



CREDIT

when it's due

Michigan

STATE PROFILE



State Funder: The Kresge 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

In 2012 and prior to CWID, Michigan House Bill 5372 (H-1) CR-1 required that community colleges collaborate with Michigan's public universities to establish reverse transfer agreements with at least three community colleges by January 2013 in order for institutions to receive performance funding. As of January 2014, 125 agreements were developed among Michigan's 28 community colleges and 15 4-year public institutions. Some of the agreements are consortia arrangements and others are single institution partnerships, but all are locally created.

Key Implementation Strategies

State-Level Coordination. Michigan's institutions are largely autonomous in crafting reverse transfer agreements and implementing them; however, the state's grant-funded efforts are coordinated by the Michigan Center for Student Success (MCSS) and the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan (PCSUM). MCSS and PCSUM view the implementation of reverse transfer

agreements continuing beyond the 2-year grant process, in part because of the legislative interest, but more importantly because of a commitment of colleges and universities to increase the number of associate's degree holders.

MCSS and PCSUM completed a statewide baseline survey of institutions in March 2013 to understand: (a) student eligibility and degree requirements, (b) institutions' communications with students about reverse transfer, and (c) elements of university/community college partnerships. MCSS and PCSUM also provided leadership of statewide meetings and conference sessions and webinars on reverse transfer, including discussion of MCSS and PCSUM's institutional survey findings and OCCRL's CWID Baseline Study.

State-Level Data Gathering on Reverse Transfer.

MCSS and PCSUM are working with the state's Center for Educational Performance and Information to add data elements to the emerging state longitudinal data system to support tracking of reverse transfer students. They also created an aggregate reporting template to track CWID outcomes in Michigan, with the first data gathered in early 2014. Lastly, MCSS and PCSUM are partnering with researchers at Michigan State University to conduct qualitative research with students to learn about their motivation and feedback about pursuing reverse transfer degrees. This research is intended to help refine messaging and revise implementation processes moving forward.

State Workgroup on Student Messaging. A statewide workgroup is being created to develop common messaging and communications materials to be used by institutions to market reverse transfer opportunities to students. This group will review the initial statewide data and results of qualitative research to determine messaging that motivates students to pursue reverse transfer.

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 Michigan's process is applied to this framework below. Since Michigan has decentralized implementation of reverse transfer processes, the collaboration between Grand Valley State University (GVSU) and Grand Rapid Community College (GRCC) is featured as one example

Implementation Timeline

January 2013 – Present: Reverse transfer agreements were created between community colleges and universities or regional consortia of institutions.

March 2013: A statewide reverse transfer survey was disseminated and analyzed.

April 2013 – September 2013: Statewide meetings and webinars were conducted to discuss the implementation of local agreements.

January 2014: The first reverse transfer degrees were conferred

March 2014 – Summer 2014: An iterative process of reviewing initial data and revisiting local agreements was implemented to move toward a more common approach statewide.



Associate's degrees
awarded as of March 2014: **375**



Credit When It's Due: Michigan Profile



of how reverse transfer operates locally. GVSU and GRCC had one of the first reverse transfer agreements in the state and many others follow a similar process.

1. **Reverse Transfer Student Identification:** GVSU runs reports in their system to identify eligible students based on the parameters of the local agreement.
2. **Consent Process:** GVSU sends a letter and the reverse transfer/FERPA waiver form to eligible students, and interested students return the completed form to the GVSU registrar.
3. **Transcript Exchange:** If students consent, GVSU sends the form and an official transcript to the GRCC registrar's office. Currently, these paper transcripts are exchanged via email or fax.
4. **Degree Audit:** Appropriate GRCC staff evaluates the student files for graduation requirements and applies transfer credit, as needed. If the student's requirements are met, the degree is posted. If requirements are missing, the student and the GVSU registrar are sent an email stating the missing requirements.
5. **Degree Conferral:** Students who meet degree requirements receive an email informing them (and the GVSU registrar) of the credential conferred from GRCC. GRCC sends official transcripts to GVSU to update their records, and a GRCC diploma is created and mailed to the student.

collaboration for what could have been a disjointed implementation process. With over 125 agreements signed, several universities are establishing agreements with more than three community colleges required by the legislature, with some having established agreements with all 28 community colleges. Another key success is that the CWID grant, along with other transfer and articulation dialogues in the state, are pushing institutions to reconsider long-standing policies such as residency requirements, general education curriculum, and graduation requirements that create unnecessary barriers for degree completion in a context where students are increasingly mobile.

Challenges: Given the decentralized implementation approach in Michigan, the need for better statewide facilitation of reverse transfer was identified as a challenge. Discussions about statewide facilitation have centered on such policies as: (a) a shared, statewide reverse transfer agreement; (b) centralized electronic transfer of transcript information; and (c) a statewide, coordinated messaging system about reverse transfer. The largest challenge to the development of a statewide, common reverse transfer agreement is that each community college has its own residency requirement. Because the Higher Learning Commission revised its standards to allow changes to residency requirements, Michigan's institutions may have an opportunity to create a shared residency threshold to better facilitate reverse transfer for students within the state. The challenge of having a single e-transcript system is that colleges and universities have different student information systems, and some institutions have established relationships with vendors to exchange electronic transcripts. A key challenge to having a statewide, coordinated messaging system is that reverse transfer agreements are locally driven.

Implementation Successes and Challenges

Successes: The state legislative requirement spurred a significant amount of activity on reverse transfer, and the CWID grant provided a timely framework for statewide

Institutions Participating in Credit When It's Due

Alpena Community College	Jackson College	College	Southwestern Michigan College
Bay de Noc Community College	Kalamazoo Valley Community College	Monroe County Community College	St. Clair County Community College
Central Michigan University	Kellogg Community College	Montcalm Community College	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Delta College	Kirtland Community College	Mott Community College	University of Michigan-Dearborn
Eastern Michigan University	Lake Michigan College	Muskegon Community College	University of Michigan-Flint
Ferris State University	Lake Superior State University	North Central Michigan College	Washtenaw Community College
Glen Oaks Community College	Lansing Community College	Northern Michigan University	Wayne County Community College District
Gogebic Community College	Macomb Community College	Northwestern Michigan College	Wayne State University
Grand Rapids Community College	Michigan State University	Oakland Community College	West Shore Community College
Grand Valley State University	Michigan Technological University	Oakland University	Western Michigan University
Henry Ford Community College	Mid Michigan Community	Saginaw Valley State University	
		Schoolcraft College	

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