

Seneca College Degree and Credit Transfer: Leadership Demonstrated

Presenter: Charlene Taylor, Degree & Credit Transfer Co-ordinator



AGENDA

- Introduction
- Seneca College Degree Transfer Office
- Challenges
- Future Goals
- Sharing Exercise
- Q&A

Degree & Credit Transfer History

- Office opened in 2001 after research pointed to a gap in the provision of information for students.
- In 2000 only 19% of students indicated university as a planned activity after graduating. By 2005 that number had jumped to over 40%, surpassing the percentage of those planning to directly enter the workforce.

History cont'd

- Department moved from Student Services reporting structure to academic area under the School of Liberal Arts & Academic Partnerships.
- Seneca continues today to be a recognized leader in the transfer field, both in the GTA and abroad.

Mission

- Focus is not on the numbers of agreements, but on comprehensive student advising, advocacy, and careful assessment of pathways that demonstrate affinity, quality, and uniqueness.
- Final decisions are based on what is best for students and the provision of realistic educational choices.

Current Challenges

- Serving a large and diverse community spread 4 major campuses (90,000 part-time students, 17,000 full-time);
- Addressing volume concerns with regard to pathways and partnerships in a provincial and national climate;
- Advising students from a career counselling perspective when they would like to change their educational goals, but have not conducted research, self-assessment, or some form of vocational testing;
- Dissemination of transfer information to student base and 'demystifying the process'.

Degree Transfer Office – 2012/2013

Advisement – 354 one-to-one advisement appointments, in addition to phone/email advisement (Estimate of over 1000 one-to-one appointments annually)

Events – University & Degree Information Fairs (3 per year), Campus Visits, Fast Track Days, University Caravans, Admission Celebration Events

Agreements/Articulations – Ongoing partnership development and information management

Degree Transfer Office – 2012/13

Application Support – OUAC Labs

Marketing – Twitter, Facebook, Blackboard
Announcements, Email Blasts, Chair/Faculty Support,
Class Announcements, Campus Posters, Open House,
Diploma to Degree

Student Options

- **Degree Guide** – Seneca College has negotiated and/or articulated Degree pathways at over 57 educational institutions in Canada, the U.S., and abroad
 - Canada – 110
 - United States – 42
 - Abroad – 64

Transcripts Sent to Ontario Universities

INSTITUTION	2012
York University	838
Ryerson University	884
University of Toronto	321
UOIT	277
University Guelph	145
Lakehead University	161
McMaster University	100
Brock University	122
University of Western Ontario	24
Wilfrid Laurier University	92
University of Windsor	88
Trent University	92
University of Ottawa	69
University of Waterloo	64
Carleton University	67
Nipissing University	35

Top 8 Choices – Jan. to Dec. 2012

Institution Name	# of Students
York University	229
Ryerson University	126
Seneca College	40
University of Toronto	32
UOIT	24
Griffith University	10
University of Guelph	7

Demonstrating Leadership

- Expand and strengthen partnerships with GTA and Ontario Universities
- Continue to develop and promote Seneca College Degree Pathways (ie. Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies)
- Continue to promote and monitor pathways to graduate studies for Seneca Degree graduates

Demonstrating Leadership

- Ongoing review of current agreements for relevancy and credit value
- Ensure agreements continue to demonstrate creativity and uniqueness, providing exciting and realistic options for Seneca College students

Future Goals

- Expand student advisement capacity
- Increased role representing the interests of the College with the ONCAT website – pathways, partnerships and credit transfer
- Development of a partnership team to support the Chair and Vice-President in building agreements, both bilateral and multilateral
- Facilitate internal transitions from College Diploma to Degree Programs

<http://www.senecac.on.ca/degreetransfer/students/seneca-degrees.html>

10 Minute Exercise

- **Step 1** - Move into groups of 3 and discuss challenges related to the presentation content within your own institutions and possible 'solutions'.
- **Step 2** – Designate an individual to record challenges and solutions.
- **Step 3** – Submit to facilitator who will summarize findings and share with attendees through ONCAT website.

Q & A

Visit our Degree Transfer Website @

<http://www.senecac.on.ca/degreetransfer/students/>

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The following notes were taken from the end of the presentation exercise where attendees were asked to discuss their institutional success, challenges and possible solutions related to the degree transfer process.

When a department is providing transfer credit services, there are two distinct roles and two different sets of skills required. The roles are connected to articulation agreement development and student advisement.

Questions to consider: How does one develop the skills required for each role? How does an institution ensure consistent and high level of advisement services?

Tracking of articulation agreements can be challenging.

Transfer credit assessment timing can be lengthy. The timing is not predictable.

It is difficult to identify reliable sources of information for effective student advising. We need to ensure all of the information provided to students is accurate.

The changing nature of agreements means that it could change while students are in-progress. This could be facilitated by a program discontinuation or change in curriculum.

Access to course outlines, both past and present, may not be straight forward. The possible solution would be to centralize an on-line database to be accessible by all staff, students, and faculty.

The language used within and across institutions may be different and hold different meanings. One solution would be to work together across the province to define the terms we commonly use to speak to students searching for post-secondary pathways.