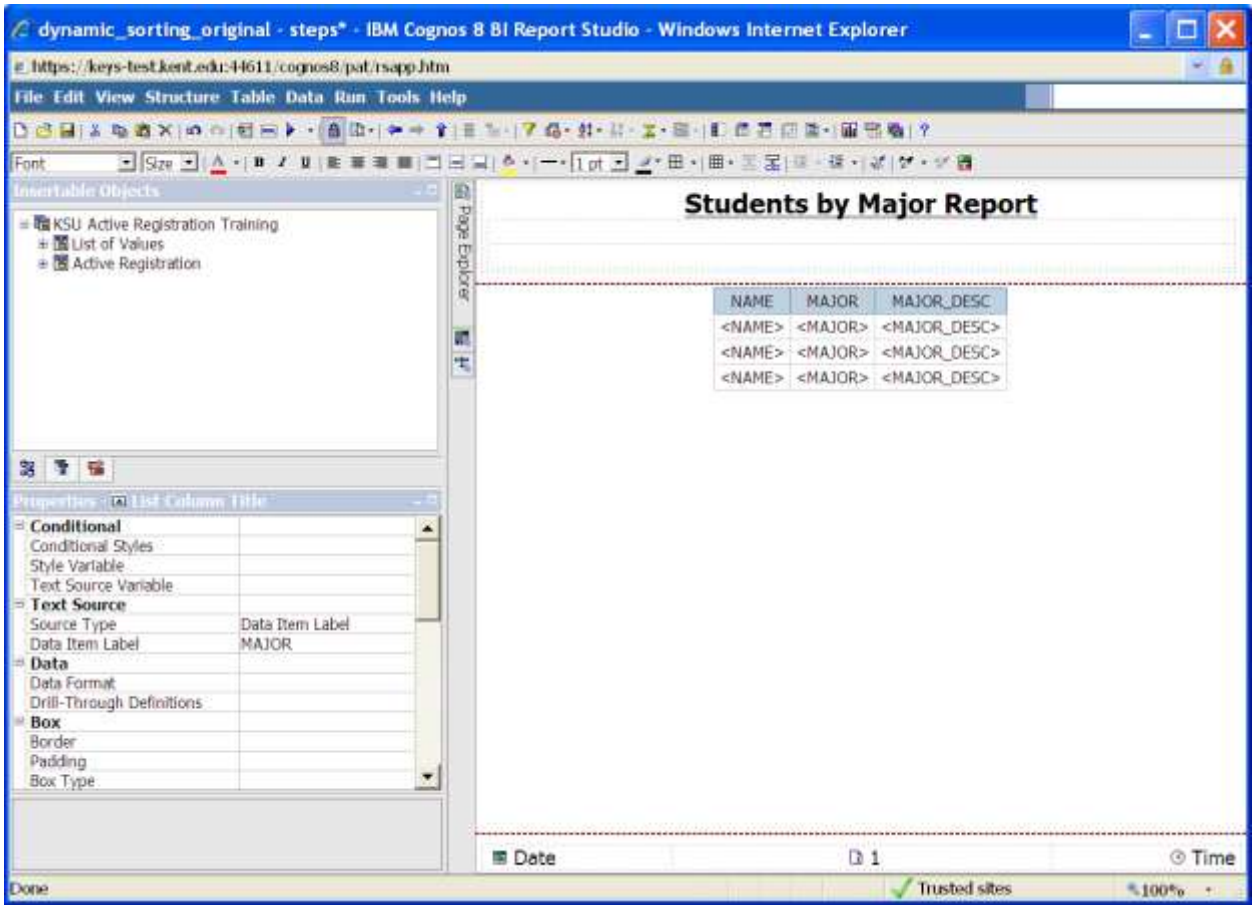
14. Go to the Page Explorer and select Page1.



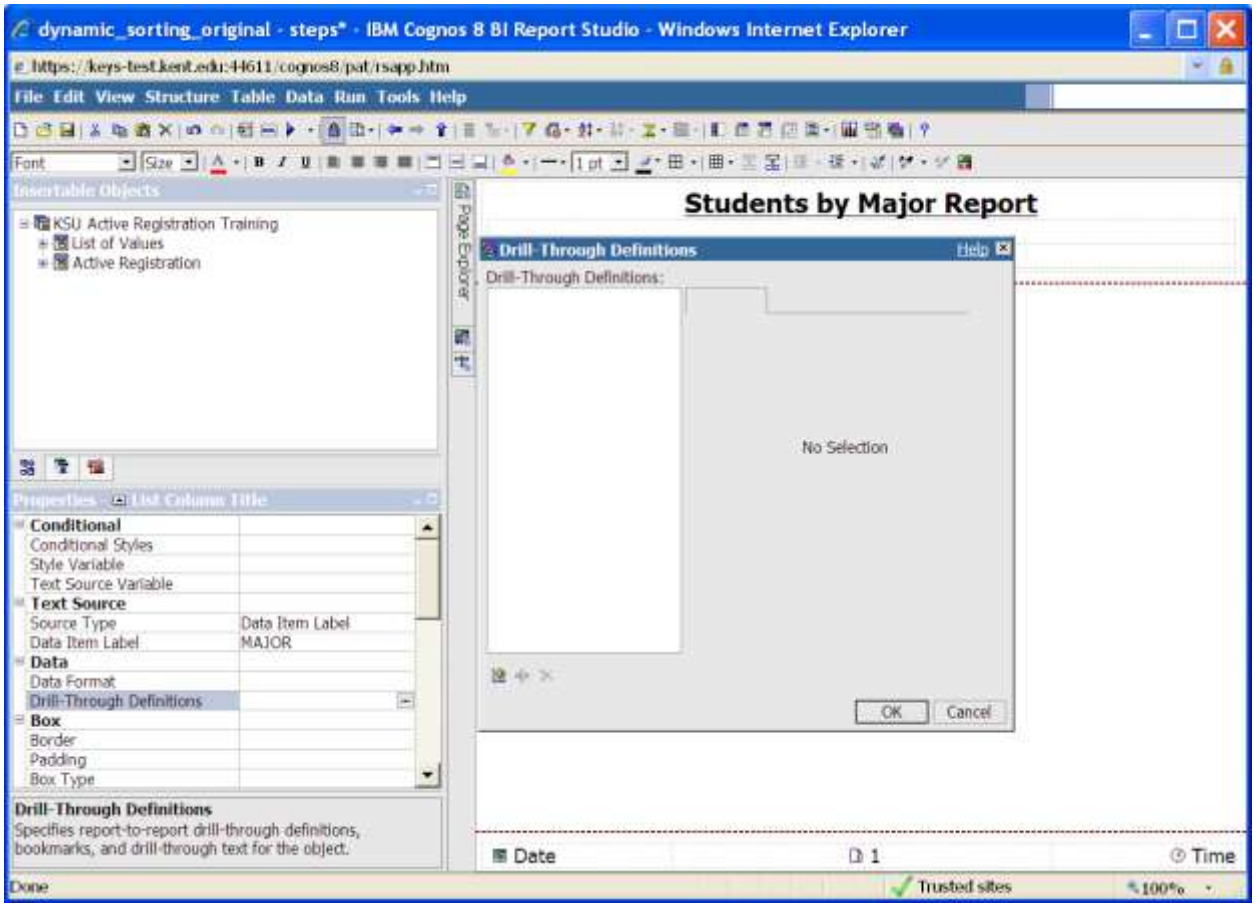
15. Highlight any column on the report, click the Sort Icon and choose Advanced Sorting.



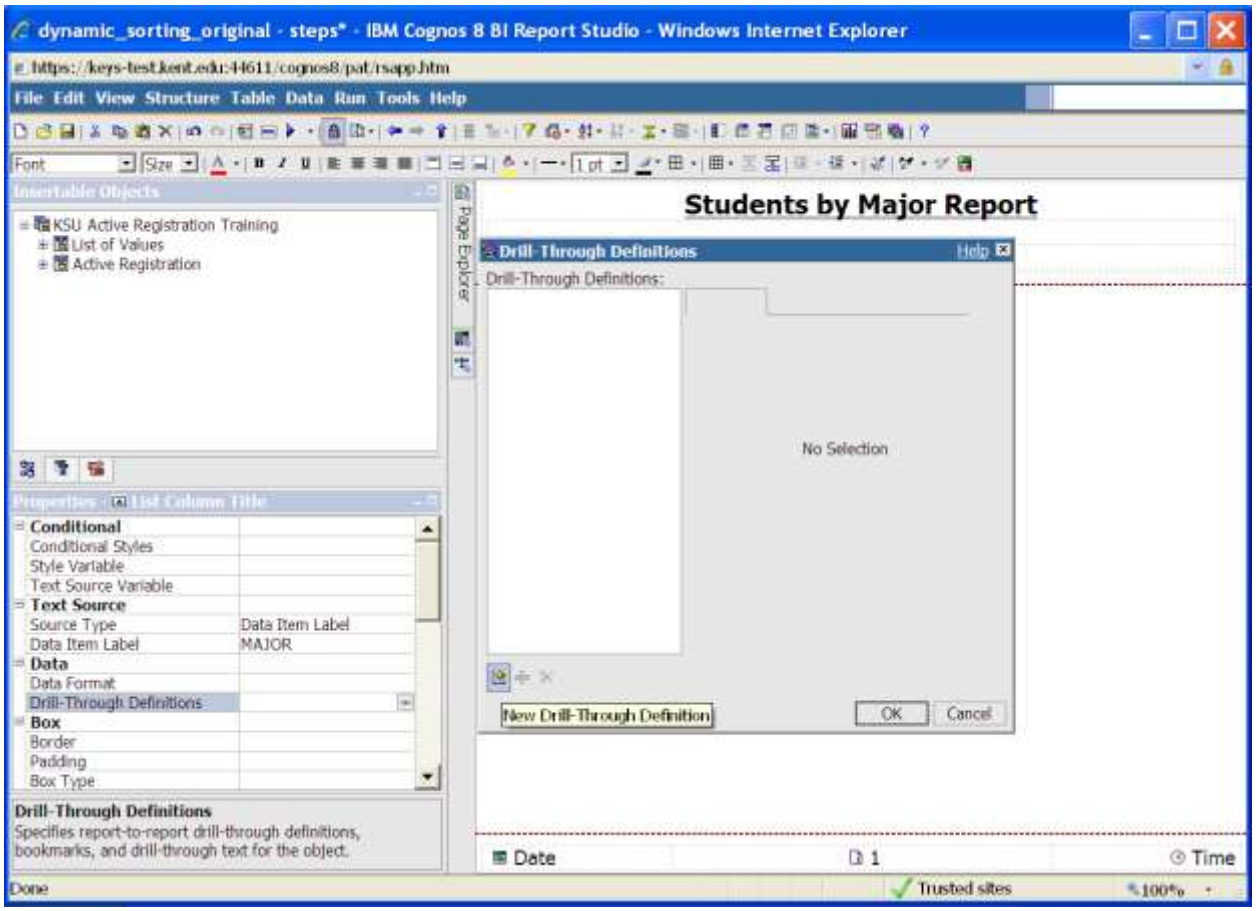
16. Drag over **major_sort_asc** to the Groups box, just under Detail Sort List. Drag over **major_sort_dsc** to the Groups box, just under **major_sort_asc.** Double-click the arrow on **major_sort_dsc** to change the sort direction.



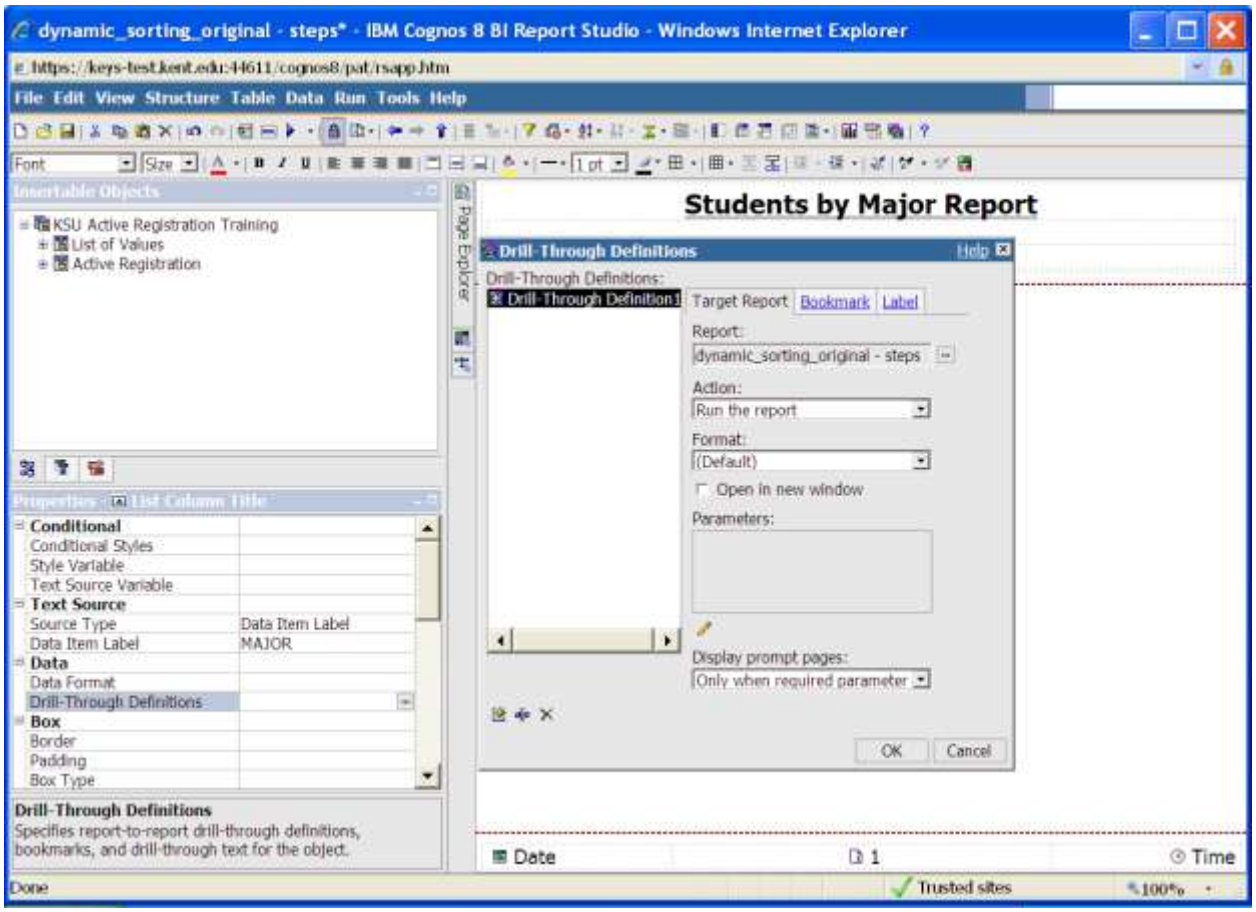
17. Highlight the column for the sort. In this case **Major.**



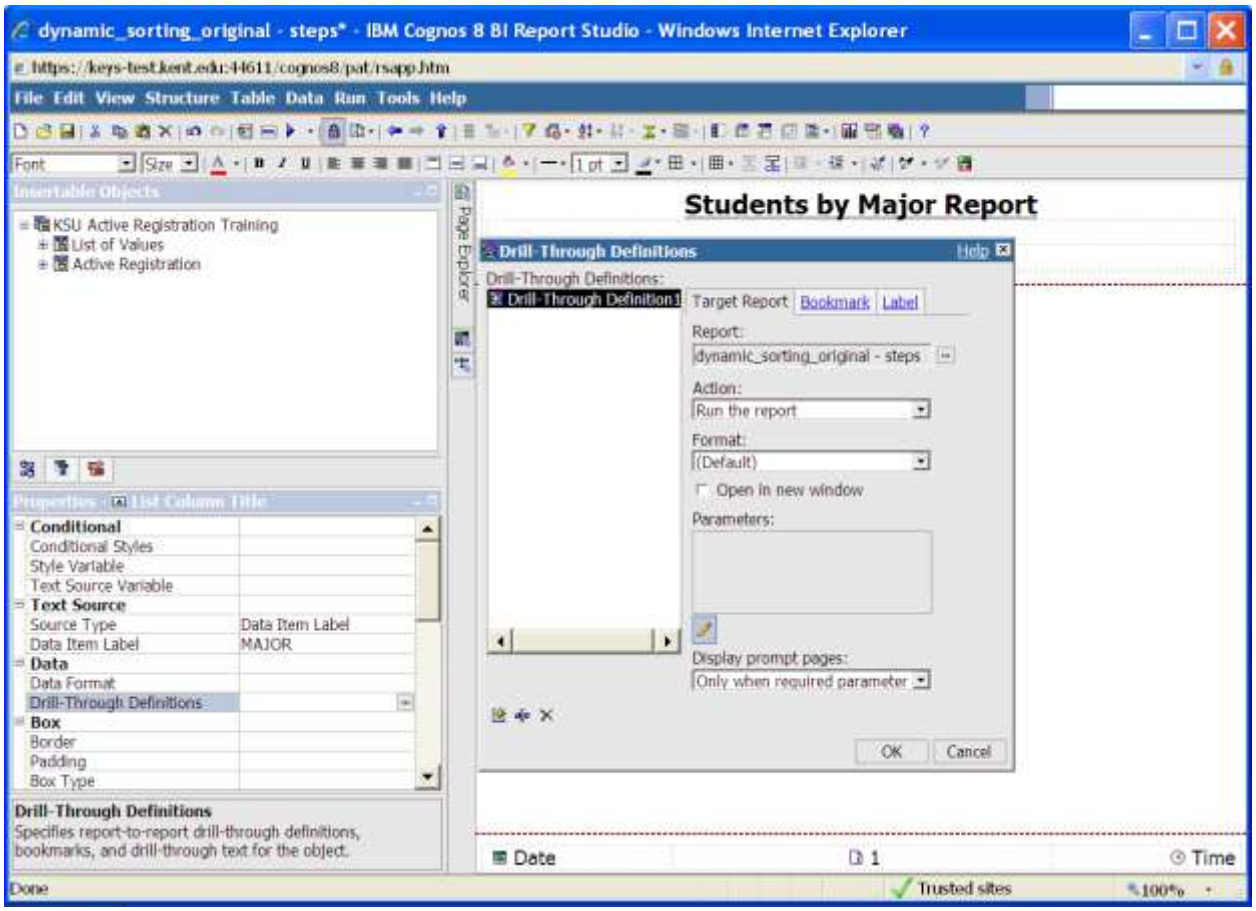
18. In the Properties pane, select Drill-Through Definitions.



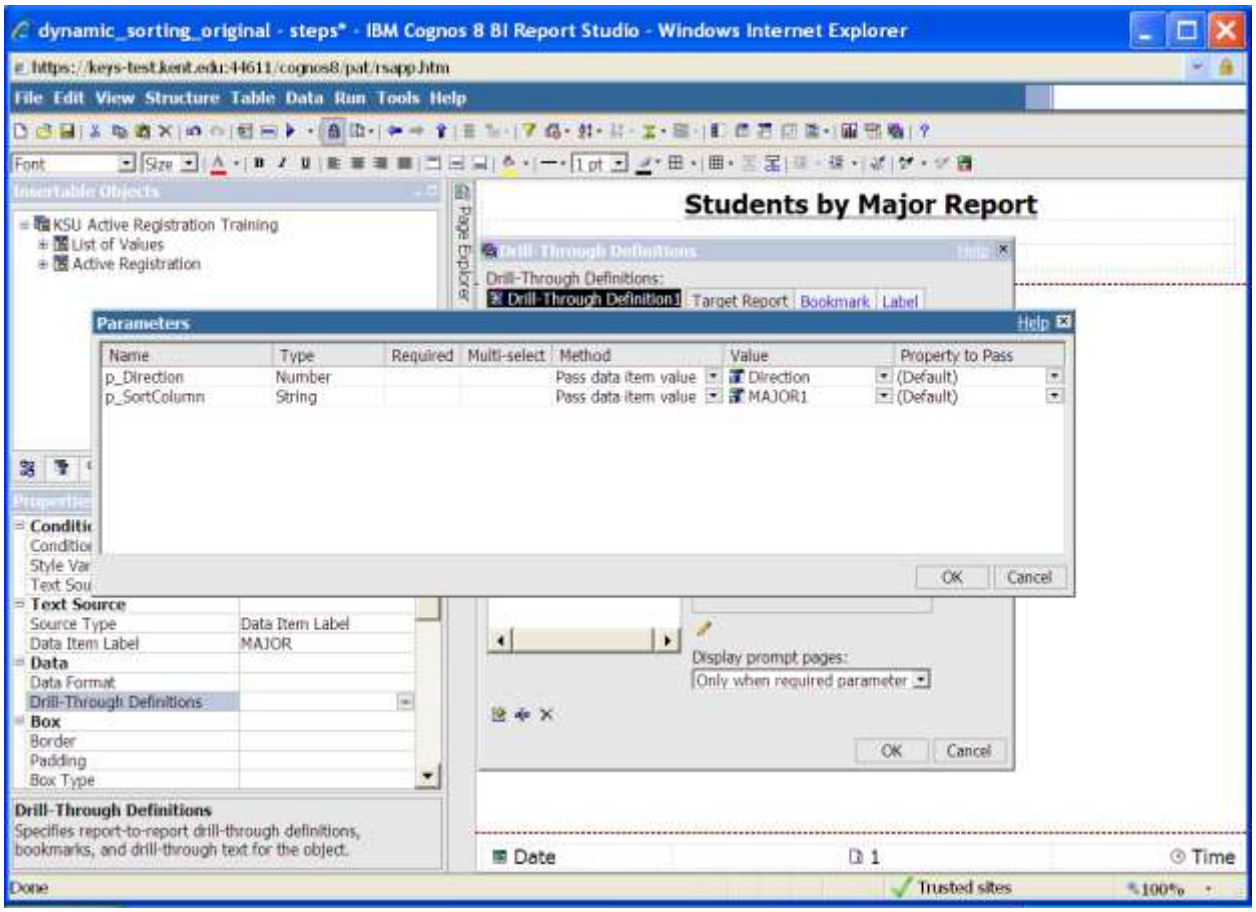
19. Click the Add icon.



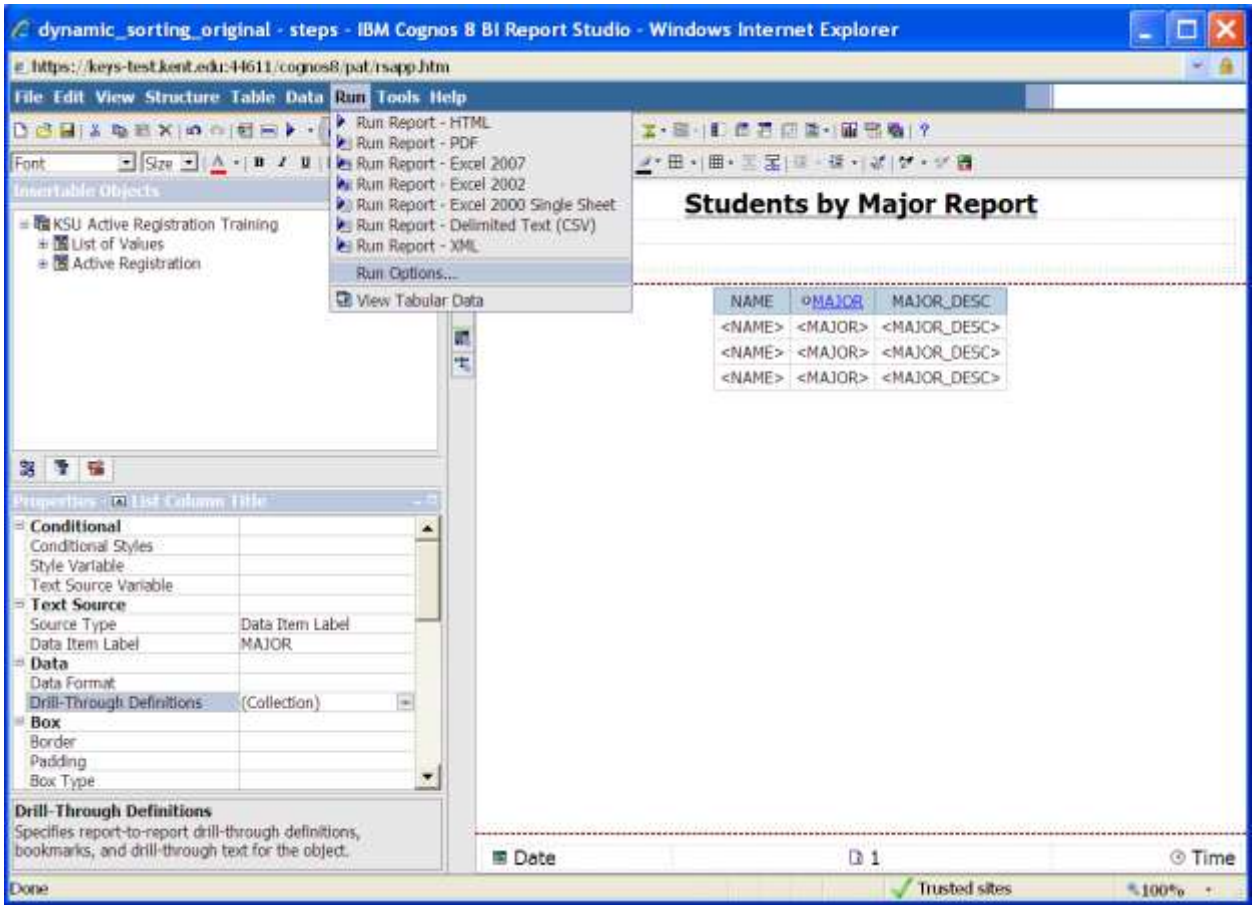
20. In the Report box, choose the report that you are working on. Under Actions, **choose Run the report**.



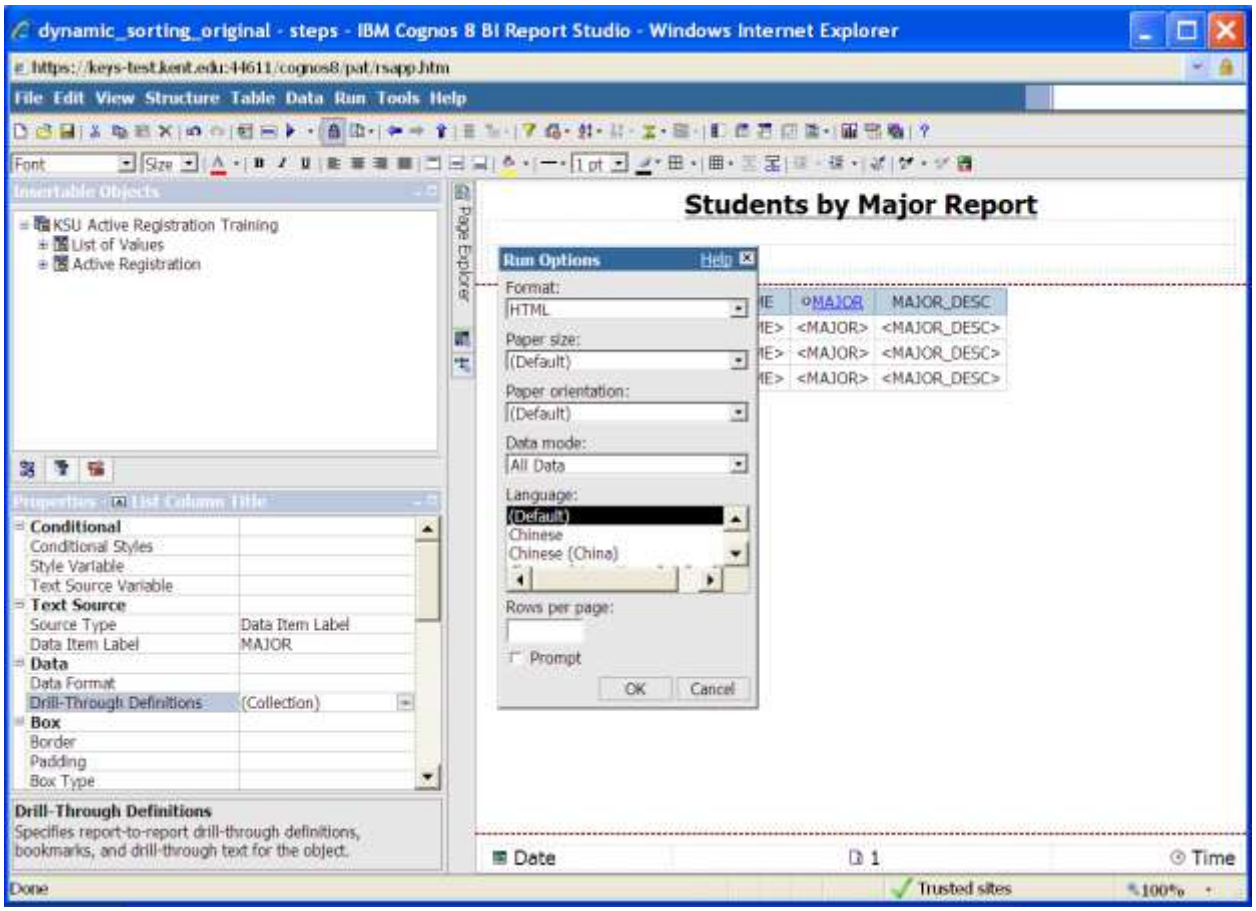
21. Click the Edit icon.



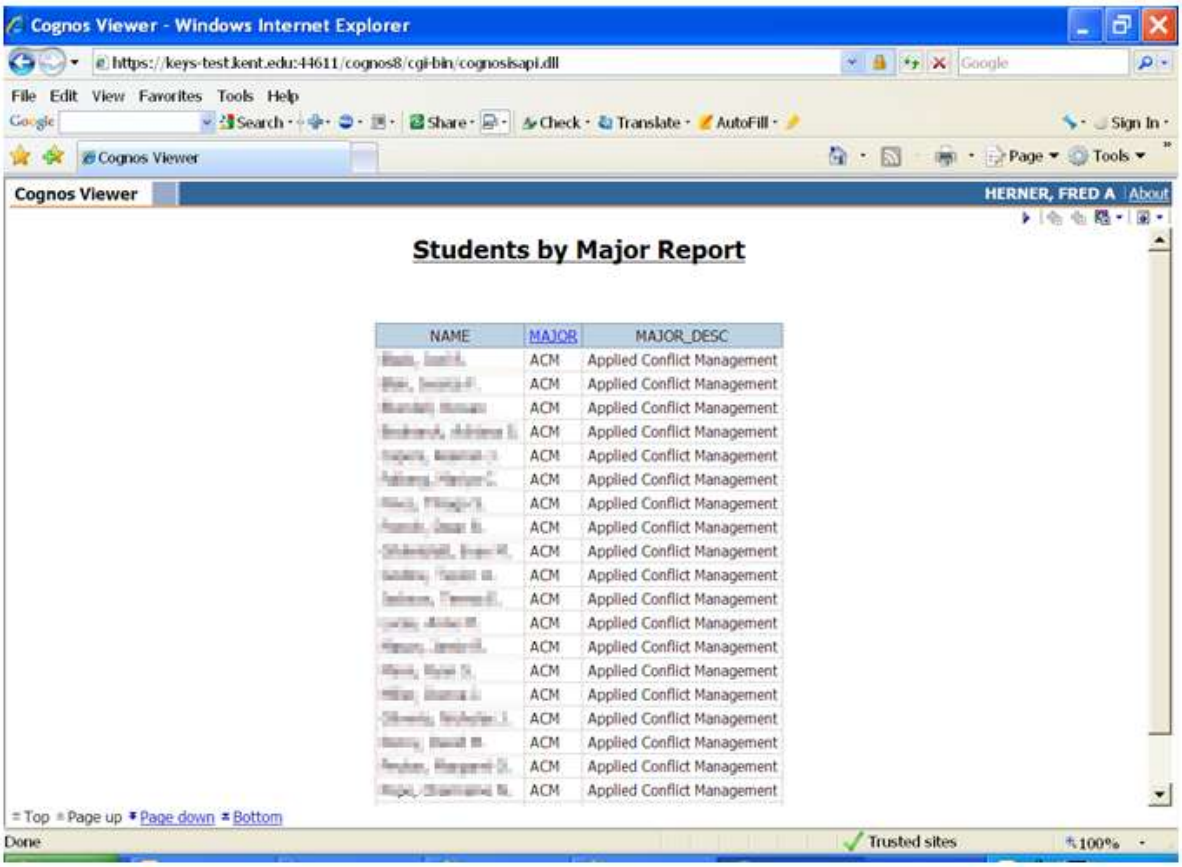
22. Under Method, choose **Pass data item value** for both parameters. Under Value, for parameter p_direction choose **Direction.** For parameter p_SortColumn choose, in this case, **Major1**.



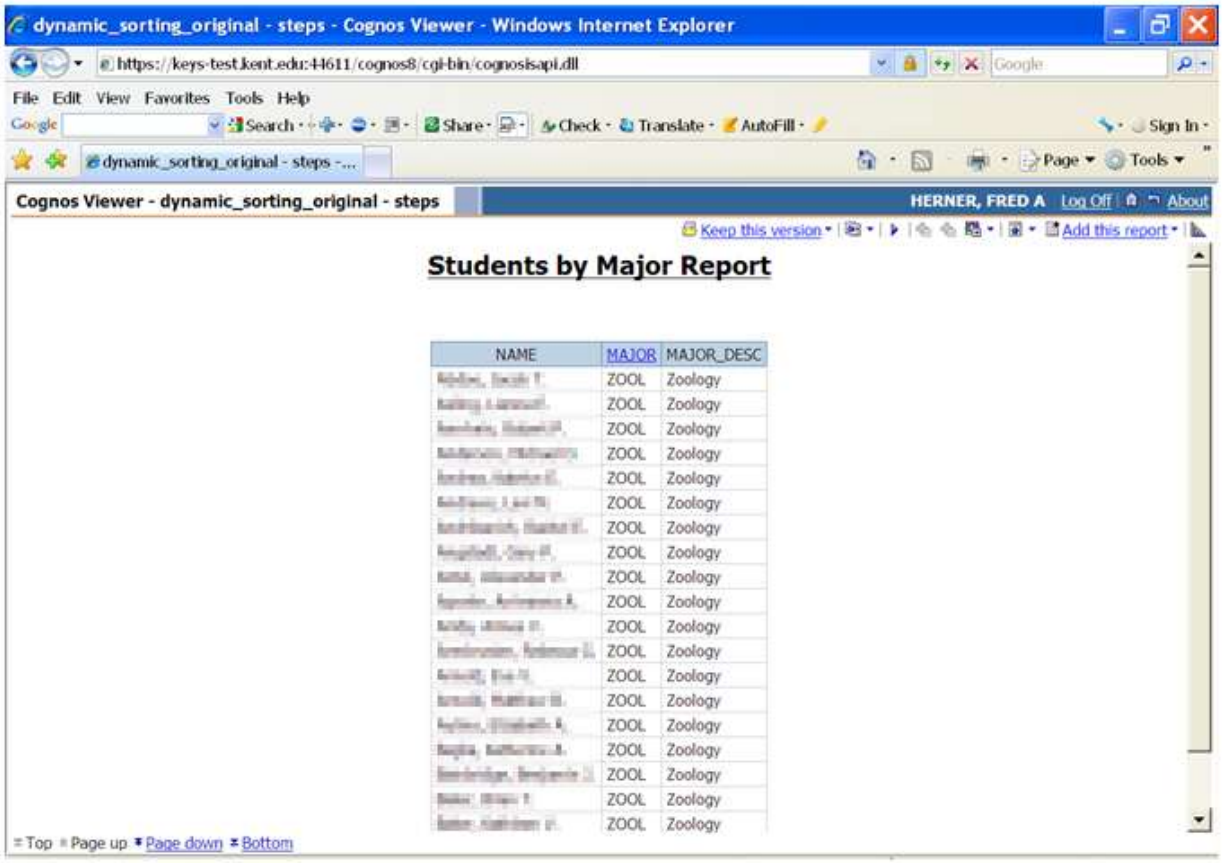
23. On the report page, for the top menu, select Run, then Run Options.



24. De-select the Prompt checkbox and run the report.



25. Click column heading **MAJOR** to test.


dynamic_sorting_original - steps - Cognos Viewer - Windows Internet Explorer
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