



# CREDIT

*when it's due*

# Ohio



## STATE PROFILE

State Funder: Lumina Foundation for Education

### 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, five regional university campuses, and all 23 public community colleges. The Ohio Board of Regents (OBR), the coordinating body for Ohio's comprehensive system of public postsecondary education, is the lead agency for the CWID initiative.

### Implementation Timeline

**November 2012 - April 2013:** Reverse Transfer process materials were developed and refined (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 conferred.

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

**September 2013:** Institutions provide progress reports to OBR including the number of students contacted and degrees conferred.

**October 2013:** A 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 reverse transfer process commences with OBR generation of a new list of potentially eligible CWID students to send to institutions.

### Key Implementation Strategies

**OBR Leadership.** Ohio used grant funding to hire a reverse transfer project manager who is responsible for managing daily grant activities and moving the project forward. The OBR project manager and other staff have conducted conference calls, held webinar trainings, visited participating campuses, and convened stakeholders to develop, refine, and build consensus around reverse transfer processes and policies that involve all 36 institutions participating in CWID.

**Common Policy and Process Development.** Several common processes and policies were developed, including a reverse transfer process flowchart; a definition of student eligibility for reverse transfer; a common residency requirement for the initiative; guidance on FERPA; an MOU on common campus practices, such as waiving degree petitioning fees; and common reporting metrics. These efforts resulted in documents that were distributed statewide to provide a common process for reverse transfer implementation throughout the OBR system.

**Building on Current Assets and Policies.** Ohio's CWID initiative is built on a legacy of a strong articulation and transfer policy that aids institutions in determining credit equivalencies and sharing transcripts efficiently for reverse transfer. For example, the state identified how its transcript exchange system, the Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse, could be used to identify CWID-related transcripts without major modification and to comply with national data standards from the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council. Ohio also leveraged its state completion agenda that provides funding to colleges and universities based on the completion of degrees. This performance-based funding formula has served as an incentive to keep colleges and universities engaged in the reverse transfer process.



Associate's degrees  
conferred as of March 2014: **594**

# Credit When It's Due: Ohio Profile

## 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, and Ohio's process is applied to this framework.

- 1. Reverse Transfer Student Identification:** OBR data personnel query an OBR database to determine students who are potentially eligible and meet state-defined eligibility criteria, then OBR sends the names of potentially eligible students to the universities.
- 2. Consent Process:** Ohio has an opt-in policy whereby the universities send a letter (endorsed by the community college) to students requesting permission to release their university transcripts to the community college and consent to degree conferral if they meet the associate's degree requirements.
- 3. Transcript Exchange:** OBR has an electronic transcript exchange system, the Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse, that all public institutions use to share transcripts. For the reverse transfer process, the initiative 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 Audits:** The community colleges or participating regional campuses conduct the degree audits using the process and information systems chosen at the institutional-level. The colleges and campuses review the transcripts to identify students who meet all associate's degree requirements or who are close to completing degree requirements.
- 5. Degree Conferral:** Students who meet all degree requirements are conferred a degree by the community college or campus. At most institutions, students who do not meet the associate's degree requirements are informed of the credits and/or courses that they need to complete 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 confer the degree and degree-petitioning fees. Information from the survey guided critical discussions and moved partners quickly toward consensus on parameters for the initiative. Secondly, Ohio drafted a reverse transfer process flowchart that supported early implementation of reverse transfer and the conferral of nearly 600 associate's degrees by September 2013.

**Challenges:** Because OBR has an opt-in consent policy, the number of eligible students who opt-in and consent to participate in CWID is a challenge. From the initial eligibility list of students in April 2013, 64% of the students did not respond to the opportunity to participate in CWID. Another challenge is the time and effort required to coordinate a partnership involving dozens of institutions. For example, the university system of Ohio 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.



## Institutions Participating in Credit When It's Due

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

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