

The Transferability of Credits between
The University of Wisconsin System
and
The Wisconsin Technical College System

Wisconsin Student Government 2004 Position Paper

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Wisconsin Student Government

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The Wisconsin Technical College System provides community based economic development, business and industry on –going career training, and accessible, affordable and accountable life-long educational opportunities. Each program leads to a degree which meets each institution’s mission and philosophy. Several of these courses or areas of academic discipline contain the same competencies and standards needed to obtain credit towards a four year degree. These courses should be transferable from system to system.

The two educational systems are of equal value when it comes to providing education. Each system has areas of instruction that complement an individual’s educational experience. The transferability of credit between The University of Wisconsin system and The Wisconsin Technical College system has gained ground over the past several years. Each system has faced increased enrollment and funding pressures, and in response to the current situations, our legislature increased the number of transferable courses to 30 credits. The liberal arts programs currently exist in three out of the sixteen technical college districts: Madison, Milwaukee and Nicolet Technical Colleges. In addition to offering the liberal arts programs, Wisconsin Student Government appreciates the recognition of similar course competencies. We as student delegates, ask: could there be more liberal arts programs provided as the geographic location of these schools can affect a students’ choice to continue on with their education to The University of Wisconsin system. The Wisconsin Technical College System has a history of effectively serving the place-bound adult student.

In May 2003, several legislators introduced Assembly Bill 366; this bill would allow more credits to transfer from institution to institution. As of January 2004, the bill remains in a remote mode. If any individual chooses to further his/her education, not only would it increase the transferability of credits, earning potential and quality of life, but it would be an advantage to

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the tax payers not to pay twice for the equivalent education and services. WSG student delegates need to remind local political leaders and legislative representatives that the realities of pursuing Assembly Bill 366 will benefit the state and its citizens for three specific reasons:

- 1.) If two-thirds of the classes required for an associate degree program were comparable, a student would have the opportunity to transfer credits and complete a baccalaureate degree in a considerable less amount of time. This would allow students to enter the workforce quicker and improve the workforce resources plus increase the tax base for the state of Wisconsin.
- 2.) The technical colleges supply the workforce for specific careers for Wisconsin's business and industry. This allows graduates to contribute to the tax base immediately after completing their WTCS education and/ or continue their career path through a four year institution.
- 3.) If Wisconsin taxpayers' were not paying for duplicated credits, the dollars saved could be re-directed to environmental issues, health insurance, welfare and technology upgrades.