Transfer Agreements: Supporting Transfers from Two-Year Colleges

A Best Practice / Case Study

Process Improved: Transfer of undergraduates from other colleges and universities into UW-Madison is often viewed as a mysterious and difficult process. In 2006, UW-Madison entered into inter-institutional transfer agreements with selected two-year colleges. These Transfer Contracts are intended to make the transfer process more transparent to prospective students and their families. They are designed to improve advising for prospective transfer students and to assure that students are well prepared for UW-Madison. They serve as a model for future transfer agreements with additional colleges.

► Units: Office of Admissions; Office of the Provost.

► Problem/Opportunity Statement: Our opportunity is to clarify the expectations for transfer and assure that prospective transfer students prepare for success at UW-Madison.

► Customers of the Process and Their Needs: The process is designed to assist transfer students enrolled in two-year college transfer programs, the faculty and staff of those two-year colleges, and others interested in understanding the process of transfer from a two-year college to UW-Madison.

► Changes Made: By working in partnership with three two-year colleges, we have established transfer agreements that explain in detail the requirements and expectations for successful transfer and put students on a trajectory for completion of a bachelor’s degree.

► Results: MATC-Madison, MATC-Milwaukee, and Nicolet leaders, faculty, staff and students have expressed excitement and enthusiasm for the Transfer Contract. Relationships with these colleges and their students are enhanced. By the end of the spring term we will know how many students have declared their intent to participate in the Transfer Contract.

► Lessons Learned: Gains can be made in the quality of the transfer student experience for students and for the enrolling institutions by clarifying expectations for student transfer.

► Next Steps: We will monitor the number of students who declare their intent to participate and include that information in enrollment planning. We will monitor progress and degree completion rates for these students. The Transfer Contract will serve as a model for agreements between UW-Madison and other two-year colleges.
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Contacts:
Jocelyn Milner
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Academic Planning and Analysis
jlmilner@wisc.edu
(608) 263-5658

Mary Schey
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Office of Admissions
mschey@admissions.wisc.edu
(608) 262-3961