



CREDIT

when it's due

Maryland



STATE PROFILE

State Funder: USA Funds

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

Statewide reverse transfer efforts are managed by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), which serves as the coordinating body for postsecondary education in the state. Maryland institutions participating in reverse transfer include all public 2-year and 4-year institutions, and several independent four-year colleges and universities. In early 2014, MHEC awarded sub-grants to 12 institutions through CWID to support and expand their reverse transfer initiatives.

Implementation Timeline

Fall 2012: The first associate's degrees were conferred via the ADAPTS pilot that was initiated as part of Complete College America and supported with the CWID grant.

July 2013: The CCR-CCA Act of 2013 went into effect, including provisions for development and implementation of statewide reverse transfer agreement.

October 2013: The ADAPTS pilot institutions convened to discuss lessons learned and next steps for reverse transfer in Maryland.

February 2014: Based on a competitive RFP, MHEC awarded 12 Maryland institutions with CWID sub-grants to expand reverse transfer initiatives.

April 2014: CWID sub-grant recipients will be convened to discuss the scope of work.

Fall 2014: The statewide reverse transfer agreement will be finalized.

Key Implementation Strategies

Associate's Degree Award for Pre-Degree Transfer (ADAPTS) Program. ADAPTS is Maryland's statewide reverse transfer initiative, which began as a pilot program with support from a Complete College America (CCA) Completion Innovation Challenge grant. The CWID grant has further expanded Maryland's ADAPTS program through continuing to strengthen reverse transfer partnerships among institutions, while also supporting the standardization of reverse transfer policies and practices statewide.

Statewide Policy Development. One of the supporting factors behind reverse transfer in Maryland is the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act (CCR-CCA) of 2013, which, among other provisions, mandates the development and implementation of a statewide reverse transfer agreement among all public community colleges and 4-year institutions by July 1, 2016. Through this statewide agreement, at least 30 credits that a student earns at any public senior higher education institution in the state toward a bachelor's degree will be transferrable to any public community colleges in the state for credit toward an associate's degree. MHEC's Student Transfer Advisory Committee (STAC) is working with the public segments on the development of this statewide agreement.

Technology Solutions. One of the key strategies for supporting reverse transfer is the development of a technology infrastructure. ARTSYS, the web-based articulation system at the University System of Maryland (USM), articulates course equivalencies from Maryland community colleges to USM institutions and other participating 4-year public and independent colleges and universities. ARTSYS was first launched as a PC-based common platform software system in 1988. By 1993, it had transitioned to a dynamic web-based system. ARTSYS-RT, a newly developed feature of ARTSYS designed to support reverse transfer, conversely flips existing course equivalencies



Associate's degrees
conferred as of March 2014: **452**





in ARTSYS, allowing 4-year institutions to send data back to community colleges for reverse transfer degree auditing purposes.

Reverse Transfer Process

Based on a review of implementation across CWID states, OCCRL developed a framework for the reverse transfer process that consists of five broad processes. Because reverse transfer processes vary among partnerships in Maryland, the collaboration between Towson University (TU) and Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) is featured as an example of the operation of a reverse transfer partnership.

1. **Reverse Transfer Student Identification:** TU queries their student information system to identify eligible students based on the MOU terms. TU forwards demographic information for eligible students to AACC.
2. **Consent Process:** AACC and TU have an opt-in consent process whereby AACC emails all eligible students to describe the reverse transfer program, benefits of earning an associate's degree, and requests that the student send an official TU transcript to AACC for review. AACC sends a second email to students who did not send transcripts after the first request.
3. **Transcript Exchange:** Transcripts are sent electronically or by paper, depending on how the student makes the transcript request.
4. **Degree Audit:** The AACC reverse transfer evaluator audits students' degrees based on a transfer studies degree or the student's last declared program of study while attending

AACC. If all graduation requirements have been met, the student is sent notification and the reverse transfer degree application form by email. If requirements are incomplete, the student is notified of the missing requirements by email.

5. **Degree Conferral:** AACC reverse transfer degree application forms are forwarded to the graduation assistant for processing. Students receive their degree and commencement information through the existing AACC graduation process, and official AACC transcripts with associate degree notation are sent to TU following each term.

Implementation Successes and Challenges

Successes: Maryland's successes with reverse transfer include positive results from the initial ADAPTS reverse transfer pilot program in 2012-2013, and 452 degrees were conferred as a result of the pilot. Although ADAPTS began before CWID funding was received, the CWID grant supported the pilot completion by funding the ADAPTS program coordinator and technology development. In addition to the success from the ADAPTS grant, most community colleges and 4-year institutions have indicated high levels of interest in participating in the state's reverse transfer efforts.

Challenges: Based on Maryland's experience with the ADAPTS pilot, many students did not consent to participate in reverse transfer so fewer students responded to the opt-in consent than anticipated. A second challenge was the effort to develop solutions to standardize and automate the transcript exchange and degree auditing processes to ensure successful scale-up and sustainability of the program.

Institutions Participating in Credit When It's Due

2014 sub-grant recipients:
Anne Arundel Community College
College of Southern Maryland
Community College of Baltimore County
Harford Community College
Howard Community College
Morgan State University

Notre Dame of Maryland University
Prince George's Community College
University of Baltimore
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Maryland, College Park
Wor-Wic Community College

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