# Altering Table Structure

MAD 202

# ALTER TABLES

- Use ALTER TABLE to modify a table definition by adding, altering or dropping columns and constraints

- Use alter to:
  - Add of drop a column
  - Alter a column's data type
  - Add, alter, or drop a column's default value or nullability constraint
  - Rename a column
  - Rename a table

# ALTER a table

ALTER TABLE *table*

 *alter_table_action*

- Where table is the name of the *table* that is being altered
- Where alter_table_action can be and begins with the keyword ADD, ALTER or DROP

ADD COLUMN column type [constraints]

```
ALTER TABLE authors
  ADD COLUMN email_address CHAR(25)
```

# ALTER a table

ALTER TABLE publishers

MODIFY COLUMN city DEFAULT 'Windsor'


ALTER TABLE authors

DROP COLUMN email_address


You can't drop the table's only remaining column – in order to delete the table you must use the DROP keyword