

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

**Name:** Academic and Student Affairs

**Date:** June 16, 2015

**Title:** Update on the Transfer of Credits

**Purpose (check one):**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed<br>New Policy or<br>Amendment to<br>Existing Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Approvals<br>Required by<br>Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other<br>Approvals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring/<br>Compliance                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information             |   |

**Brief Description:**

This information session will provide background for trustees and an update on the FY15 legislation. There will be a review of the law's specific requirements to implement the plan shared with the legislature in March 2015, discuss plans for fall 2015 and beyond, discuss the AAS to BAS degree expectations, and how we intend to develop that plan.

It will also provide background for trustees and an update on reverse transfer within the system. There will be an overview of reverse transfer, including history and future implementation.

**Scheduled Presenter(s):**

Lynda Milne, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Louise DiCesare, System Director for Transfer

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

<b>INFORMATION ITEM</b>
<b>UPDATE ON THE TRANSFER OF CREDITS</b>

**BACKGROUND**

**Transfer Legislation**

[Legislation](#) (SF 5, Conference Committee Report, Article 3, Section 21) passed in 2015 will require the development of transfer pathways to the baccalaureate degree. The law directs MnSCU to implement the plan, [Transfer Pathways for Baccalaureate Completion](#), presented in the March 2015 report to the legislature.

The new law also directs MnSCU to develop BAS degrees in areas of high employment for students who transfer with AAS degrees.

\$115,000 was appropriated for implementation of this law in the 2016-2017 biennium.

This information session will provide background for trustees and an update on the FY15 legislation. There will be a review of the law's specific requirements to implement the plan shared with the legislature in March 2015, discuss plans for fall 2015 and beyond, discuss the AAS to BAS degree expectations, and how we intend to develop that plan.

**Reverse Transfer**

The "Credit When It's Due" grant for \$500,000 was awarded to MnSCU by the Lumina Foundation in 2012. The purpose of the grant was to identify students who could obtain their Associate of Arts degree by transferring back credits from their second (or additional) institution(s). The CWID grant project has awarded more than 1,400 associate degrees and will be completed on June 30, 2015.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will be able to sustain reverse transfer due to technology improvements funded by the grant. A current staff position will be able to coordinate the project for all MnSCU campuses.

This study session will provide background for trustees and an overview on reverse transfer within the system, including a summary of degree conferrals by campus.

# Update on Transfer of Credits



June 16, 2015

## Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system is an Equal Opportunity employer and educator.



# Presentation Overview

- 2015 Transfer Legislation
  - *University Transfer Pathways*
  - *More BAS degrees*
- Reverse Transfer
  - *Credit When It's Due*

# Legislation: Transfer Pathways to the Baccalaureate

## Transfer Pathways for Baccalaureate Completion

Academic and Student Affairs  
March 15, 2015



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# Transfer Pathways Legislation 2015

## Regulate MnSCU baccalaureate transfers

The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities shall **implement new transfer pathways for associate of arts degrees, associate of science degrees, and associate of fine arts** degrees toward baccalaureate degree programs. The implementation must, to the greatest extent possible, be done in accordance with the implementation plan, including its timeline, developed pursuant to Laws 2014, chapter 312, article 1, section 12.

# Transfer Pathways Legislation 2015

## **New or enhanced bachelor of applied science degrees**

The board, in consultation with system constituency groups, is encouraged to create a plan to **enhance or develop new bachelor of applied science degree** programs in areas of high employment need in the state to facilitate transfer pathways for students with associate of applied science degrees.

# Transfer Pathways Legislation 2015

## Report

**By March 15, 2016, the board must report to the chairs** and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over higher education on the status of implementation of transfer pathways under subdivision 1 and any deviations from the implementation plan.



# Purpose

- Simplify the pathways leading from associate degree programs at two-year colleges to parallel baccalaureate programs at all MnSCU universities.
- Eliminate the need for each institution to create and maintain multiple articulation agreements for each degree program.
- Collaborative development by college and university faculty of defined paths from specific associate degree fields (such as psychology or business) that fully prepare students for corresponding bachelor's programs at any MnSCU university.
- Once students have completed the associate degree, they must be able to complete their bachelor's degree by taking no more than 60 additional credits at a MnSCU university.

# Transfer Pathways Components

- Legislative appropriation of \$115,000 in FY 2016-2017
- Transfer Pathways Coordinating Committee
  - *Transfer Pathways framework*
  - *Oversee implementation on a three-year timeline*
- Transfer Pathways Teams (TPT)
  - *Pathways*
  - *Communication*
  - *Curriculum and course revision*



# Scope

- Pathways for 25-30 of most frequently enrolled baccalaureate programs (graduating 2/3 of bachelor's degree students)
- TPCT to determine exactly which degree programs
- First year: Begin with a pilot in four disciplines
- Years 2-3: Complete two cycles of 12-13 disciplines



# Key Principles: Serving Students

- **Students are the primary and fundamental focus** of the planning process
- **Maintaining a quality education** for students is the core of the pathways.
- **Student success** will be facilitated by the transfer pathways.
- **Pathways** to baccalaureate degrees are **clear and easy** for students to follow.
- Students can **save money and reduce debt** by eliminating the number of repeated classes required when they transfer and by having a clear path.
- Students can **complete degrees in a minimum timeframe** (two years for an associate degree and four years for a bachelor's degree) but with the understanding that part-time completion is available.
- Students will be able to **enter the workforce sooner** and with less debt.
- Transfer students who meet admission/program application requirements will be given the **same opportunities/same consideration as direct entry students.**
- Transfer processes **will be streamlined** for institutions and create clarity for students.
- The potential to **positively impact enrollment and retention** is strong.

# Pathway Guarantees and Features

- All lower-division **general education requirements** met
- Student has **full junior status** upon successful completion of pathway
- Student can complete baccalaureate degree upon earning the **number of credits required minus 60 credits**
- Students can **apply to program at the same point** as direct-entry students (students/advisors informed about open and restricted admission programs)
- **Guarantee admission** where capacity permits when requirements met
- Specify any **unique requirements** (experiential, clinical, applied learning)

# Phase 1 Transfer Pathways Suggested Disciplines

Degree	Discipline	Reason for Selection
AA	Psychology	Popular Major for both direct entry and transfer students
AS	Biology	Sequential Courses/Pre-requisites
AS	Business	Program accreditation requirements
AFA	Theatre	Performing art and has the complete MnTC

# Communicating a Shared Vision

- Students complete associate degrees before transfer; come in ready to major
- Associate degrees are aligned with *all* related MnSCU bachelor degree options
- Students get a guarantee that this form of transfer will work.
- More students are successful at two-year colleges *and* at the universities





# Reverse Transfer Project: 2012-2015



CREDIT  
*when it's due*



# What is *Credit When It's Due*?

- \$500,000 Lumina grant aimed at increasing degree completion rates for early transfer students
  - *Awarded October 2012*
  - *Concludes June 30, 2015*
- Purpose: identify students who could obtain their Associate of Arts degree by transferring back credits from their second (or additional) colleges and universities.

# Project Accomplishments

- 1,448 Associate of Arts degrees awarded.
- About a 12% increase per year
- Reverse transfer will be a sustainable effort due to technology improvements funded by the grant.

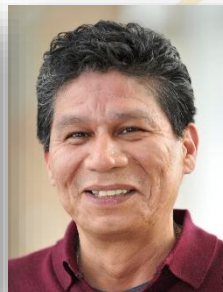
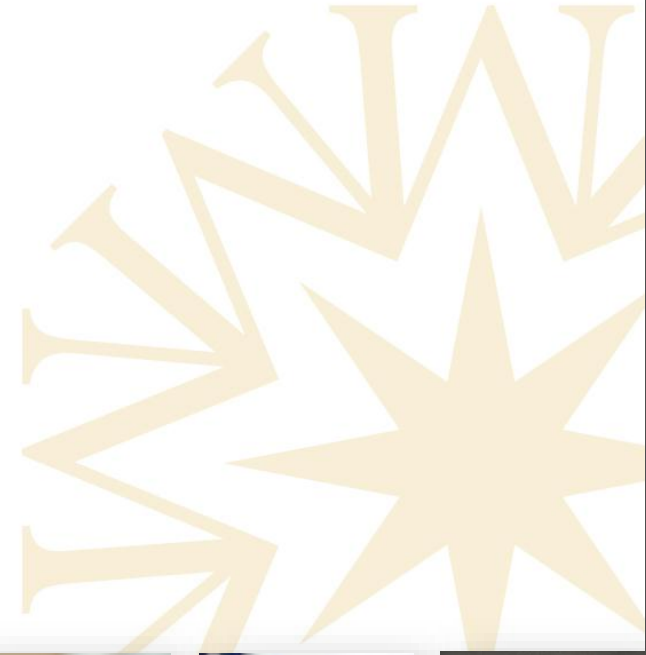


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