Awarding Credit
Where It is Due
Using Reverse Transfer to Support
Associate Degree Completion

UW System and WTCS
WACADA Fall Pre-conference
September 17, 2015
What is Reverse Transfer

The **transfer of credits from a four-year institution to any two-year institution from which a student transferred.**

Upon completion and transfer back of required coursework, the student is awarded an associate degree.
Why is Reverse Transfer Important?

Nationally, up to 80% of students who transfer from a 2-year to 4-year institution do so without earning an associates degree (Hossler, 2012)

| 66% of UW Colleges students transfer to a 4-year UW before earning an Associate Degree | 92% of Madison College students transfer to UW-Madison before earning an Associate Degree |

Students who transfer without associates degrees may be less likely to complete a Bachelor’s Degree

| Nationally, almost half of non-AD transfers did not complete a credential w/in 4-years after transfer. (NSC, 2013) | 74% of new transfer students with an UWC AAS completed a Bachelor’s Degree, as compared to a 57% of those who did not earn the AAS. (OPAR 2012) |

Students benefit

Value in holding of a recognized credential | Allows for early transfer, that may expedite completion of some academic programs

Institutions benefit

Receive credit for performance | Creates a student-focused and institution driven solution vs. a legislated solution
Individual agreements between institutions

Focused on working with our top transfer institutions
Madison College and UW-Madison Partnership
Students who participate must meet the following requirements:

- Completed 30 college credits at Madison College
- Completed at least 15 credits in residence at UW-Madison
- Were admitted into a Madison College degree program
Fundamental Principles

- Student consent and FERPA compliance
- Streamlined and secure electronic data exchange – no transcripts
- Collaborate communication approach with students
Student Consent and FERPA

Credentials Solutions to Capture Consent

By selecting “I DO wish to take advantage of the Reverse Transfer Agreement” below, you give permission to the University of Wisconsin–Madison to release your demographic and academic data (full name, birthdate, matriculation term, last four digits of SSN, course information including term, session, subject description, number, title, credits, and grade) to Madison College in support of the Agreement. Your confidential records will be used only for the purposes of this Agreement, and this consent will remain in effect indefinitely unless revoked in writing.

- I DO wish to take advantage of the Reverse Transfer Agreement
- I DO NOT wish to take advantage of the Reverse Transfer Agreement
Implementation

- **Started with a team of process experts**
  - Admissions & Records, Curricular Services, Academic Advising, Arts & Sciences, Institutional Reporting

- **Connected the Business Processes**
  - Data exchange with UW-Madison
  - Transfer credit evaluation
  - Academic advising
  - Posting degrees

- **Optimize our current technologies**
  - Credentials Solutions (Transcript Ordering), OnBase (ECM), Oracle PeopleSoft (SIS), Oracle RightNow (CRM)
Lessons Learned

- Start discovery process before agreement is signed
- Transfer credit evaluation
- Focus on upper level courses
- Automate fully for ability to scale
- Communication and advising
UW Colleges and UW-Madison Partnership
Students who participate must also meet the following requirements:

- Transferred from UW Colleges to UW-Madison
- Completed a minimum of 36 credits from UW Colleges
- Completed at least 15 credits in residence at UW-Madison
Measuring Success
Awareness of the Agreement

Ongoing Transcript Requests

Student Participation

Transmission of course data

Degrees Awarded
A National Approach
NSC Data Share Phase 1 Goals

- Increase the number of students who earn an associate degree
- Support students educational goals and career aspirations
- Create a standardized and streamlined process that works for 2yr and 4yr institutions
- Leverage existing infrastructure that would support a national approach
Phase I - Functionality

- NSC will provide a platform to exchange course/grade data from 4 year institutions (Host) to 2 year Institutions (DGI)

- Host institutions will submit course/grade data to NSC and NSC will compile and send that data to DGI schools as indicated by the host

- NSC will provide high-level reports around course/grade data from host being accessed by DGI and number of Reverse Transfer degrees being awarded

* Service will be provided at No Cost to Participating Institutions*
Phase II – Student Portal

“Leading toward Nationalizing the Student Transcript?”
Phase 3 – Audit & Mobile
UW System Policy on Reverse Transfer
For students transferring within the UW System

- Reverse transfer is intended for students who transfer from one associate degree granting UW institution to another UW System institution without completing the associate’s degree.
- The reverse transfer of credit is intended to add accumulated credits for the awarding of an associate’s degree at the sending UW institution.
UW Colleges may enter into cooperating agreements for reverse transfer with other UW institutions. Participating institutions will maintain the integrity of their separate requirements and enter into an agreement as cooperating institutions that includes processes for student consent and sharing student academic information.

- Students must have earned at least 36 credits at UW Colleges.
- Advising to complete the associate’s degree will be done by UW Colleges.
- The associate’s degree will be awarded by UW Colleges.
UW comprehensive institutions with the authority to grant associate’s degree may enter into cooperating agreements for reverse transfer with other UW institutions.

Participating institutions will maintain the integrity of their separate requirements and enter into an agreement as cooperating institutions that includes processes for student consent and sharing student academic information.
For students transferring from WTCS

- Reverse transfer is intended for students who transfer from a WTCS Liberal Arts program to a UW institution without completing the associate’s degree.
  - Policy is silent on other AAS programs

- The reverse transfer of credit is intended to add accumulated credits for the awarding of an associate’s degree by the WTCS institution.

- Participating institutions will maintain the integrity and authority of their separate requirements. Participating institutions will enter into an agreement that includes processes for student consent and sharing student academic information.
Best Practices: Bringing Reverse Transfer Options to your Students
**Baccalaureate Granting Institution Responsibilities**
- Identify potential impact
- Potentially eligible students who agree to Reverse Transfer
- Submit data to NSC

**Associate Granting Institution Responsibilities**
- Collect permission at time of transfer
- To pull info on former students (no mining data)
- Communicate with students
- Award degrees when appropriate
- Notify NSC and 4 yrs. of degree

**Student Responsibilities**
- To agree to participate and
- Opt out if decide to not continue
Questions

Scott Owczareck
Registrar, UW-Madison
scott.owczareck@wisc.edu

Lori Sebranek
Dean of Enrollment Services, Madison College
lsebranek@madisoncollege.edu

Diane Treis Rusk
Director of Undergraduate Ed., UWSA
dtreisrusk@uwsa.edu