



*Advising Transfer Students: Strategies for Today's Realities
and Tomorrow's Challenges*

Webinar Discussion Handout

Panelists:

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Overview

The “completion agenda” set by the Obama administration and the Lumina Foundation has stimulated certain realities within the higher education community, one of the foremost among them being the increased enrollment of transfer students. As a result, transfer students have been thrust into the forefront of new and renewed strategies for meeting the challenge presented by the completion agenda – more graduates. This new reality lies amid other challenges imposed by accreditors and employers – demonstrable student learning outcomes. This webinar will review the realities and challenges we are facing and provide an array of advising programs and strategies that will facilitate meeting the ultimate national completion agenda.

References and Recommended Resources

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Fain, P. (March 19, 2013). Beyond the Credit Hour. Retrieved from <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/03/19/feds-give-nudge-competency-based-education> and link within [http://www.insidehighered.com/sites/default/server_files/files/FINAL%20GEN%202013-10%20Comp%20Based%203-14-13%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.insidehighered.com/sites/default/server_files/files/FINAL%20GEN%202013-10%20Comp%20Based%203-14-13%20(2).pdf) re: competency-based education.

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What are institutions doing (or not doing) about state authorization – revisited. (2013, March). A Joint Project of: UPCEA, WCET, and Sloan-C. Retrieved from http://wcet.wiche.edu/wcet/docs/state-approval/UPCEA/2013UPCEA-WCET-SloanCStateAuthorizationReport_FULLL.pdf

“Transfer Advising Matters”

Transfer Advisor Workshop

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Plaster Student Union 313

- 1:00 p.m. **Welcome/Purpose of Workshop** Ross Hawkins, Transfer Advisor
- 1:15 p.m. **Transfer Student Data** Presented by Dr. Kelly Wood, Communication Department Head
- 1:30 p.m. **Facilitating a Transfer Advising Appointment** Presented by Kim Stagner (Academic Advisor/Retention Specialist/COB), Angela Plank (Biology Advising Coordinator/Lab Instructor), and Judy Pickering (Professional Education Advisor)
- 2:20 p.m. **Admission Process and Online Tools** Presented by Dawn Brixey, Assistant Director of Admissions
- 2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 2:55 p.m. **Demonstration of Skype for Transfer Advising** Presented by Dr. Kelly Wood and Ross Hawkins
- 3:15 p.m. **General Education Requirements and Reevaluation Process** Presented by Dr. John Catau, Deputy Provost and Transfer Articulation Officer
- 3:40 p.m. **Transfer Advising Case Studies** Facilitated by Dr. Kelly Wood and Ross Hawkins
- 4:20 p.m. **Evaluations**

Advising Transfer Students: Strategies for Today's Realities and Tomorrow's Challenges

A Panel Discussion

The "completion agenda" set by the Obama administration and the Lumina Foundation has stimulated certain realities within the higher education community, one of the foremost among them being the increased enrollment of transfer students. As a result, transfer students have been thrust into the forefront of new and renewed strategies for meeting the challenge presented by the completion agenda – more graduates. This new reality lies amid other challenges imposed by accreditors and employers – demonstrable student learning outcomes. This webinar will review the realities and challenges we are facing and provide an array of advising programs and strategies that will facilitate meeting the ultimate national completion agenda.



What are the current REALITIES that are shaping the higher education transfer landscape for institutions, for academic advisors, and for students?



Current Realities – Defining the Completion Agenda and Its Implications

- Focus on earning degrees, rather than just transfer
- Increased emphasis on reverse transfer as positive for 2-year institutions
- Change of focus for 2-year institutions from "open door" to student success

Current Realities – Completion Agenda

- Data collection to assess student patterns
- Completion rates tied to institutional funding
- Focus on quality as well as attainment



Current Realities – Completion Agenda

- Today's job market requires:
 - Global knowledge and competence
 - Intercultural knowledge and skills
 - Creativity and innovation
 - Teamwork and problem-solving skills in diverse settings
 - Information literacy and fluency
 - Ethical reasoning and decision making

Current Realities – More Attention to Transfer Students

- More partnerships with initial entry in 2-year institutions
- Pre-advising at the community college



Current Realities – More Interventions
(especially State and Federal legislation)

- State incentives with emphasis on time-to-degree
- Federal Higher Education Act
 - June 30th deadline
- Foundations
 - Focus on partnerships and student success strategies

More resources needed!

Current Realities – More Options for
Earning Credit

- Concurrent Enrollment, Dual Credit, Single Site
- Experiential learning (prior learning assessment)
- MOOCs
- Military Training Evaluation (ACE)
- Expansion of online learning methodologies
- CLEP, advanced placement exams

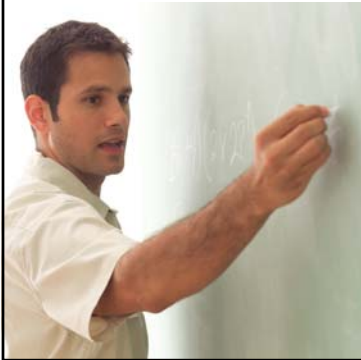
*What are the **CHALLENGES**
that loom on the horizon for
these entities?*



Challenges - Higher Expectations from Employers and Accreditors (SLOs)

- Increasing need for education
- Accreditation
- Federal intervention regarding transfer credit

Challenges – Less (or more?) Remediation



Who should provide?





Challenges – Increased Student Debt

- Increase tuition?
- Do more with less?
- No “wasted” credits
- Value of education
- President’s Scorecard
- Gainful employment
- Decreased Funding



Challenges – Enrollment Patterns

- Lateral
- Reverse
- Swirl
- Multiple Institutions
- Stop-outs
- Concurrent enrollment





Far fewer students are following the traditional linear pattern!

Challenges – More Transfer Advisees

Requires more...

- Transfer advising specialists
- Advisor training and development
- Administrative support
- Administration support
 - Policy review
 - Data collection

*How do these entities prepare for and respond to these challenges?
That is, what **STRATEGIES** need to be developed to ensure quality academic advising and quality of education for transfer students?*



Strategies - Recruitment / Admissions

- Recruitment is broader than just the Admissions Office
- Relationships need to be built with counterpart institutions – greater sense of equity



Strategies - Recruitment / Admissions

Creation of process for transfer

- Yearly review of transfer equivalencies
- Updates to transfer articulation agreements
- Yearly meetings with advisors from partner institutions
- Meet and greet sessions
- Presentation partnerships

Strategies - Orientation

- Online prior to campus arrival
- In-person
 - Importance of advising
 - Student involvement
 - Exploring resources
 - Time management
 - Early transfer registration

Strategies – Transitional Experiences

- Transfer orientation course
- Courses reserved for transfer students
- Student mentoring programs
- Seminar for students who experience first-semester academic difficulties

Strategies – Online / Electronic Advising

- Variety of formats needed



Strategies – Retention / Graduation / Persistence to Degree

- New ways to track and count transfer students (National Student Clearinghouse)
- Time-to-degree initiatives between 2-year and 4-year institutions
