



Reverse Transfers

**Who Are They and What Do
They Mean for Registrars
and Admissions Officers?**

[Overview]

- Provide a “big picture” look at reverse transfer students
- Specify reverse transfer issues for
 - Admissions
 - Registrar
 - Financial aid

Definitions

- **Undergraduate REVERSE TRANSFERS (URTS): Students who start higher education at a 4-yr. school and withdraw from it to attend a 2-yr. school**
 - NOT 4-yr. students who concurrently enroll at 2-yr. school or take summer courses there

Definitions (cont'd)

- **POST-BACCALAUREATE STUDENTS**: 2-yr. college students who already have a bachelor's degree or higher
 - NOT reverse transfers unless they seek to transfer credits from baccalaureate degree

Definitions (cont'd)

- **POST-BACCALAUREATE REVERSE TRANSFER STUDENTS**: Seek to transfer credits from their bachelor's degree toward a 2-yr. college certificate or degree

Extent of URTS Nationally

- **1/3 of cc students previously went to a 4-yr. school (AACCC, 2007)**
- **14.2% of students starting in 1989-90 became URTS (BPS: 89-94 data)**
- **12% of baccalaureate recipients in B&B: 2000-2001 were URTS (AACCC, 2006)**

[Extent of URTS by States]

- Alabama: 15% in public institutions in F2002
- Connecticut: Over 21% in public institutions in 1994-95
- Georgia: 12% within University System in FY 2005

Extent of URTS by States

- Illinois: 15% from public universities to community colleges in 1999
- Oklahoma: 25% in public institutions in Spring 1999
- Missouri: 8% of all degree-seeking transfers (public & private) in F 2005

[URTS by Receiving Colleges]

- CUNY System: 25% in F 2005
- Donnelly College (KS): 6% of respondents to F 2004 survey
- Suffolk County CC (NY): 1.6% of F 1997 admits
- Business & Technical College of Metropolitan CCs (MO): 4% Sp 2006

[URTS by Receiving Colleges]

- Los Rios Community College (CA):
12% in 1985
- Contra Costa Community College
District (CA): almost 13% in 1992

[URTS by Sending Colleges]

- Florida Atlantic University: Almost 11% between 1993-1996

Why Undergraduate RT?

- **Academic difficulty at 4-yr. school**
- **Poor institutional fit at 4-yr. school**
- **Desire to attend smaller school**
- **Lower tuition at 2-yr. school**
- **Earlier preparation for job market**
- **Undecided about major**
- **Desire for a particular major**

Institutional Views of URTS

- **URTS not initially valued at 2-yr. schools**
- **Subversion of 2-yr. college traditional transfer mission?**
- **Where do they fit in 2-yr. institutional mission?**

Current Perspective: URTS

- **Accepted that undergraduate reverse transfer occurs**
- **Addressed by almost 20 states in state-level articulation agreements**
- **Active recruitment by some 2-yr. colleges**

Extent of PBS

- **1.8% of students in HSB/Sophomore cohort (1980-1993) earned at least 18 cc credits after the baccalaureate (Adelman, 1998)**
- **10 to 20% of current 2-yr. college students (AACCC data, 1997)**
- **Less than 1% in Kentucky Community and Technical College System in F 2005**

[Why PBS?]

- Learn about personal interests
- Train for another career
- Upgrade or update current skills
- Pay lower tuition at 2-yr. school

Admission Issues

- Re URTS & PBRTs, do they usurp spaces for 1st-time college students?
- Does college choose to actively recruit them?
 - If so, why?
 - How?

Admission Issues

- **Determination of which courses transfer: degree audit**
 - **URTS: over 60% of B&B: 2000-01 bac recipients had some credits transfer; 35% had all transfer (AACCC, 2006)**
 - **PBRTS: unhappy if gen ed courses don't transfer**
- **Required placement tests?**

[Registrar Issues]

- **Failure of some students to disclose attendance at previous institution**
 - **Consider it irrelevant; want “fresh start”**
 - **Concerns about previous GPA affecting calculations of future GPA**
 - **Work the system re financial aid**

[Registrar Issues (cont'd)]

- **Difficulty in obtaining transcripts from previous institution(s)**
 - **Time/money to get transcripts**
 - **Ineligible to get 4-yr. transcript because of money owed to school**
 - **Lateness of transcripts**
 - **May take unnecessary classes because course audit wasn't done in time**

Registrar Issues (cont'd)

- **Calculation of 2-year college GPA?**
 - Need to include 4-yr. GPA in current GPA for URTS?
 - Include gen ed courses in GPA for PBRTS
- **Reverse articulation of courses**
 - Time consuming, especially with PBRTS
- **Other?**

Financial Aid Issues

- **URTS:**
 - **Prior college attendance and GPA must be counted in calculation of Pell and Stafford awards; can affect eligibility**
 - **Maximum time issues if over 96 credit hours: requires semester degree audit for satisfactory academic progress and correct courses**

[Financial Aid Issues (cont'd)]

- **PBRTS:**
 - **Not eligible for Pell Grant**
 - **Not eligible for loans if already borrowed to their limit**
- **Other?**

[Student Issues]

- **URTS and PBRTS can**
 - **Encourage other cc students to transfer to 4-yr. school**
 - **Be role models in class room**
 - **Can monopolize classroom discussions and teachers' attention**

[Student Issues (cont'd)]

- **URTS: May have to take courses not required at their first institution**
 - e.g., college orientation
- **PBRTS: May have to take courses they already have taken**
- **Other?**

Conclusion

- **Reverse transfers present issues similar to those of vertical transfers**
 - **Articulation of courses**
 - **Repeating courses taken at previous institution**

[Conclusion (cont'd)]

- **Difference: little institutional support or thought about reverse transfers?**
- **Reverse transfer -- not a formal mission of 2-yr. college**

Conclusion (cont'd)

- **Important to count reverse transfers because they are still in higher education, not dropouts**
- **Hard to research the extent of them if students won't self-report their prior attendance elsewhere**

[Conclusion (cont'd)]

- Reverse transfers are here to stay—part of the “swirl” of students between and among institutions.

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