



State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Transfer in the Commonwealth: Initiatives to Enhance the Efficiency of Virginia's System of Higher Education

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Transfer in the Nation

- » One-third of all students transfer at least once
 - » 25% of four-year college students
 - » 43% of community college students

- » More than one-half of students who earn a baccalaureate degree do so after having transferred



Transfer in the Commonwealth

- » \approx 10,000 new transfer students each fall
 - » \approx 5,000 are from community colleges
 - » \approx 3,500 do not have associate degrees
 - » \approx 1,500 do have associate degrees
 - » Transfer is largely a regional process
 - » In the absence of effective policy for transferring credits, taxpayers pay twice for courses that must be repeated



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2004 Transfer Initiatives

- » **Commonwealth College Course Collaborative**
 - » Identified course credits with universal transferability
<http://www.virginiamentor.org/>

- » **House Bill 989:**
 - » Identify all general education courses offered at public two-year institutions and designating those that are accepted for purposes of transfer for course credit
 - » SCHEV Transfer Tool
<http://www.schev.edu/students/xfr.asp>



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Restructuring Act of 2005

“Consistent with its institutional mission, develop articulation agreements that have uniform application to all Virginia community colleges and meet appropriate general education and program requirements at the four-year institution, provide additional opportunities for associate degree graduates to be admitted and enrolled, and offer dual enrollment programs in cooperation with high schools;”



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Institutional Performance Standards

- » **Institution increases the number articulation agreements for associate degree graduates transferring from all colleges of the Virginia Community College System and Richard Bland College**

- » **Institution increases the total number of associate degree graduates enrolled as transfer students from Virginia's public two-year colleges**
 - » **with the expectation that the general education credits from those institutions apply toward general education baccalaureate degree requirements;**
 - » **as a percent of all undergraduate students enrolled**



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Existing Guaranteed Admissions Agreements Between VCCS and Public Institutions

- » College of William and Mary
- » Longwood University
- » Norfolk State University
- » University of Virginia
- » Virginia Commonwealth University
- » Virginia Tech
 - » College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
 - » College of Engineering



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Articulation Agreements

- » **Program Specific**
 - » address courses and/or bodies of knowledge

- » **Example Agreements**
 - » TCC, TNCC & ODU Agreements in Electrical Engineering
 - » WCC & RU Agreement in Information Technology



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2006 General Assembly Session: Senate Bill 538

“Requires all four-year public institutions of higher education to develop articulation, transfer, and dual enrollment and admissions agreements, including dual admissions programs for qualified students to be simultaneously accepted by a community college and, contingent upon the successful completion of an acceptable associate degree program from the community college, by the four-year public institution of higher education.”



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2006 General Assembly Session: House Bill 57

Permits community college students to “declare an intention in writing to transfer to a four-year public institution of higher education in Virginia having an articulation agreement with the relevant community college or two-year public institution.

Given that the student completes a degree at the community college and enrolls at a four-year institution, “the articulation agreement in force at the time of the student's declaration shall determine those credits that will be transferred from the community college to the four-year public institution.”



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Early Analysis of Transfer Data

- » Transfer is largely a regional process
- » The majority of transfer is from a community college to a four-year college
- » Recently legislation and the Institutional Performance Standards require public institutions to form more agreements and enroll more associate degree recipients.
- » The number of associate degrees conferred has increased since 1999 and VCCS has previously indicated an expectation that the number will continue to rise.
- » The past six years of data demonstrate growth in the number of associate degree recipients enrolled at public four-year institutions in real numbers and as a percent of new transfers students while the number of students transferring has grown modestly.
- » More research is needed in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of transfer in the Commonwealth



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