



ARTICULATION & TRANSFER

FOR ARIZONA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
by the Arizona Board of Regents
and the Arizona Community Colleges

2015

ABOUT AZTRANSFER

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The AZTransfer Steering Committee is the coordinating body of Arizona's statewide articulation and transfer system, providing programs and resources that link the state's public and tribal community colleges and universities. AZTransfer projects support statewide goals to increase the number of degree completions in Arizona.

The AZTransfer Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from each state university, the Arizona Board of Regents, and from Arizona's rural, tribal, and urban community colleges. Resources to support these efforts are generously provided by the Arizona Legislature and Arizona's public and tribal community colleges and three universities.

STEERING COMMITTEE

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Pauline Entin, *Northern Arizona University*
Gail Burd, *University of Arizona*

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Mark Denke

COMMUNITY COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

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Scott Farnsworth, *Yavapai College*

TRIBAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

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Juana Jose, *Tohono O'odham Community College*

STAFF

Helena Babiski
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Tracy Salter
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VISION MISSION AND VALUES

VISION

College degree pathways are accessible to all Arizonans.

MISSION

The AZTransfer Steering Committee, an organization of academic leaders, supports successful application of transfer credits leading to degree completion for students in all public and tribal higher education institutions in Arizona.

VALUES

The decisions and actions of the AZTransfer Steering Committee demonstrate:

- Our purpose is to promote and support student academic success;
- Our leadership is transparent, collegial, collaborative, and proactive;
- Our decision making is data-informed and outcome-focused;
- Our fiscal stewardship is financially responsible and goal-oriented.

OUR CHARGE

OUR CHARGE

In 1996 the Arizona Legislature charged the state's universities, community colleges, and Board of Regents to collaborate to develop ways for students to seamlessly transfer from community colleges to universities. The Academic Program Articulation Steering Committee (APASC) was formed as the cooperative body to carry out this charge. APASC now uses the name AZTransfer Steering Committee to bring more visibility and public understanding to the important work of transfer and articulation in Arizona.

AZTransfer's vision is that college degrees are accessible to all Arizonans. We support the successful application of transfer credits leading to degree completion for students in public and tribal higher education institutions in Arizona. Our primary focus is reducing time and cost to degree by maximizing the alignment of college credits and degree programs. We simplify the transfer process by removing the traditional barriers that students have historically faced when moving from a community college to a university.

In accordance with ARS 15-1824, the AZTransfer Steering Committee, on behalf of the community colleges and the Arizona Board of Regents, prepares an annual report to the legislature on the progress toward improving articulation and transfer. This report presents major accomplishments in 2014-15 and a brief description of activities and tools used in the Arizona transfer system.



VINCENT REDHOUSE GRADUATED WITH HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA IN 2015 AFTER TRANSFERRING FROM PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE. VINCENT EXPLAINED, "STARTING AT PIMA TRULY DID HELP ME: NOT JUST BY HELPING ME UNDERSTAND THAT COLLEGE WAS SOMETHING THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME COULD DO, BUT ALSO IN THAT IT SAVED ME MONEY, AND ALLOWED ME TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE WITH MY COURSE LOADS."

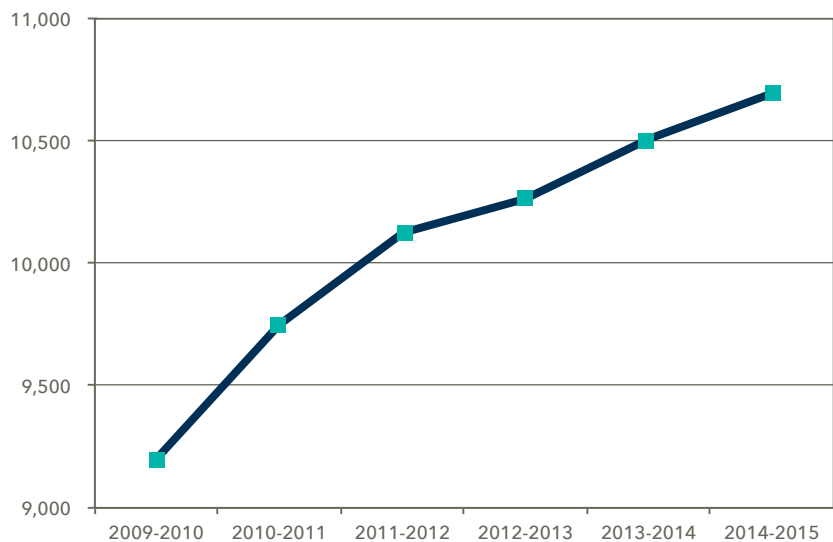
MAKING AN IMPACT

Meeting the higher education needs of our state and increasing college degree attainment are priorities for AZTransfer. Our goal is degree completion at both the associate and bachelor's degree level and we know that we are influencing student behavior in the right direction. National and statewide student success data show that community college transfer students are more successful in terms of GPA attainment, second year university retention, and university graduation rates, if they complete an associate's degree first before enrolling at the university.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, 10,696 Arizona community college students entered Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona (figure 1). This is an increase of 16.2% since 2009-2010.

FIGURE 1

NEW TRANSFERS FROM ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGES



Students are Completing More Credits Before Transferring

Since 2009-2010, students completing the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC)¹ and a transfer associate degree prior to transfer have increased by 49.3% through 2013-2014. The percentage of students transferring with a completed associate of arts (AA), associate of business (AB), or associate of science (AS) degree has risen more than 10 percentage points. Conversely, over that same time period, transfers with an associate of applied science (AAS) or associate of general studies (AGS) degree have decreased 5%, and the number of students transferring with 35 or fewer credit hours has decreased almost 3%.

In addition to an increase in the number of students transferring from our community colleges to our universities over the past five years, transfers in the 30 or older age group have increased 36.2% over the same time period.

¹The Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) is a block of courses totalling 35-37 credit hours that, upon successful completion, transfers as a block and guarantees students admission to the Arizona public universities.

FIGURE 2

NEW TRANSFERS FROM ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CREDITS TRANSFERRED AT ENTRY

	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
TOTAL NEW AZCC TRANSFERS	9,201	9,749	10,128	10,267	10,507	10,696
TRANSFER HOURS AT ENTRY						
12 TO 23 HOURS	8.7%	8.5%	7.2%	7.2%	7.0%	7.1%
24 TO 34 HOURS	10.4%	10.7%	8.3%	8.0%	8.5%	8.9%
35 TO 59 HOURS	34.8%	33.6%	33.0%	30.8%	30.3%	30.5%
60 OR MORE HOURS	46.1%	47.2%	51.5%	53.9%	54.2%	53.5%
ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE AT TRANSFER	45.3%	48.7%	54.0%	54.8%	54.1%	N/A
AGEC ONLY AT TRANSFER	7.0%	5.7%	5.9%	5.2%	5.3%	N/A



41.6%

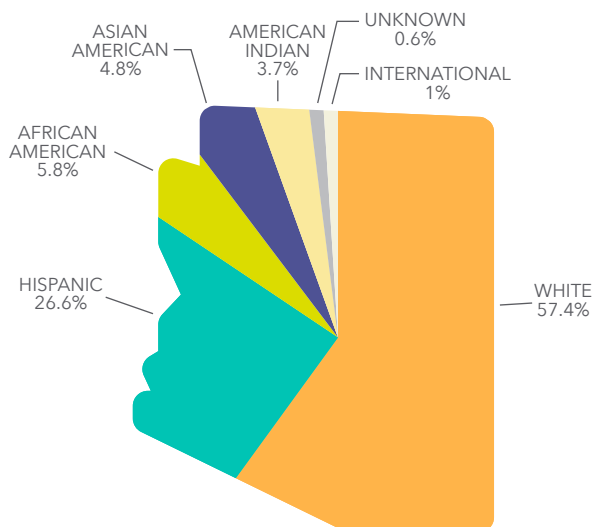
of all new community college transfers were ethnic minorities in 2014-2015.

New Transfer Students Reflect Arizona's Ethnic Diversity¹

AZTransfer and Arizona's postsecondary institutions serve an ethnically diverse set of students (figure 3). Transfer students represent a broad cross section of our state's population with ethnic minorities accounting for 41.6% of new community college transfers in 2014-2015. The number of 2014-15 transfers who were Hispanic increased 10.3% over the prior year, to almost 27% of the 2014-2015 transfers².

FIGURE 3

NEW TRANSFERS FROM ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGES ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION 2014-2015

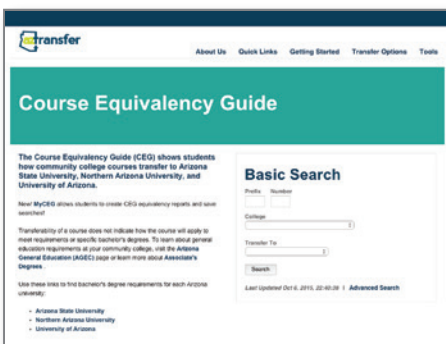


¹According to the 2014 U.S. Census, 26.4% of Arizona's 18 and older population is Hispanic.

²The number of Hispanic new transfers in 2013-2014 was 2,579 and the number in 2014-2015 is 2,846.



KARAH FLAKE (LEFT) EARNED HER ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN NURSING FROM NORTLAND PIONEER COLLEGE AND IS PURSUING HER BACHELOR'S OF SCIENCE IN NURSING FROM ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY. TRANSFERRING AND BECOMING A SUN DEVIL IS PART OF HER FAMILY TRADITION. "MY FAMILY LOVES THE SUN DEVILS. MY KIDS LOVE TO VISIT THE CAMPUS. THEIR DAD GRADUATED FROM THERE. NOW, THEIR MOM WILL GRADUATE FROM THERE. THEY CAN'T WAIT TO GO THERE," KARAH SAID.



THE COURSE EQUIVALENCY GUIDE ON AZTRANSFER.COM INDICATES TRANSFERRABILITY OF COURSES OFFERED AT ARIZONA'S PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

PREPARING THE PIPELINE

AZTransfer is uniquely positioned to serve a diverse set of populations, including currently enrolled community college students, high school students planning to attend college, and adults hoping to return to college to complete their degrees.

As educators, we advocate for early and informed decision-making by targeting high school students to ensure they can take full advantage of AZTransfer resources before they enroll at a community college. We recognize the growing popularity of dual-enrollment among high school students and believe that this is most efficiently done when students know how those courses will transfer and count towards both associate and bachelor's degrees.

Collaboration with other state and local organizations has been critical to communicating our tools and services widely. We seek to be integrally involved with community groups with similar goals to increase college access and degree completion. AZTransfer has worked closely with the Arizona Department of Education to integrate key information about college degrees and careers into the Arizona Career Information System (AZCIS) to provide consistent information to K-12 students, counselors, and administrators. Through this cooperative effort, middle and high school students can now access the most current and accurate information available about college and career planning.

PROVIDING TOOLS TO SUPPORT TRANSFER

AZTransfer.com is a free e-advising website designed to assist students, counselors, and advisors with making informed decisions about academic pathways and future careers. From this website, students can access online self-service tools to compare university degree program options, find equivalent courses at their local community college, and confirm that they are on the right pathway.

AZTransfer tools and services are publicly available and do not require a subscription or an account to access information. Many students are introduced to AZTransfer by their high school counselors or career advisors during the college application process, dual enrollment or AP/IB/CLEP tests. Community college and university academic advisors typically walk students through these tools promoting their value and applicability during regular advising and counseling appointments as students register and enroll in classes.

Two of the most popular tools on AZTransfer.com are the Course Equivalency Guide (CEG) and the Exam Equivalency Guide (EEG). The CEG is a database of courses offered at Arizona's public postsecondary institutions and defines how those courses are accepted for credit at ASU, NAU, and UA. The EEG indicates how a variety of test scores count for credit at any Arizona public community college and university.

Many students may not even be aware that they are using our tools and services as many of our initiatives occur behind the scenes and

function as influencers of policies, processes, and procedures that benefit students transferring from Arizona community colleges into the state universities. The Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) was developed and is managed through the Arizona transfer system. This package of 35-38 credit hours managed by each community and tribal college covers the basic general studies coursework required for an associate degree. When a student completes the AGEC and then transfers to a university, all of the lower-division general education requirements are automatically satisfied. AGECS are embedded within all of the transfer associate degrees so that students can transfer with confidence knowing that their coursework will transfer to the university.

PROMOTING AND FACILITATING COMMUNICATION AMONG EDUCATORS

AZTransfer's organizational structure is built around multi-institutional collaboration throughout all of our committees and workgroups. By bringing all 15 public higher education institutions together, AZTransfer is well-positioned to implement meaningful change to positively impact the student transfer experience. It is a point of pride for AZTransfer that each of our 50+ committees has at least one representative from each of Arizona's partnering institutions.

AZTransfer relies heavily on faculty participation from all colleges and universities to ensure alignment of college credits and degree programs. We manage 41 discipline-specific Articulation Task Forces (ATFs) comprised of over 1,700 individual participants who meet annually to discuss curriculum and articulation issues. ATFs serve as a forum for public community colleges and universities to exchange articulation information in a timely manner in order to participate actively in the ongoing excellence Arizona transfer system. ATFs agree on articulated courses, review transfer agreements, and align equivalencies for test scores. Recommendations are made to AZTransfer staff members, who then include any changes or documentation on all web sites and tools. These faculty groups ensure that students have opportunities to transfer seamlessly between institutions across the state without fear of losing credit hours.

Each partnering institution has designated an ATF Facilitator who has responsibilities at both the institutional and statewide levels for managing the operational procedures supporting transfer articulation in Arizona. ATF Facilitators provide oversight and coordination of processes and procedures related to ongoing maintenance of course equivalencies and transfer tools, and also ensure that institutional faculty and staff are familiar with the Arizona transfer system.

Each year, AZTransfer convenes more than

1,700

faculty representing

41

academic disciplines.



AZTRANSFER FACILITATORS AT THE ANNUAL TRAINING RETREAT IN FLAGSTAFF, AZ.



CHARMAINE CURLEY IS A COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT IN THE CCC2NAU PROGRAM PURSUING A BUSINESS DEGREE. "IF IT WASN'T FOR CCC2NAU, I WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN WHAT DEGREE WOULD TRANSFER EASILY TO NAU," CHARMAINE SAID.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

AZTransfer's systems and tools have provided a solid foundation from which community colleges and universities can work together to develop degree pathways for student academic and career planning. Transfer pathway programs allow students to transfer seamlessly from their community college to their desired university in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Each state university has designed pathway programs in partnership with Arizona community colleges to offer students a smooth transition to the university.

Arizona State University offers the Maricopa to ASU Pathways Program (MAPP) to students at Maricopa Community Colleges and the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) to students transferring from the other community colleges statewide. Through MAPPs and TAGs, students follow a prescribed sequence of course work that meets the lower-division requirements for an ASU major and guarantees admission into the degree program at the university.

Northern Arizona University's 2NAU program offers joint admission to NAU for community college transfer students while completing an associate's degree at an Arizona community college. Students can pursue a bachelor's degree locally in their community, online, or in Flagstaff.

The UA Bridge is a partnership between several Arizona community colleges and the University of Arizona that provides a path to pursuing a bachelor's degree. The program provides participating students with dedicated university transfer staff, peer mentors, and exclusive events for pre-transfer services and resources.

University and community college collaborations continue to be supported by the efforts of faculty and staff throughout the ATFs and the statewide transfer degrees.

SETTING THE STANDARD

The Arizona transfer model has received continued national visibility through participation in a number of professional organizations and conferences. AZTransfer was well-represented at the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS) annual conference in Atlanta, GA in February 2015. AZTransfer's Director of Technology was honored with the Bonita C. Jacobs Transfer Champion award and participated in the Transfer Champions Panel during a plenary session of the conference. Our Director of Marketing & Communications presented the session "Essentials of Transfer Marketing and Outreach: Strategies to Promote Transfer Opportunities on a Limited Budget" sharing our successes with transfer leaders and professionals from across the country. The session on transfer marketing was also presented in July 2014 at the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) Transfer and Technology Conference.

As a result of this visibility, educational organizations in multiple states have reached out to AZTransfer to learn more about Arizona's successes with transfer students. We have met with teams from Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, and Washington to share details about our history, organizational structure, and ongoing efforts to drive the transfer agenda in Arizona.

We are proud of the work that is done in Arizona and are pleased to be recognized and valued by others across the country.



JANET MARLING (LEFT), EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NISTS, PRESENTS REBECCA MCKAY (RIGHT) WITH A 2015 BONITA C. JACOBS TRANSFER CHAMPION AWARD.

A FOCUS ON PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

AZTransfer is highly dependent on the faculty and staff at each of our universities and community colleges. To share best practices amongst constituents, AZTransfer has developed and hosted the AZTransfer Summit, a one day conference with both national and local speakers as well as presentations provided by our state's transfer leaders. Nearly 200 individuals attended the Summit in 2015.

In a post-conference survey, 88% of the respondents rated the Summit as "Excellent" or "Very Good" compared to similar events and over 94% of the survey respondents indicated they would recommend this Summit to others. Additional feedback in the survey supported the appropriateness of session content, appreciation for the ability to connect with colleagues from different institutions, and the overall usefulness of the Summit in furthering transfer initiatives in Arizona. One attendee commented "Attending the Summit helped refocus me on why I do the work that I do and how important community colleges are to the students and communities we serve." Another participant commended AZTransfer's ability to convene transfer leaders from throughout Arizona to discuss issues, "I haven't been to many statewide conferences that really do draw almost all the people to the table."

The AZTransfer Steering Committee is planning the Third AZTransfer Summit to be held April 21-22, 2016.

STRENGTHENING INFORMATION AND DATA ACCESS

The Arizona State System for Information on Student Transfer (ASSIST) is a relational database containing enrollment and degree information on students attending Arizona's public universities and community colleges. The information is made available to participating institutions through a statewide data warehouse. ASSIST provides information to assess the effectiveness of the Arizona transfer model. AZTransfer continues to support the use of data for all Arizona colleges as they work to improve the transfer student experience.



JOEY RUIZ, MELISSA WELKER, AND LESLIE MITCHELL OF NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY AT THE SECOND ANNUAL AZTRANSFER SUMMIT.



REPRESENTATIVES FROM NEARLY ALL AZTRANSFER INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED THE SECOND ANNUAL SUMMIT ON APRIL 17, 2015.



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