

NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE®

2300 Dulles Station Boulevard, Suite 220, Herndon, Virginia 20171 ~ 703-742-4200 ~ www.studentclearinghouse.org

The National Student Clearinghouse and Reverse Transfer

What is the National Student Clearinghouse? The National Student Clearinghouse is a mission-driven, non-profit organization focused on serving the education community by facilitating the exchange and understanding of student enrollment and performance information. We partner with over 3,600 institutions of higher education, which together enroll 97% of students attending Title IV eligible U.S. colleges and universities to provide a variety of services that save the higher education community more than \$750 million each year, including enrollment reporting, degree verification, transcript ordering and delivery, and research services.

What is reverse transfer? Reverse transfer is the process of taking the credits a student has earned from a four-year institution sending it back to any two-year institution from which a student transferred in order to award a degree.

Why is reverse transfer important? Over sixty percent of the students who transfer across the country do so without a degree and over half of those students stop-out without completing a degree.

What challenges are present in the current system? FERPA's consent requirement presents a barrier for institutions seeking to enable reverse transfer. Institutions across the country have tried many methods of retrieving the consent with mixed results. Most institutions have to resort to emailing the student, which typically has less than a 20% response rate; research has established that students typically do not read a lot of their emails. Technological programming is necessary to develop a somewhat successful FERPA release for reverse transfer.

One common method for obtaining consent is utilizing the admission's application, which excludes currently enrolled students and requires programming. The admission application can be an efficient way to retrieve the consent. However, due to the fact that there are national admission applications, statewide applications and individual institution applications, capturing all eligible students is difficult to achieve. For more information on research into the consent methods, please see the research for the Credit When It's Due project white paper at: <https://www.luminafoundation.org/files/resources/optimizing-reverse-transfer.pdf>

What would be the impact if FERPA was amended? If FERPA is addressed there are a substantial number of students across the country who have the potential to have a degree through reverse transfer. Potential completers are a subset of the some college no degree population who enrolled in colleges and universities for a significant period but left without a degree or certificate. For purposes of the numbers provided below, potential completers were defined as those former students whose enrollments in colleges and universities over a ten-year period (2006-2016) added up to at least 2 academic years' worth of progress but had neither a certificate/degree nor enrollment in any postsecondary institution as of the academic year 2015-16. Potential completers are very close to earning some type of postsecondary credential and can make significant contribution to achieving the nation's college completion goals.

Is there a platform available to enable reverse transfer? The Clearinghouse's Reverse Transfer service is the only national solution to help students who cross public, private and state lines to participate in reverse transfer. It is a standardized, streamlined, and technologically enhanced process to enable four- and two-year institutions to transfer student credits more efficiently, securely, and successfully. The Clearinghouse is dedicated to aiding the education community in alleviating the work load of processing these students for degrees and therefore there are no fees for the service.

The total, nationwide number of potential completers is over 4 million, according to National Student Clearinghouse data. The following table shows the Potential Completers by state, according to National Student Clearinghouse data:

State	Potential completers who started enrollment in this state	Potential completers who started enrollment in this state & also enrolled in at least one other state (N)	Potential completers who started enrollment in this state & also enrolled in at least one other state (N) (%)	Potential completers who started in another state & also enrolled in this state
AL	71,581	16,311	22.8%	7,516
AK	6,164	1,365	22.1%	1,533
AZ	222,435	162,100	43.9%	18,656
AR	39,109	6,171	15.8%	3,767
CA	562,892	59,490	10.6%	26,812
CO	60,725	9,871	16.3%	11,144
CT	29,446	4,924	16.7%	5,525
DE	9,242	2,179	23.6%	2,001
FL	174,481	34,419	19.7%	17,820
GA	111,844	23,014	20.6%	12,271
HI	12,945	2,971	23%	2,611
ID	21,344	4,433	20.8%	4,162
IL	159,794	37,349	23.4%	14,425
IN	98,811	23,882	24.2%	9,272
IA	70,380	35,970	51.1%	5,379
KS	40,113	7,926	19.8%	5,512
KY	64,545	10,258	15.9%	6,314
LA	49,630	7,803	15.7%	4,703
ME	14,974	2,225	14.9%	1,775
MD	60,611	12,127	20%	13,120
MA	69,666	9,821	14.1%	10,122
MI	132,386	17,272	13%	8,631
MN	65,018	16,145	24.8%	11,772
MS	48,936	9,694	29.8%	3,502
MO	78,114	13,519	17.3%	11,050
MT	12,726	2,210	17.4%	2,175
NE	26,158	4,423	16.9%	4,322
NV	25,044	4,760	19%	5,335
NH	13,015	3,120	24%	7,215
NJ	85,934	11,042	12.8%	11,993
NM	30,974	4,678	15.1%	3,807
NY	257,423	27,803	10.8%	18,365
NC	136,204	20,644	15.2%	10,803
ND	8,907	2,375	26.7%	2,240
OH	148,769	24,835	16.7%	12,731
OK	48,290	7,260	15%	6,296
OR	56,897	7,876	13.8%	8,921
PA	131,406	22,824	17.4%	12,097
RI	16,699	7,307	43.8%	1,626
SC	57,670	11,584	20.1%	5,890
SD	7,250	1,609	22.2%	1,482

TN	62,260	12,230	19.6%	8,405
TX	289,894	31,285	10.8%	23,925
UT	46,680	6,894	14.8%	11,218
VT	7,300	2,297	31.5%	1,608
VA	87,528	18,951	21.7%	16,864
WA	73,630	11,380	15.5%	8,035
WV	29,692	6,277	21.1%	9,532
WI	61,924	9,425	15.5%	5,529
WY	6,365	1,730	27.2%	1,224