



CREDIT

when it's due

Ohio

STATE PROFILE



State Funder: Lumina Foundation

About Credit When It's Due

The Credit When It's Due (CWID) initiative is funded by six foundations and is supporting 15 states to develop reverse transfer programs and policies. Reverse transfer enables students to receive an associate's degree when students meet associate's degree requirements after transfer to a 4-year college or university.

State Implementation Context

The institutions participating in CWID in Ohio include 13 public universities and all 23 public community colleges. The Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) is the coordinating body for Ohio's comprehensive system of public postsecondary education the University System of Ohio (USO), and is the lead agency for the CWID initiative.

Key Implementation Strategies

OBR Leadership: Ohio used grant funding to hire a reverse transfer project manager who is responsible for managing daily

grant activities associated with the CWID initiative. Key members of the Ohio Articulation & Transfer Network (OATN) staff at OBR will continue to move the project forward after the grant period. Since 36 institutions are participating in the grant, the OBR project manager and more recently OATN staff have invested time and effort to conduct conference calls, hold webinar trainings, visit participating campuses, and convene stakeholders to develop, refine, and build consensus around reverse transfer processes and policies.

Common Policy and Process Development: Several common processes and policies have been developed including: a reverse transfer process flowchart; definition of student eligibility for reverse transfer; a common residency requirement for the initiative; FERPA interpretation guidance; an MOU on common campus practices such as waiving degree petitioning fees; and development of common reporting metrics. Development efforts have resulted in common process documents distributed for reverse transfer implementation throughout the USO.

Build on Current Assets: Ohio's CWID initiative is built on a legacy of a strong articulation and transfer policy that aids institutions in efficiently determining credit equivalencies and sharing transcripts for the purpose of reverse transfer. Instead of creating reverse transfer-specific public policy, Ohio utilized existing policy as the framework for reverse transfer. The state identified how its transcript exchange system, the Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse (ATC), could be used to identify CWID-related transcripts without major modification and in compliance with national data standards from the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC). Ohio also leveraged work on a state completion agenda which provides funding to colleges and universities based on the completion of degrees. The funding formula has served as an incentive to keep schools engaged in the reverse transfer process.

Reverse Transfer Process

Based on a review of implementation across CWID states, the Office of Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL) developed a framework for the reverse transfer process that consists of five broad processes, and Ohio's process is applied to this framework below. Ohio's reverse transfer process includes both state-level coordination and institutional-level decisions.

1. **Student Identification:** During the first two years of the CWID grant, OBR data personnel queried the OBR database to determine students who were potentially eligible and that met state-defined eligibility criteria. OBR then sent the names of potentially eligible students to the universities. For ongoing sustainability, this process has been modified so that the NSC generates an eligibility list based on state-defined criteria,

Implementation Timeline

November 2012 – April 2013: Monthly conference calls were initiated and reverse transfer process materials were developed and refined (e.g., process flow chart, eligibility criteria, sample consent letter, student FAQ, etc.).

February 2013: The statewide reverse transfer convening was held at Columbus State Community College and sponsored by the Ohio Association of Community Colleges.

April 2013: The reverse transfer process began and the first associate's degrees were awarded.

June 2013: A CWID implementation webinar was delivered to the field by OBR.

September 2013: Institutions provided progress reports to OBR including students contacted and degrees awarded.

October 2013: Statewide reverse transfer convening was held at Ohio State University and was sponsored by the Inter-University Council of Ohio.

December 2013: A second round of the process commenced with OBR generation of a new list of potentially eligible CWID students to send to institutions.

September 2014: Colleges and universities report results from the second round of the process.

November 2014: Start of transition of reverse transfer from CWID to OATN staff.

December 2014: National Student Clearinghouse begins developing new eligibility list.

March 2015: New eligibility list generated by the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) was made available to colleges for reverse transfer implementation.



Credentials awarded as of May 2015: **1,002**

Credential Type(s): Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Applied Business



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which have expanded to students who may not currently be enrolled in a university. This list is now being shared with community colleges instead of universities, who then take initiative to connect with the universities and students.

2. **Consent:** Ohio has an opt-in policy whereby the universities send a letter (endorsed by the community college) to currently enrolled students requesting permission to release university transcripts to the community college and consent to degree conferral if the student meets associate's degree requirements. For students who are not currently enrolled in a university, the community college may reach out to students directly, but coordinate with the last institution of attendance for transcript requests, and again communicate with peer institutions if a degree is conferred.
3. **Transcript Exchange:** OBR has an electronic transcript exchange system, the Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse (ATC), which all public institutions use to share transcripts. For the reverse transfer process, the initiative has identified an enumeration in one of the electronic fields to signal to the receiving institution that the transcript is to be used for reverse transfer.
4. **Degree Audit:** The community colleges conduct the degree audits using the process and information systems chosen at the institutional level. The colleges review transcripts to identify students who meet all associate's degree requirements or who are close to completing degree requirements.
5. **Degree Conferral and Advising:** Students who meet all degree requirements are awarded a degree by the two-year college. At most colleges, students who do not meet associate's degree requirements are informed of hours and/or courses that need to be completed for the degree.

Implementation Successes and Challenges

Successes: Ohio initiated reverse transfer implementation quickly after receiving the CWID grant in fall 2012 by gaining consensus on institutional practices and policies. Within the first month, Ohio conducted a survey of participating schools on a variety of institutional policies and practices including residency requirements, preferences on which institution should award the degree, and

degree petitioning fees. Information from the survey was able to guide discussion and move partners quickly toward consensus on parameters for the initiative. Secondly, Ohio drafted a clear reverse transfer process flowchart that resulted in early implementation of reverse transfer and the conferral of nearly 600 associate's degrees by September 2013. Finally, Ohio has successfully leveraged existing technologies to move reverse transfer forward, most notably the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse for electronic transcript exchange and more recently the NSC for determining student eligibility.

Challenges: Because OBR has an opt-in policy, the number of eligible students who opt-in and consent to participate in CWID is a challenge. For the initial eligibility list of students in April 2013, 64% of the students did not respond to the opportunity to participate in CWID. However, some regional campuses of universities are starting to pilot internal reverse transfer to award associate degrees to students who transfer from associate programs to baccalaureate programs within their university based on data from the university's student information system. Another challenge is the time and effort required for coordination of a partnership of dozens of institutions. The USO is a coordinated system of independently governed public colleges and universities, and it requires a greater degree of communication and coordination among schools with different policies, practices, and resources to implement reverse transfer.

As reverse transfer moves into the next phase in Ohio, participating institutions are determining the best way to work with the shift in the generation of the eligibility list and in the direction of communication at the front-end of the process.

Sustainability

The OATN at OBR will coordinate the reverse transfer work among the USO as the state intends to sustain reverse transfer beyond the grant period. The state is continuing to work with the National Student Clearinghouse to generate an eligibility report. Currently, all participating institutions are public colleges and universities, but a few public community colleges are independently developing partnerships with private institutions to facilitate reverse transfer.

Institutions Participating in Credit When It's Due

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| Belmont College | Eastern Gateway Community College | Northwest State Community College | Stark State College |
| Bowling Green State University | Edison Community College | Ohio State University | Terra Community College |
| Central Ohio Technical College | Hocking College | Ohio University | The University of Akron |
| Central State University | Kent State University | Owens Community College | University of Cincinnati |
| Cincinnati State Technical & Community College | Lakeland Community College | Rhodes State College | University of Toledo |
| Clark State Community College | Lorain County Community College | Rio Grande Community College | Washington State Community College |
| Cleveland State University | Marion Technical College | Shawnee State University | Wright State University |
| Columbus State Community College | Miami University | Sinclair Community College | Youngstown State University |
| Cuyahoga Community College | North Central State College | Southern State Community College | Zane State College |

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