Reverse Transfer Credentials

Establish a statewide policy to allow students to earn an associate degree while continuing to work toward a bachelor’s degree. Ensure two-year and four-year college credits can be combined toward the credential.

Colorado’s reverse transfer process (formerly known as Degree within Reach) allows students who transfer from a Colorado two-year institution to a four-year institution to combine credits and apply them toward an associate degree. With coordination led by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, two- and four-year institutions must develop and coordinate a process for notifying students about their eligibility for associate degree awards. Philanthropic support allows the Department of Higher Education to work with the Colorado Community College System and every Colorado institution of higher education to reach out to the state’s university transfer students regarding reverse transfer opportunities.

OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN

The state can collect, report and use data on student eligibility for and participation in reverse transfer processes established by institutions. In addition, if there is considerable variation in the processes established by institutions, stronger state coordination can be considered to achieve a single, comprehensive, cross-agency approach.

RESOURCES

- Colorado Reverse Transfer

POLICIES

- CO Revised Statutes 23-1-131. Associate Degree Completion Program
Reverse Transfer Credentials

Establish a statewide policy to allow students to earn an associate degree while continuing to work toward a bachelor’s degree. Ensure two-year and four-year college credits can be combined toward the credential.

Missouri

In 2012 Missouri updated policy 173.005 requiring the coordinating board to develop a reverse transfer policy across all two- and four-year public postsecondary institutions. Missouri reverse transfer provides the opportunity for students who have completed credits for an associate degree to receive that degree if they are not currently enrolled in college or have transferred to a four-year institution. Students must have earned a minimum of 15 credit hours to be eligible for the program. To facilitate the creation of the statewide process Missouri utilized a steering committee with representatives from across the public higher education institutions. The steering committee was tasked with thinking through the policy, information technology/operations, implementation, data/evaluation and communications. Missouri partnered with the national clearinghouse to support the sharing of data across institutions as they each utilized different student information systems.

Missouri’s reverse transfer process supports the state’s attainment goal of having 60 percent of working-age adults with high-quality, affordable postsecondary credentials by 2025.

OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN

Missouri can collect, report and use data on student eligibility for and participation in reverse transfer processes established by institutions. Additionally, Missouri can analyze the number of students who are close to completing their degree but are no longer enrolled to determine if tuition funding would support students in completing their degree.

RESOURCES

- Department of Higher Education Reverse Transfer

POLICIES

- MO Rev. Stat. § 173.005. Reverse Transfer
Reverse Transfer Credentials

Establish a statewide policy to allow students to earn an associate degree while continuing to work toward a bachelor’s degree. Ensure two-year and four-year college credits can be combined toward the credential.

Texas

The Texas Education Code provides for lower-division institutions of higher education and general academic teaching institutions to acknowledge credit attained at the lower-division institution and award an associate degree while a student is also working toward a bachelor’s degree.

OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN

While the vehicle for reverse transfer of degrees is clearly present in Texas, the state can promote the actual conferral of awards more broadly across institutions—and to learners. The state can also collect, report and use data on student eligibility for and participation in reverse transfer processes established by institutions. In addition, if there is considerable variation in the processes established by institutions, stronger state coordination can achieve a single, comprehensive, cross-agency approach.

RESOURCES

- Reverse Transfer Process

POLICIES

- TX Education Code Section 61.833. Credit Transfer for Associate Degree