



TEXAS SUMMARY

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Project Goals

The goal of the Texas Reverse Transfer Initiative (TRTI) is to design and implement a low-cost, scalable, and sustainable model for increasing degree attainment. TRTI will engage in four primary activities toward this overarching goal:

1. Streamline reverse transfer process and increase degree completion;
2. Leverage technology to support the pathway of reverse transfer associate degree awards;
3. Build and expand faculty, staff, and professional development opportunities to increase support and understanding of reverse transfer; and
4. Raise community and public awareness about the value of reverse transfer, the workforce impact of having an associate degree, and available statewide transfer options.

Primary Implementation Strategies

The TRTI will follow a 2-year implementation plan. In year one, the project will be focused on formalizing institutional commitment to the initiative, establishing evaluation tools and data management protocols, and insuring institutional information technology compatibility with the Standardization of Postsecondary Education Exchange (SPEEDE) server. The year one partners were selected due to critical and representative need, as well as a willingness to lead the way for developing statewide policies and procedures for effective and efficient reverse transfer. In year two, the model developed in year one will be expanded to a statewide implementation. Specific strategies include a statewide workgroup to address policy and procedure, ongoing professional development for faculty, staff, and administrators, a publicity campaign, legislative and professional network updates/participation/presentation and external assistance with technology and evaluation.

Challenges

Primary challenges anticipated with the TRTI include data sharing, technology, and human resources. There is currently a low capacity for sharing data regarding student success and institutional performance with regard to reverse transfer. To successfully implement the TRTI, this capacity will need to be increased. This will be accomplished through the Strategic Degree & Transfer Workgroup (created as part of TRTI) and through increased leveraging of SPEEDE technology. The SPEEDE technology, a key part of the TRTI, has powerful potential to streamline record-sharing between institutions for the purpose of reverse transfer. While nearly all Texas institutions can receive transcripts through SPEEDE, not every institution is equipped to process these transcripts electronically. Working through issues of data system and software compatibility will be essential, and is built into year one of the project. Finally, human resources needed to design and maintain articulation plans, as well as evaluate transcripts for awarding degrees are a future concern. While reverse transfer itself is relatively low-cost, there will be an ongoing need for project maintenance. Efficient solutions to this challenge will be explored.

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