

How Transfer Works

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Transfer Mobility

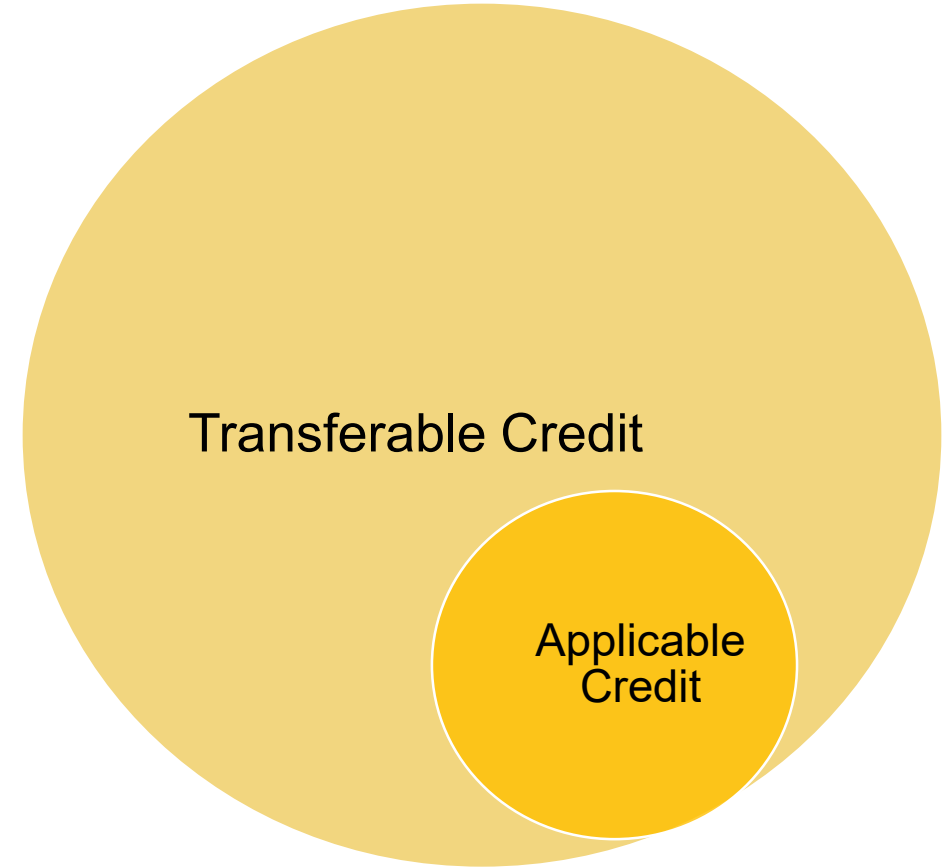
- 38.0% transfer rate among first-time enrollees
 - 4-yr to 2-yr even more frequent, partially due to summer swirling
 - 38.5% vs 36.7%
 - Total transfers nationally around 7.1% of total student fall enrollments (Fall '17)
- Transfer in WI
 - Total transfers lower than national figure: 5.5% (Fall '17)
 - In WI, UWSA transfers to WTCS almost as many as WTCS to UWSA
 - 4,244 : 4,435 (multi-year average)
 - In 2017-18 8,757 students transferred out of WTCS
 - 43% came to UWSA, 37% went out of state, 19% went to WAICU
 - In 2014-15: 47% came to UWSA, 34% went out of state, 19% went to WAICU
- Common to see students with multiple transcripts from prior institutions

Transfer as a Tension between

- Accommodation
 - Respect—of prior academic work
 - Fairness—prior credit completed in a good faith effort to progress
 - Access—varied pathways
 - Underrepresented students more likely to start at a 2-year
- Distinction
 - Unique curricula—institutions distinguish themselves by program offerings, gen ed structures, et al.
 - Residency—can put a limit on transfer
 - Accreditation—may or may not impact transfer, sometimes used as a shield
 - Protectionism—the dark side of distinctiveness

Approaching Transfer

- Every effort should be made to maximize the application of transfer credit and avoid duplication of learning.
- Transferable vs applicable credits
 - Transfer issues often less about transferability than about curricular misalignment



Transfer Best Practices

- “Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit”
- Endorsed by
 - American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)
 - American Council on Education (ACE)
 - Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)
- Stated Assumptions
 - Respect institutional autonomy
 - Promote social equity
 - Recognize complexity of transfer
 - Encourage an expansive view of what constitutes “validated learning”

Transfer Best Practices

- Considerations
 - Quality
 - Role of accreditation
 - Course outcomes vs syllabi
 - Caution re course numbers, modalities, seat-time, etc.
 - Comparability
 - Related mission, type of education, etc.
 - Appropriateness
 - Similar or related in content to native offerings
 - 100-level WTCS courses
 - Course purpose, function
 - Applicable to native programs & degrees
- Openness to innovation: Military, PLA, ACE, etc.

Transfer Best Practices

- UWSA Policy 135: UW System Undergraduate Transfer Policy
- Specifically endorses the “Joint Statement”
- Principles of Accommodation
 - 14 principles for all students
 - Others specific to UWSA & WTCS transfers
 - Also includes policies for Prior Learning Assessment
 - Focus on broad recognition beyond specific course-to-course equivalencies
 - Apply to requirements where appropriate
 - Grant departmental credit where appropriate
 - Consistent treatment of transfers compared to continuing students

Articulation Agreements

- Program-to-Program vs Course-to-Course
- Template in keeping with UWSA requirements
- Block Transfer
- Must complete degree
- Benefits
 - Allows exceptions to general transfer practice
 - Grouped equivalencies
 - Minimum transfer guarantees
 - Consistent
 - Simplifies & streamlines process

Articulation Agreements

- Challenges
 - Students don't understand them
 - Curricular mismatches
 - Opportunity to rethink relationship of associate to bachelor's curricula
 - Difficult to market effectively
 - Students shift disciplines in unexpected ways
 - Small audience
 - NSC study notes that 5.6% of 2-yr transfers completed a degree

The Transfer Process

- Student is accepted and file reviewed
- Credits entered
 - Transfer Specialists
 - Student Workers
- Audit of completed entry by professional staff
- Rule-building
 - Transfer rules in PAWS
 - New rules built as new courses received
 - Old rules updated based on ongoing evaluation & feedback
 - Consistency within WTCS

Communicating Transfer

- Transfer Equivalency Database (TED)
 - Pulls directly from PAWS
 - web.uwm.edu/registrar/tools/ted
- Transfer Information System (TIS)
 - Current public facing record for WI systems
 - Retiring July 2020
 - Unwieldy to update
 - Not always reliable
 - wisconsin.edu/transfer

Communicating Transfer

- Transferology
 - [Transferology.com/index.htm](https://transferology.com/index.htm)
 - Replacing TIS for both UWSA & WTCS
 - Already in use by UWM & a few others
 - Pulls rules from PAWS via a third-party extractor
 - Broader reach
 - Allows students to compare institutions and find best transfer outcomes
 - Requires a log-in
 - Some limits on what information is available, i.e. GER

Recommendations

- Presume transferability
- Take the broad view
- Focus on application of credit
- Don't expect 100% equivalency
- Privilege outcomes
- Avoid duplication

Thank you!