Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome and thank you for attending the Washington Transfer Degree 101 Webinar hosted by the Joint Transfer Council.
- My name is Julie and I am the Director of Policy and Academic Affairs for the Council of Presidents. Three panelists who will be presenting this afternoon and responding to questions and answers join me.
  - Debbie Crouch, Senior Associate Registrar, Seattle Pacific University
  - Janice DeCosmo, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs, University of Washington
  - Michael Singletary, Registrar, Whatcom Community College
- Let's find out who is in the audience. Using the Raise Hand function please raise your hand if you work at a:
  - CTC
  - Public four year institution
  - Private four year institution
  - State agency or organization
  - The Legislature
- Before we get started a little bit of housekeeping
  - We will answer questions at the end of the presentation. To ask questions please use the Q&A feature to type your question. At the end of the presentation I will read the questions and our panelists will respond.
  - The webinar will be recorded and posted to YouTube to share. Each of you will receive an email with information about how to obtain a recording of the webinar in the next day or so.
  - Are there any questions before we begin?

Background

- For more than 45 years Washington's public baccalaureate institutions; community and technical colleges; and private, nonprofit four-year colleges and universities have worked together to provide students with clearly identified, direct pathways from two- to four-year institutions.

- The backbone of the transfer system in Washington state is the Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) associate degree, which generally satisfies the lower division general education requirements at all of the state baccalaureate institutions and most of the private, nonprofit schools. The collaboration that established the DTA also led to the development of the commonly accepted Associate of Science –
Transfer (AS-T) degree in 2000. In the years following, Washington's higher education institutions have developed several major related programs (MRPs) that are based on the DTA and AS-T degrees.

**Cast of Characters**

- Institutions in each sector (i.e. community and technical colleges and public, private nonprofit four-year) are the primary actors in the collaborative development and implementation of transfer degrees.
- Institutions collaborate through two multi-sector councils.
  - The Joint Transfer Council (JTC) is focused on developing new transfer degree pathways; monitoring and updating existing pathways, and establishing multi-sector transfer policy.
  - The Intercollege Relations Commission (ICRC), which is a part of the Washington Council on High School-College Relations, is focused on implementing and improving communication among universities and colleges, informing policy proposals, and identifying and helping to solve transfer problems.
- Each sector of higher education is represented by either a sector agency or organization.
  - The public, four-year institutions collaborate and are represented through the Council of Presidents.
  - The private, non-profit institutions collaborate and are represented through the Independent Colleges of Washington.
  - The community and technical colleges collaborate and are represented through the State Board for Community & Technical Colleges.
- The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) is a state agency that supports increased educational attainment in Washington. It is a convening and collaborative partner to the institutions.

**Key Terms**

- There are a number of key terms to understand when getting to know Washington’s transfer degrees.
- Some have already been shared, including DTA, AS-T and MRP.
- Here are some additional terms you should know
  - **BI**: Public or nonprofit private baccalaureate institution
  - **Council of Presidents**: An association of Washington’s six public baccalaureate degree granting college and universities. COP strives to be a common voice for the public baccalaureate sector and the most respected and trusted resource for decision makers on issues affecting public higher education.
Independent Colleges of Washington: The association of the 10 private, non-profit liberal arts based colleges in Washington. They include: Gonzaga University, Heritage University, Pacific Lutheran University, St. Martin’s University, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University, University of Puget Sound, Walla Walla University, Whitman College and Whitworth University.

State Board for Community and Technical Colleges: Governed by a nine-member, governor-appointed board responsible for administering the Community and Technical College Act and providing leadership and coordination for Washington state’s system of 34 public community and technical colleges.

Common Course Numbering: Common course numbering makes course transfer easy between and among Washington’s 34 community and technical colleges. Common courses are those courses delivered by a number of community and technical colleges that have official college catalog descriptions similar enough to be accepted as equivalent at a receiving two-year college for transfer purposes.

Credit in the Major: Credit that satisfies a major requirement.

General Education Credit/General University Requirements/Liberal Arts Core: General education, general university requirements and liberal arts core are terms that identifies a body of credit that provides students with a foundation of learning across a broad range of academic disciplines and cross-disciplinary skills such as research and critical thinking.

General Elective Credit: General elective credit is college credit. It allows students the opportunity to round out their degrees.

Getting to Know Washington’s Transfer Degrees

- Washington’s participating institutions of higher education rely on two statewide transfer agreements to facilitate transfer from two-year institutions to four-year institutions: the Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) associate degree and the Associate of Science-Transfer degrees.

- The DTA provides students with a flexible and general transfer degree. More than 90% of transfer degrees complete are DTAs.

- The AS-T has two tracks (Track 1 and Track 2) that prepare students for math, science and engineering majors at the baccalaureate level.

- Students may choose to complete a generic DTA or AS-T degree, or they may choose to complete a Major Related Programs based on a DTA or AS-T. MRPs help students to choose courses within the general education distribution areas and their 30 elective credits that will help them prepare for a particular major. For instance, the Business MRP requires that students take Microeconomics and Macroeconomics to
fulfill 10 of the 15 Social Science credits required for the DTA. The MRP gives focus to students’ course selection within the framework of the associate degree.

What Washington's Transfer Degrees have in Common

• Though the DTA and the AS-T differ, they have some basic principles in common. Students who complete any of these transfer degrees at a Washington community or technical college will:
  • Enter a four-year institution with 90 transferrable quarter credits or 60 semester credits, and junior standing
  • Begin at the baccalaureate institution with a significant portion of the four-year degree completed.

What You Should Know, But Maybe Didn't About...

DTA

• The DTA carries different titles (such as Associate in Arts or Associate of Sciences) at the 30+ two-year institutions that offer the degree, so students do not always know what you mean when you mention the DTA
• The DTA is designed to complete the lower-division general education requirements toward most baccalaureate degrees at Washington's four-year colleges and universities.
• The DTA includes 60 quarter credits of general education courses
• The DTA includes courses that prepare students for classes in their major and electives
• The DTA, except when accompanied by the Nursing MRP or the Music MRP, is a 90 quarter-credit or 60 semester-credit degree.
• The DTA provides students with:
  o Completion of lower division general education requirements.
  o Opportunity to explore several fields of study through elective courses.
  o Opportunity to complete at least some prerequisites for a future major.
• All public four-year college and universities accept the DTA and most private nonprofit four-year institutions do as well.

AS-T

• The AS-T is focused on math and science courses for students preparing for a bachelor's degree in science and engineering.
• Fewer general education courses are taken compared to the DTA to allow for additional math and science at the community and technical college.
• The AS-T is not a DTA degree, and does not fulfill all lower division general education requirements in transfer.

• The AS-T offers two tracks:
  o Track 1: Biological Sciences, Environmental/Resource Sciences, Chemistry, Geology and Earth Science
  o Track 2: Engineering, Computer Science, Physics and Atmospheric Sciences

• The AS-T degree provides students with:
  o Completion of lower-division general education requirements in a distribution similar to that completed by baccalaureate engineering or science students in their first two years.
  o Opportunity to complete math and science prerequisites in order to transfer and begin upper-division work in the major.

• All public four-year college and universities accept the AS-T 1 and AS-T 2, and many private nonprofit four-year institutions accept one of these degrees, or both.

MRPs

• MRPs are course plans within the structure of either the DTA or AS-T.

• MRPS focus on specific majors that are offered at multiple four-year institutions, have significant prerequisites in the freshman and sophomore year, and are in high student demand.

• The Joint Transfer Council established a set of criteria to trigger the development of an MRP for a given major. An MRP is considered when:
  o The number of courses specified as preparation for the major and needed in the first two years is substantial.
  o Several institutions award the bachelor’s degree in the field.
  o A credit gap exists. That is: the total number of credits earned by transfer students who graduate is substantially higher than credits earned by students who started at a baccalaureate institution.
  o Most transfer students show a pattern of under-preparation.
  o The major is in high demand by students.

• There are ten active MRPs, eight based on DTA degrees and two with the AS-T 2 degree.

• MRPs that can accompany a DTA include:
  o Biology
  o Business
  o Computer Science
  o Construction Management
  o Math Education
  o Music
  o Nursing
  o Pre-Nursing
• MRPs that accompany the AST-2 are:
  o Engineering
  o Engineering Technology

• Each MRP has a different set of participating four-year colleges and universities.
• Four-year colleges and universities that do not sign-on to the MRP agreement for a DTA or AS-T will treat the degree as they would a DTA or AS-T degree without the MRP.

Understanding the DTA or AS-T Degree Agreements
• If you are interested in learning more about the DTA and AS-T including greater detail and the structure of the agreements there are two primary resources.
• The first is the Intercollege Relations Commission (ICRC) Handbook, which provides detail about the transfer agreements and the overall transfer framework in Washington.
• The second is the WSAC website which houses the current transfer agreements.

Introduction to the Associate in Applied Science – Transfer degree (AAS-T)
• The AAS-T is the Associate in Applied Science not to be confused with the AS-T, which is the Associate of Science-Transfer degree.
• The AAS-T is focused on students completing a professional technical program at a community or technical college.
• The AAS-T includes at least 20 general education credits
• The AAS-T may transfer but is limited
  o Some credits may transfer to a four-year institution or to a Baccalaureate of Applied Science (BAS) degree program.
  o The AAS-T may transfer as a degree to limited number of four-year institutions or BAS degree programs.
• It is critical that students connect with the four-year institutions or programs to determine transferability of the degree.

Introduction to the Associate in Applied Science (AAS)
• The AAS is focused on students who do not want to transfer but want to enter the workforce with a two-year degree.
• Areas of focus include but are not limited to accounting, marketing, business technology, nursing, computer science and advanced manufacturing
• In general, the AAS does not transfer to Washington’s four-year institutions. There are some institutions that may accept the degree if certain criteria are met. Students are encouraged to reach out to four-year institutions.
Common Questions

• Over the last 45 years some common questions and myths continue to rise around transfer in Washington.
  ▪ Is there a preference for the DTA or the AS-T?
    • They are both strong transfer degrees. Students should identify the degree that best meets their educational goals.
  ▪ Does either the DTA or AS-T guarantee admission to a four-year institution or admission into a major?
    • No. Admission to a four-year institution or major is not guaranteed. Institutions will apply the 90-quarter credits required to complete a DTA or AS-T to the credits required for a baccalaureate degree.
  ▪ Do students pursuing a DTA still need to focus on a major or area of focus?
    • Yes. Students should focus on a major or area of focus as early as the student is prepared in order to align their two-year pathway with their four-year year educational pathway.
  ▪ May four-year institutions require a higher GPA for admission than the 2.0 GPA required in the DTA or AS-T?
    • Yes and they may also require certain GPAs in certain courses.
  ▪ If an associate degree has the word “transfer” in the title, is it designated to fulfill the general education requirements at four-year colleges and universities?
    • No. Only degrees identified as the DTA are designed to meet all or most general education requirements at four-year colleges and universities.
  ▪ Do all associate degrees transfer?
    • No. The AAS-T has limited transfer and the AAS does not transfer.
  ▪ Do some of the MRPs require more than 90 credits.
    • Yes. The DTA/MRP in Nursing requires 135-quarter credits and the DTA/MRP in Music requires 101-104 quarter credits.
  ▪ Do Washington transfer students lose credits or take longer to graduate than a first-time, first-year student?
    • We do not consider credits earned as “lost” simply because they may not apply toward the degrees offered at all institutions students attend on the way to completing their educational goals.
    • However, Washington transfer students graduate with a bachelor’s degree with a similar number of total credits as those who start at four-year institutions as freshman.
• In fact, WA students transfer with an associate’s degree and earn bachelor’s degrees at much higher rate than students nationally. Washington ranks 1st in the nation for the average rate at which a CC student who transfers to a four-year institution earns a bachelor’s Do professional technical degrees transfer to four-year institutions?
• The credits earned and/or the AAS-T degree may transfer to specific programs at some of the four-year institutions or bachelor degree programs.
  ▪ Do AS-T degree earners fill all the lower division general requirements like DTA degree earners?
    ▪ No. AS-T degree earners do not because fewer lower division general requirements are taken to allow for more math and science at the two-year institution.
  ▪ Can students can transfer without a degree?
    ▪ Yes, however, credits are evaluated on a course-by-course basis. Students should determine the best transfer path to meet their educational goals by talking with both CTC and four-year advisors.

Resources

• There are several resources available to students, advisors, and institutions.
• The Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges website provides a breadth of information including policies, agreements and other resources
• Each of the four-year institutional websites include information with regard to admissions requirements, information for transfer students, and equivalency guides for community and technical college courses
• The Washington Student Achievement Council website provides information on the transfer degrees and Major Related Programs and additional resources.
  o WSAC also staffs the transfer liaison for Washington, where concerns can be shared and remedied.
  o WSAC holds all of the official DTA, AS-T and MRP agreements.

Questions & Answers

• Thank you Debbie, Janice and Michael.
• Now we will open it up to questions.