

## **Some Ideas for Improving Transfer of Credits between Wisconsin Technical Colleges and UW-System Schools**

Better transfer is justified by the level of work completed and competencies WTCS students attain, and not because technical colleges' mission has changed or should change. Technical colleges' strength is the technical nature of the programs and should remain so. This fact, however, should not prevent WTCS students from receiving full faith and credit for UW degrees.

1. Lift the statutory cap on technical colleges offering "college transfer" courses without UW Regent approval. This does not change the WTCS mission or expand liberal arts transfer programs at technical colleges beyond Madison, Milwaukee, and Nicolet. It does mean that existing general studies courses at all technical college programs can transfer better. Lifting this cap will likely be proposed by Representative Rob Kreibich, (R-Eau Claire), Chairperson of Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee, and a longtime supporter of WTCS colleges and students. It will likely be supported by many other Assembly and Senate members. Here is the current law:

**36.31(1)** Wis. Stats. states: The UW shall not ... "without the approval of the technical college system board, broaden the system's post-high school training mission to include the preparation of persons for semiprofessional or skilled-trade occupations beyond those offered during the 1972-73 academic year. The technical college system board shall not, without the approval of the board of regents, broaden its system's collegiate transfer program offerings beyond those in existence during the 1972-73 academic year.

2. Require that UW institutions accept a block of general studies work from WTCS students/graduates as meeting general studies requirements toward bachelors degrees at the UW. This policy (not a statute) is already in place in both directions, and is honored by WTCS colleges accepting UW graduates. However, it does not appear to be fully implemented by UW institutions accepting WTCS graduates.

3. Thank legislators for their ongoing support of other efforts to assure transferability is improved between all post-secondary institutions. They have heard you and are responding!