

COMPLETION STRATEGIES: GETTING TO THE FINISH LINE

**“Once first in the world, America now ranks 16th in the percentage of young adults with a college degree. The World Economic Forum ranks the U.S.’s educational system 26th in the world.”
(O’Banion, 2013)**

Reverse Transfer

Description

Automatically awards a community college transfer degree after a student transfers to the university. Briefly, the university runs an associate degree audit for any student who previously attended a community college and transferred x-number of credits or more. If the student meets the associate degree requirements, the university notifies the community college. The community college automatically awards the degree and notifies the student; in some cases, the students are allowed to participate in the community college commencement ceremony. As of fall 2013, 12 Oregon community colleges had initiated reverse transfer programs with their university partner.

Examples

- University of Texas – El Paso and El Paso Community College
- Currently in development in Hawaii, Tennessee, New Hampshire and Oregon

For Additional Information

- [OUS Summary](#) of the Reverse Transfer Program
- Inside Higher Ed [article](#) on reverse transfer initiatives

Career Pathways

Description

Sometimes called “stack credentials”, career pathways are a series of courses that lead to various credentials; each credential builds upon the skills learned in the previous credential and leads to an industry-specific, employable skill. Career Pathways focus on easing and facilitating student transition from high school to community college; from pre-college courses to credit postsecondary programs; and from community college to university or employment.

Examples and Additional Information

- [Alliance for Quality Career Pathways](#)
- [Oregon Career Pathways Initiative](#)
- [California Career Pathways Project](#)
- [Lane Community College](#)
- [Rogue Community College](#)

Awarding Certificates and Degrees

Description

Research indicates that automatically awarding certificates or degrees without having the student apply increases an institution's completion rates. With the advent of career pathways and short-term certificates, institutions have recently shifted the practice of automatically awarding from the student's "end" certificate or degree to automatically awarding shorter-term certificates as students progress to their end academic goal. The rationale behind this is that supporting by research indicating that if students reach a specific milestone (e.g., a short-term certificate), s/he is more likely to achieve the next milestone (e.g., a degree). This applies to both CTE programs, as well as the Oregon transfer module (OTM) and associate of arts – Oregon transfer (AAOT degree).

Examples

- [Columbia Gorge Community College](#)