



GEORGIA SUMMARY

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State Funder: Lumina Foundation

Goal:

To increase the awarding of associate degrees via reverse transfer of credit among University System of Georgia (USG) institutions

Key Activities Planned

- Expand and enhance reverse transfer processes at all USG institutions
- Define and remove policy barriers to reverse transfer at the USG and institutional levels
- Define and enhance data systems that will support reverse transfer
- Increase program awareness among faculty, staff, and students

Expand and enhance reverse transfer processes at all USG institutions

- Initial work with volunteer major transfer partners **(underway)**
 - East Georgia College – Georgia Regents University – Georgia Southern University
 - South Georgia College – Valdosta State University – Georgia Southwestern State University – Albany State University
 - Georgia Perimeter College – Atlanta Metropolitan State College – Gordon State College – Georgia State University – Clayton State University
- Later work will expand to include all USG institutions **(planned)**

Define and remove policy barriers to reverse transfer at the USG and institutional levels

- No true barriers to reverse transfer exist at the system level, but there also are no policies that encourage reverse transfer.
 - Considering change in system criteria for Associate Degree in General Studies that would make it possible for more students to meet criteria for associate degree **(underway)**
 - Two policies that might help reverse transfer **(planned)**
 - Students do not need to be currently enrolled at the associate degree institution to earn associate degrees
 - Institutions should not differentiate between credits transferred in and credits transferred back as long as students meet institutional residency requirements.
- Institutional barriers to awarding associate degrees by reverse transfer **(underway)**
 - Students must apply to graduate with applications due well before the intended graduation date
 - Students must pay a fee to graduate
 - Students must be currently enrolled to apply to graduate
 - Limitations on the amount of credit that can be transferred back once students are no longer enrolled
 - Excess credits (above 60) required to graduate
 - Fees required to send transcripts to associate degree institutions for reverse transfer



Define and enhance data systems that will support reverse transfer

- Searching for a solution that will automate the exchange of information between institutions in service of reverse transfer **(underway)**
 - Have looked at two potential vendors to develop an “academic history cloud”
 - Not clear whether they can really make this information exchange work in our state (multiple instances of Banner)
 - These solutions might be affordable during the period of the grant, but the costs might not be sustainable past the end of grant funding
 - Now looking an in-house solution in the interests of sustainability
 - Basic data that are needed are already available in-house
 - Reports could be generated annually and sent to associate degree institutions

Increase program awareness among faculty, staff, and students

- Meet with key personnel at groups of institutions interested in reverse transfer **(underway)**
- Develop baseline communications materials that institutions may adapt to promote reverse transfer with students and internal constituencies **(planned)**
- Develop model contact processes to notify students when they have fulfilled (or are close to fulfilling) associate degree requirements and to make students aware of the benefits of completing an associate degree **(planned)**
- Put reverse transfer information on the statewide GaTRACS (transfer articulation portal) website **(planned)**
- Develop statewide and regional public relations campaign that can be used to increase public awareness of reverse transfer and drive students to apply for degrees **(planned)**
- Make reverse transfer information available via institutional websites, social media, and print media at receiving institutions **(planned)**

Challenges and Anticipated Challenges

- Uncertainty about how FERPA will apply to efforts to automate the exchange of information needed to facilitate reverse transfer
- Difficulty in getting students to apply for associate degrees – little recognition of the benefits of the associate degree
- Difficulty in identifying and contacting students eligible for reverse transfer
- Receiving institutions are not sure what is in it for them – do not want to have to put a lot of effort into identifying and contacting students eligible for reverse transfer

Successes to Date

- Several sending and receiving institutions are very enthusiastic about initiating reverse transfer processes
- Actively working with three groups of institutions to get reverse transfer started
- Have received great support from our Office of Information Technology and Office of Research, Policy, and Analysis on developing technological means to share information

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