

Ohio's Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse

University of Cincinnati & the ATC

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University Profile

- Four-year public, urban, research university. Quarter-based calendar system
- 15 colleges and two branch campuses
- Fall 2007 enrollment = 36,518
- 27,700 undergraduates
- Home-developed student information system: *UniverSIS* (mainframe ADABAS NATURAL)

Incoming Transcripts 2007

- # of transfer applicants = 5,626
- # of transcripts received = 7,341
- # of transcripts received from Ohio institutions = 3,412 (46.4%)
- Approximate # of Ohio courses entered into *UniverSIS* for course equivalencies = 75,064

Outgoing Transcripts

- 40,000+ transcripts ordered annually
- Approximately 28,000+ transcripts (70%) sent to Ohio public institutions

Development Timeline

- Pre-ATC: UC develops XML transcript capability
- Initial testing with Cincinnati State Technical & Community College to send XML transcripts through secure web transmission
- Winter 2005: coding begins for transcript transmission through ATC
- UC information technology director becomes key figure in adapting PESC standards for use by Ohio Board of Regents in developing ATC
- Summer 2007: testing of transcript transmission through ATC with Sinclair Community College and Wright State University
- November 2007: “Go live” for receiving Ohio transcripts through ATC
- February 2008: “Go live” for sending Ohio transcripts through ATC

Automated Incoming Transcript Process

- UC's BizTalk daily "pulls" XML transcripts from ATC and returns "transcript received" confirmation to the sending institution through ATC
- Batch transfer of transcripts from BizTalk server into *UniverSIS*
- If *UniverSIS* does not recognize the individual as an applicant, it creates a prospect record and assigns a university ID number (UCID)
- Transcript courses are analyzed by our Course Equivalency Database for either TAG/OAN or other coded equivalencies
- *UniverSIS* compares the TAG/OAN supplement to the coded equivalencies. Variances are flagged for review by Admissions Office personnel
- *UniverSIS* assigns the appropriate transfer credit, which then is available for DARS degree audit

Automated Incoming Transcript Process

- Upon enrollment, the UC standard credit is posted to the student's record (held as "pending" until enrollment)
- "Credit Evaluation Report" and welcome letter generated for mailing and online access (by both prospects and applicants)
- *UniverSIS* converts the XML transcript into a PDF equivalent (does not pull down the ATC's PDF), and routes the file to the Registrar's Office document imaging system (Hyland OnBase)
- PDF transcript available through secure online login for view access by college advisors/admission personnel

Outgoing Transcript Orders

- Transcripts ordered online through secure login on Registrar's Office web site
- Decision logic recognizes transcripts intended for Ohio public institutions that are live with ATC
- Order form modified to ascertain the student's intent (i.e., undergraduate transfer, graduate admission, or other)
- Transcripts intended for undergraduate transfer to an Ohio public institution are transmitted to ATC. All others sent in paper form
- Transcript fee assessed for either delivery mode

Key Development Issues

- For UC, the coding was relatively painless
 - Home-developed SIS facilitated customization
- FERPA: Ohio Board of Regents to retain transcript data for reporting reasons
 - OBR agrees to remove all personally identifiable information from stored transcripts
- 36 participating institutions = 36 unique transcripts
 - Data standards needed (beyond PESC) so that each institution is not required to interpret incoming data

UC Proposal for State-Wide Procedure & Data Standards

- XML Transcript content *at minimum* will mirror the paper transcript
- Undergraduate applicant transcripts *only* transmitted through ATC
- Partial Transcripts *not* transmitted through ATC
 - Transcripts partially housed in a secondary SIS or in another medium (e.g., microfilm) to be sent in paper form
- Student identifiers to be provided to assist in matching transcripts with existing records (e.g., admission applications or test scores):
 - Student Name (first, middle, last)
 - Student Address
 - Social Security Number, if known (complete, not last four digits only)
 - Date of Birth
- Cumulative GPA, GPA by term, and credit hours attempted/earned included on ATC transcript *only* for sending institution coursework (i.e., *does not* include transfer work)