

Transfer Evaluation Technical Priorities

Context:

With our legacy student information system (myWCU), we had significant automation and workflows to support the evaluation of transfer credits for students and the establishment of transfer credit equivalencies.

The implementation of RamPortal has established technical debt as it did not include the same level of automation and workflows for transfer support.

Definition/clarification:

Evaluations are typically done for two populations-

- 1) Admitted/deposited/matriculated students: Students who have already been admitted to the university.
- 2) Applicants not yet admitted.

System Limitations: There are a few system limitations that factor into this conversation:

- Students are issued a RamPortal account at the point of admissions decision.
- WCU currently has no mechanism in place to grant applicants (students who have applied but are not yet admitted), access to RamPortal.

Proposal:

We are working on shared priority for addressing this technical debt. The below table lists the functionality that existed in the legacy system, and that requires prioritization to rebuild.

Technical Need to address Desk	Legacy Functionality	Context/Dependencies	Proposed Priority
Admitted onward student communication automation	In myWCU there was an automated process whereas a student is notified via email when their evaluation was complete. The email included an attached PDF of the transfer credit evaluation, and their DPR which showed how their transferred credits apply to their WCU program.	Currently the Registrar's Office is doing a manual communication process. This work is time consuming and has to occur after-hours which is unsustainable.	First Priority
Advisor communication of evaluation for admitted students	In myWCU there was an automated process whereas a advisors/chairs are notified via email when their students'	Currently there is no process in place to notify advisors/chairs when evaluations are	First Priority

	evaluation was complete. The email included an attached PDF of the transfer credit evaluation, and their DPR which showed how their transferred credits apply to their WCU program.	complete. This is needed to help advisors/chairs know when registration support is needed because evaluations are complete.	
Manual build of equivalencies without OnBase API	In myWCU there was an automated process that built transfer credit equivalencies (i.e. BIO 100 from DCCC = BIO 110 from WCU). During the implementation of RamPortal we had to pause all building of equivalencies.	We need to resume building equivalencies. This is essential to begin to trouble shoot limitations with the RamPortal equivalency framework. We will resume this work via a manual process without any automation. This will require isolated staff resources.	First Priority. Will start building equivalencies that have come through Transfer Credit Appeals.
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Review of transfer credit for applicants, not yet admitted.	To promote student yield, WCU adopted a proactive practice where we could review transfer credit evaluations for applications who have not yet admitted.	At this time there is no way to communicate evaluation information to applicants, which makes the evaluation of transfer credits ineffectual.	Second Priority. To begin when the first priority items are complete.
Communication of evaluations to applicants	In myWCU there was an automated process whereas a student is notified via email when their evaluation was complete. The email included an attached PDF of the transfer credit evaluation, and their DPR which showed how their transferred credits apply to their WCU program.	Currently there is no process in place to notify applicants when evaluations are complete.	Second Priority. To begin when the first priority items are complete.
Onbase TCE3 for Department coordination/input on establishing course equivalencies.	WCU leverages OnBase to identify courses students are bringing into WCU in which there isn't a previously established equivalent course. OnBase would then automatically create an equivalency form that would workflow to academic departments to establish a	Reimplementation of TCE3, the workflow of equivalency evaluation, will require significant work with the OnBase partners and must be timed within the OnBase Cloud Upgrade project.	Third Priority- will establish a timeline after priority 1 & 2 are in place.

	WCU equivalency. This automation was critical to the work of establishing equivalencies to promote transfer of credit.		
Automated build of course equivalencies from the OnBase workflow	After a chairperson indicates a WCU equivalent course for an external course, OnBase would then integrate directly with myWCU to automatically build the equivalency.	Building this API is not included in base support from OnBase or Ellucian and needs to be custom built. This work will need to be timed with the Onbase Cloud Upgrade project.	Third Priority- will establish a timeline after priority 1 & 2 are in place.
Transfer credit estimator (EAB tool)	The Transfer Credit Estimator is designed for prospective students to input their prior learning classes, and get a summary of how their transfer credits. This tool is pulling data from the Student Information System so needs to be reconnected to RamPortal.	When students enter their prior learning credit, there is an opportunity to request an evaluation of an external course if there is not a pre-established equivalency already in place. We are concerned about re-implementing this tool without the TCE3 tool in place to review/establish equivalencies.	Fourth Priority- will establish a timeline after priority 1 & 2 are in place.