

Educational Partnerships

Reverse Transfer and Texas Reverse Transfer Initiative



Reverse Transfer

Reverse transfer is a program specifically designed to allow students who transfer to a four-year university prior to earning an associate's degree to be awarded that credential while pursuing the baccalaureate. Texas requires public institutions to participate in reverse transfer according to specific guidelines set forth in Tex. Educ. Code Section 61.833 (Credit Transfer for Associate Degree). Following student consent on the ApplyTexas Admission Application, university partners send a list of potentially eligible students and transcripts to the two-year community college registrar each term. Transcripts are evaluated and associate degrees are awarded to eligible students.

Student Eligibility

Students must have:

- Transferred to a higher-division institution of higher education from a previously attended lower-division institution of higher education;
- Successfully earned at least 30 credit hours of course work at the lower-division of higher education; and
- A cumulative total of at least 66 credit hours for course work completed at the higher-division of higher education.

Fast Facts

- Students, their communities, the state, and the nation-at-large experience an increase in earnings and civic engagement resulting from higher educational attainment.
- Higher education in Texas is now funded in part based on the number of degrees awarded; reverse transfer will help ensure that community colleges are funded appropriately for their role in student success and attainment.

Benefits

- Transfer students with an associate degree are much more likely to persist to a bachelor's degree.
- Awarding degrees through reverse transfer will increase two-year community college graduation rates.
- Reverse transfer ensures that students do not walk away empty-handed if they stop-out prior to completing a bachelor's degree;
- An earned associate's degree is an employable credential and provides a platform on which to build should students return for a bachelor's degree at a later time.
- Four-year institutions will reap the fiscal benefits of increased baccalaureate completions, as well as increased revenue due to higher funding rates for upper-level courses.
- National and state data collection regarding student success fails to account for transfer students who do not earn an associate degree, but do move on to attain a baccalaureate degree; reverse transfer will help correct this gap in data and provide a more accurate representation of postsecondary success.

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Texas Reverse Transfer Initiative

The Texas Reverse Transfer Initiative (TRTI) is a multi-partner, grant-funded project that was developed as a response to Texas House Bill 3025, which includes a mandate to identify students who transfer from Texas's community colleges to universities without receiving an associate degree and evaluate their eligibility for that award. The \$1.3 million grant-funded project is supported by Lumina Foundation, Greater Texas Foundation, Meadows Foundation, and Houston Endowment, and is led by Lone Star College System, the University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Texas System. (Tex. Educ. Code Section 61.833 Credit Transfer for Associate Degree)

TRTI Partners

There are 30+ two- and four-year postsecondary institutions from across the state committed to TRTI in the first year of the project, and more will be added as TRTI progresses.

In addition to the funders, the following five foundations and organizations are committed to TRTI:

- Texas Guaranteed
- Educate Texas
- Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (TACRAO)
- Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC)
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)

Credit When It's Due

TRTI is part of the Credit When It's Due (CWID) initiative, a national grant-funded project that aims to implement and improve the reverse transfer process between community colleges and universities, in order to award associate degrees to students pursuing baccalaureate degrees.

Through Credit When It's Due, the state of Texas will be highly visible as a leader in reverse transfer. As the principal for this project, LSCS aims to provide a scalable model that can be replicated by others for reverse transfer success.