

Transfer in Minnesota

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Transfer & Collaboration
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

A Brief History...

- Concerns existed about transfer of courses between Minnesota public institutions.
- Minnesota Standards and Procedures for Transfer developed in 1992:
 - Established a Transfer Specialist's network
 - Established Common Transfer Information Module for all catalogs
 - Established Transfer Policies
 - Established Appeal Process
 - Established Orientation Sessions
 - Established Common Transcript Data and Application Elements

Minnesota Transfer Agreement

- Established the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum for four existing systems in 1994:
 - Minnesota Community Colleges
 - Minnesota Technical Colleges
 - Minnesota State Universities
 - University of Minnesota
- Minnesota Community Colleges, Minnesota Technical Colleges and Minnesota State Universities merged in 1995 to form the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities (MnSCU)

<http://www.mnscu.edu/campuses/index.html>

Minnesota Transfer Curriculum

- 10 Goal Areas and Competencies
- 40 minimum credits
- Entire “package” transfers to meet lower division general education requirements at state universities and the University of Minnesota
- Transfer was seen as going from a 2-year college to a 4-year university in a vertical fashion.

Minnesota Transfer Curriculum

http://www.mntransfer.org/students/plan/s_mntc.php

- Goal 1. Communication
- Goal 2. Critical Thinking
- Goal 3. Natural Sciences
- Goal 4. Mathematical/Logical Reasoning
- Goal 5. History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Goal 6. The Humanities and Fine Arts
- Goal 7. Human Diversity
- Goal 8. Global Perspectives
- Goal 9. Ethical and Civic Responsibility
- Goal 10. People and the Environment

40 Minimum Semester Credits

Actual Transfer Patterns

- Research indicated transfer occurs in all directions
 - 2-year to 4-year
 - 2-year to 2-year (most transfer occurs this way)
 - 4-year to 4-year
 - 4-year to 2-year
 - Post-graduate transfer

MnTransfer.org, DARS and u.select

- MnTransfer.org originated in 1999; redesigned in 2008
www.mntransfer.org
- Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) implemented in 1999
<http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/>
- Course Applicability System (CAS) implemented in 2000 to be fully utilized in 2004 (now u.select)
<https://www.transfer.org/uselect/login.htm>
- Both the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities and the University of Minnesota use DARS and u.select

Higher Education Omnibus Bill 2001

- By January 1, 2002, the board must implement the Minnesota transfer curriculum at all state colleges and universities. Once a course has met the criteria necessary for inclusion in the Minnesota transfer curriculum in any area of emphasis, the course must be accepted for full credit in that area of emphasis at all Minnesota state colleges and universities.
- By July 1, 2002, the board must publish an internet-based student manual that identifies and describes how general education courses at two-year MnSCU institutions transfer to state universities within the Minnesota state colleges and universities system.”
- Legislation applies to MnSCU, not to the University of Minnesota--if entire package is not completed, the University of Minnesota evaluates courses individually.

Example of Course Transfer

- PSYC 1010 General Psychology that meets Goal 5 History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences and Goal 7 Human Diversity
 - Goals 5 and 7 would transfer per the sending college or university (not according to receiving institution's goal areas)
 - Does not mean courses are equivalent
 - Equivalent courses may meet different goal areas at different colleges and universities and are encoded accordingly into DARS
 - Course and Goal Lists:
http://www.mntransfer.org/students/plan/s_list.php

Articulation Agreements

- Articulation Agreements developed primarily for Associate in Science (AS), Associate in Fine Arts degrees (AFA)
 - AS and AFA degrees must transfer in their entirety to baccalaureate degree programs
- Associate in Applied Science degrees (AAS) also may have articulation agreements; however, all AAS credits do not have to transfer and apply to baccalaureate programs
- Bachelor of Applied Science degrees developed
- Articulation Agreement Template/Table required:
- <http://www.academicaffairs.mnscu.edu/academicprograms/>
- Articulation Agreement Database:
http://www.mntransfer.org/students/plan/s_agreements.php

General Education in Technical Colleges

- Students originally had to take general education courses at community colleges (or universities)
- In 2001-2002, technical colleges submitted general education courses to count in the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum for approval by a committee
http://www.mntransfer.org/educators/mntc/e_techcourses.php
- After 2002, technical colleges could develop and offer their own Minnesota Transfer Curriculum courses

Transfer Complaints Continued...

- FY2010 Office of Legislative Auditor , Study of MnSCU System, February 2010
- Student Transfer Survey, Spring 2010
- Internal Audit, Spring 2010

Student Survey Findings

- Students were unaware of system websites related to transfer (u.select, MnTransfer.org)
- Inconsistent advising
- Syllabi—intellectual property posed challenges in getting courses evaluated for transfer
- Took a long time for transcripts to be sent and processed
- Students unaware of appeals process (institution and system-level appeals)

Findings, continued...

- MnTC credits most commonly transferred, but
 - 29% of students didn't know whether they had completed a MnTC course or goal area.
 - Those who completed entire MnTC 40-credit package were more satisfied.
- Internal Audit Findings
 - 9% of credit that should've transferred didn't—MnTC courses or goal areas not recorded as completed was most common error.
 - 2% may have been due to data entry errors.

Courses didn't transfer as expected due to...

- Courses not being equivalent
- Courses transferred as electives
- Student had insufficient information to determine equivalency
- Courses taken too long ago

More Student Survey Findings

- Two-thirds of respondents whose credits didn't transfer weren't aware of appeals process (but 89% of those who did appeal had some or all credits accepted)
- 40% said they did not seek advice from staff or start planning for transfer until last semester before transferring or later
- Institutional websites were primary online resource for transfer information
- 6% said they had used u.select
- Written responses to survey found most common complaint were problems with advising and transfer information

Higher Education Bill, May 2010

- Enhance information on transferring and tracking credits
- Improve training for all staff involved with credit transfer
- Identify discrepancies in transferring and accepting credits by institutions within the system and improve the uniform treatment of credit transfers
- Post information necessary to determine the transferability of course credits on their institutional Web sites

Smart Transfer Plan: Course Outlines

- Change to system policy and procedure made course outline the official document to make course equivalency determinations
<http://www.mnscu.edu/board/policy/321.html>
- Course Outlines shall be posted on institutional websites
- Course Outlines shall be linked from institutional website to MnTransfer.org:
http://www.mntransfer.org/students/plan/s_schedules.php

Smart Transfer Plan: Course Equivalencies

- All courses from system colleges and universities shall be evaluated and encoded into DARS for display in u.select

Smart Transfer Plan: Appeals

- Institutional and system-level appeal information shall be communicated in multiple ways
- Process for institutional appeals
- Process for system-level appeals

Smart Transfer Plan: Communication

- *Institutions develop/maintain “Transfer Page” on Web sites*
- *Institution provides link to its MnTC on Web site*
- *Effective dates are provided on all MnTC lists*
- *“Minnesota Transfer Curriculum” can be searched on institutional Web sites*
- *Process ensures that all staff know to refer students to appropriate staff or to future transfer institution for help when transferring out*

Smart Transfer Plan: Training

- *Annual Transfer Specialist Conference and Orientation*
- *Regional Transfer Meetings*
- *DARS/u.select Conference*
- *DARS/u.select regional training and monthly labs*
- *Transfer Tips sent periodically*
- *Phone/email support (ongoing)*
- *Presentations provided to colleges/universities upon request*
- *Transfer Web sites and information are reviewed and maintained*
- *Electronic presentations are provided*
- *Telephone conferences are provided*

Other Related Initiatives

- Board Accountability Framework—Transfer added to Accountability Dashboard
- 60/120 credit limits for AS, AFA/Baccalaureate degrees
- System-wide license for CollegeSource/TES
- Students First: <http://studentsfirst.project.mnscu.edu/>
- eTranscript implemented in 2010
 - Automatic submission of transcripts within MnSCU
 - Course detail goes into DARS database electronically
 - No cost to student
 - Increased number of transcripts received
 - High staff and student satisfaction

Smart Transfer Plan: System Communication

- ▶ *MnTransfer.org Web site www.mntransfer.org*
- ▶ *DARS Web site <http://www.dars.mntransfer.org>*
- ▶ *Transfer Center Web site www.transfercenter.project.mnscu.edu*
- ▶ *MnSCU Transfer Listservs*
- ▶ *DARS Listserv*
- ▶ *Phone/email/Help Desk support*
- ▶ *Webinars*

Questions?

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