Partnering for Student Transfer Success

Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges • Council of Presidents

Washington’s community and technical colleges, private non-profit baccalaureate, and public baccalaureate colleges and universities have a proud history of partnering to serve students. Nowhere is our cooperation more evident than in the smooth transfer process from community and technical colleges into the four-year colleges and universities.

National research cites four factors that lead to efficient transfer

1. **FOLLOW A CLEAR PATHWAY.** Statewide transfer agreements in Washington allow students to transfer to universities with two years of college-level coursework with general education requirements already completed (for DTA).

   **Direct Transfer Agreement associate degree (also called “the DTA”)** with clear pathways – Major Related Programs in:
   - Biology
   - Business
   - Construction Management
   - Nursing
   - Pre-Nursing
   - Technology

2. **COMPLETE AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE BEFORE TRANSFER.** Washington students transfer with an associate degree and earn bachelor’s degrees at much higher rates than students nationally.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Washington</th>
<th>Nationally</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% transferring with AA degree</td>
<td>67% ³</td>
<td>20%²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA within 3 years post-transfer</td>
<td>71%⁴</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transferred with AA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA within 3 years post-transfer</td>
<td>62% ⁴</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No AA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA within 6 years post-transfer</td>
<td>82% ⁴</td>
<td>41% ⁵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transferred with AA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transfer degrees are honored by all Washington’s public and most private colleges and universities.

Key Facts

- **17,105** Washington students transferred from community and technical colleges to four-year institutions in 2013-2014.³
- Transfer students earned **40%** of all bachelor’s degrees at Washington public colleges and universities, including:
  - 47% of business graduates
  - 46% of health field graduates
  - 35% of STEM majors graduates
- Two basic associate degrees smooth the process for the majority of Washington transfer students:
  - DTA for social sciences, humanities and some sciences
  - AS-T for engineering, physics, chemistry
- **98%** of AS-T graduates who earn a bachelor’s degree do so in a STEM-related field.⁵
3. MAKE SURE ALL ACADEMIC CREDITS TRANSFER.
In Washington, transfer students graduate with a bachelor’s degree with a similar number of total credits as those who start at four-year universities as freshmen. This is not true nationally, where “lost” credits result in far more total credits for the average transfer student.

“Students who transferred almost all of their community college credits were 2.5 times more likely to earn a bachelor’s degree than students who transferred fewer than half of their credits.”

4. UTILIZE A MULTI-SECTOR GROUP TO SOLVE EMERGING ISSUES. The JOINT TRANSFER COUNCIL is a collaboration that includes the community and technical colleges and public and private baccalaureate institutions that guides college-transfer policy across the state. It is involved in the development of new transfer pathways and new multi-institution agreements. Its members continually look at emerging issues and opportunities to make the transfer experience better.

“Washington state is fortunate to have a 40-year history of public two- and four-year institutions working together to facilitate the transfer process for students.”