

## **Reverse Transfer Agreement**

### **State of Iowa Public Universities and Community Colleges**

#### **What is reverse credit transfer in Iowa?**

Reverse credit transfer is a partnership developed by the Board of Regents and Iowa's public universities in close collaboration with the Iowa community colleges to facilitate the transfer of credits back to one of Iowa's community colleges for the purpose of providing an opportunity for students to attain a degree, diploma or certification.

The agreement builds on the many existing collaborative arrangements between the institutions that promote the success of community college students as they transition to Iowa's public universities.

#### **How does reverse credit transfer work?**

Iowa community college transfer students have the opportunity to participate in the reverse credit transfer agreement. Community college students indicate their interest, at the time of application to the university, in applying future credits earned at the university toward the completion of their associate degree, diploma or certification.

By doing so, the student agrees to have his/her university transcript sent back to his/her community college while he/she is pursuing both his/her associate's degree and bachelor's degree. The community college will then evaluate this coursework to determine if degree, diploma or certification requirements are met. The community college makes the decision on whether a degree or other credential will be granted. Any credential will be awarded in the semester/year all final requirements are met.

The sending of the university transcript to the community college does not guarantee the granting of a degree or other credential. This is at the discretion of and subject to the degree and residency requirements of the community college, which is the degree granting institution.

#### **I am currently enrolled at one of Iowa's public universities, and previously attended an Iowa community college. Is this program available to me?**

Students who are currently enrolled at one of Iowa's public universities and who previously attended an Iowa community college may contact their university registrar to determine their eligibility for participation in the reverse credit transfer agreement.

#### **Will it cost me money to have my transcript sent from the university to the community college?**

The university will send the transcript free of charge.

#### **Am I guaranteed a degree from the community college?**

No. The courses you take at the university will be evaluated by your community college. You are encouraged to speak with an advisor at your community college to ensure classes will transfer back and fulfill the necessary requirements for degree completion.

The sending of the university transcript to the Iowa community college does not guarantee the granting of a degree or other certification. This is at the discretion of and subject to the degree and residency requirements of the community college, which is the degree granting institution.

### **How might I benefit from receiving a community college degree?**

An associate's degree is an important milestone in your education, as well as a valuable credential to have on your resume.

- Research shows that if you transfer with an associate's degree, you are more likely to complete your four-year degree.
- Through reverse transfer, you may earn your associate's degree while pursuing your bachelor's degree.
- Completing your associate's degree provides a more accurate and complete portrait of your educational attainment and can provide a more structured pathway toward further academic study.
- By completing your Associates of Arts degree, you may meet the general education requirements at the university. You are encouraged to speak with your advisor to discuss the details and explore your options.
- Getting your associate's degree will give you a sense of pride and achievement in earning a degree – which is yours for life.
- Earning an associate's degree, a diploma or certification provides another credential to include on your resume, which may help make you more competitive when applying for jobs and scholarships, and may also help you meet job qualifications/requirements.
- The associate's degree may open the door to good job opportunities, even while you're still working on your bachelor's degree.
  - Employers value the associate's degree as evidence of your commitment to expanding your knowledge and achieving your educational goals.
  - It's the nation's fastest-growing academic credential, and employers recognize its value when recruiting and hiring.
- An earned associate's degree may also open doors for career advancement.
- You may increase your potential for higher income with an associate's degree.
- Earning an associate's degree through reverse transfer ensures that you won't walk away empty-handed should you withdraw prior to completing a bachelor's degree.
- An earned associate's degree is an employable credential and provides a platform on which to build should you return to college for a bachelor's degree at a later time.
- You will have free transcript exchange between/among former and current schools during the reverse credit transfer program.

### **Can I participate in my community college's commencement ceremony after earning my degree?**

Yes. Simply work with your community college for information.

### **How do I receive my diploma?**

Each Iowa community college handles diploma delivery separately. Please contact the Office of the Registrar at your community college for specifics.

**If I graduate with an associate degree, does that mean I cannot return to the community college to take a class or pursue an additional degree in the future?**

No. You are eligible to pursue additional course work or degrees in the future.

**Can I change my mind about participating in the reverse credit transfer agreement?**

Yes. Contact your university registrar if you change your mind.

**Questions?**

Contact information is available at <http://www.transferiniowa.org/contact.php>.