

The following presentation was given at the 19th Annual Conference for the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students. In some cases, photos have been removed to avoid possible copyright infringement. Please cite responsibly and direct questions to the original presenter(s).

Educational Session

Leveraging Multiple Products for Integrated and Comprehensive Transfer in a Multi-Campus System

Partnerships and Collaboration, Matriculation Trends and Issues

Our Minnesota state system includes more than thirty colleges and universities with institutions in both urban and rural areas. This session will cover how the system uses technology to provide comprehensive and consistent transfer information to students and staff. Presenters will share best practices, successes, and challenges they have encountered in implementing and cultivating these tools in one of the largest college and university systems in the country.

Jessica Migler, *Assistant Director for Transfer*

Kelly Ponto Watrin, *uAchieve Planner and Schedule Builder Support Analyst*

Cassandra Levesque, *Degree Audit Support Analyst*

Marta Mohr, *Interim System Director for Transfer and Degree Audit Support*

Michael Olesen, *Project Manager*

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities



2021

NISTS 2021 Annual Conference | Virtual

Leveraging Multiple Products for Integrated and Comprehensive Transfer in a Multi-Campus System

This is us!

Marta Mohr has worked with academic programs and transfer at Minnesota State since 2008. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology and a Master of Arts in Counseling and has worked with a range of transfer students all the way from a small, rural college to a large system of colleges and universities serving over 340,000 students. Marta.Mohr@MinnState.edu

Jessica Migler joined Minnesota State as the Assistant Director for Transfer in 2018. She holds a Master of Science degree in Counseling and Student Affairs. Jessica has extensive experience working with both college and university transfer students. Jessica.Migler@MinnState.edu

Cassandra Levesque has worked within Minnesota State colleges and universities since 2010 and has been with the system office as the Degree Audit Support Analyst since 2017. Cassandra is a first-generation college student who holds a Bachelor's of Science in Marketing Communications and has personal experience being a transfer student. Cassandra.Levesque@MinnState.edu

Kelly Ponto Watrin joined the system office in 2019 to lead the implementation of the Graduation Planner and Schedule Builder applications. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Counseling and Psychological Services. She has worked within Minnesota State since 1998 at various colleges and universities and has held positions as a Career Counselor, Counselor, Transfer Specialist, and Academic Advisor. Kelly.PontoWatrin@MinnState.edu

Michael Olesen is a project manager specializing in large-scale higher education IT projects. He holds a Master of Science degree in Higher Education Administration. Michael has served as Director of the Rural Information Technology Alliance and Chief Information Officer for the University of Minnesota, Rochester. Michael.Olesen@MinnState.edu





MINNESOTA STATE

Minnesota State is a system of colleges and universities united to provide an extraordinary education that is affordable, accessible, enhances quality of life, and ensures prosperous communities.

Minnesota State is a system of 30 colleges and 7 universities on 54 campuses serving over 340,000 students.

Minnesota State is the 3rd largest system by enrollment in the United States.

MINNESOTA STATE
Extraordinary Education.
Exceptional Value.

MinnState.edu
For Minnesota to be successful in the future, we need a workforce that is skilled, innovative, and diverse. That's why we're committed to providing the highest quality education and training for all Minnesotans.

350,000+ students served each year	38,000+ degrees, certificates, and diplomas awarded each year	3,900 academic programs	87% job placement rate	lowest tuition in the state	endless opportunities
--	---	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------

7 universities, 30 state colleges, 54 campuses

<https://minnstate.edu/campusesprograms/index.html>





MINNESOTA STATE

Minnesota State is the largest provider of higher education in the state of Minnesota.

Since its founding in 1990s Minnesota State has existed to facilitate streamlined transfer of students between our institutions.

In order to facilitate transfer across this diverse system Minnesota State relies on both homegrown tools and tools from vendors.

- **Degree audit application**
- **Transfer evaluation workflow**
- **Web-based transfer equivalency displays**
- **Transfer-Review and Appeal System**
- **eTranscript and degree audit**
- **Graduation Planner and Schedule Builder**





MINNESOTA STATE



<https://www.minnstate.edu/Equity2030/index.html>





MINNESOTA STATE

The Equity 2030 Goal

Eliminate the educational equity gaps for first-generation students, low-income students, indigenous students and students of color at every Minnesota State college and university.



Today's session...

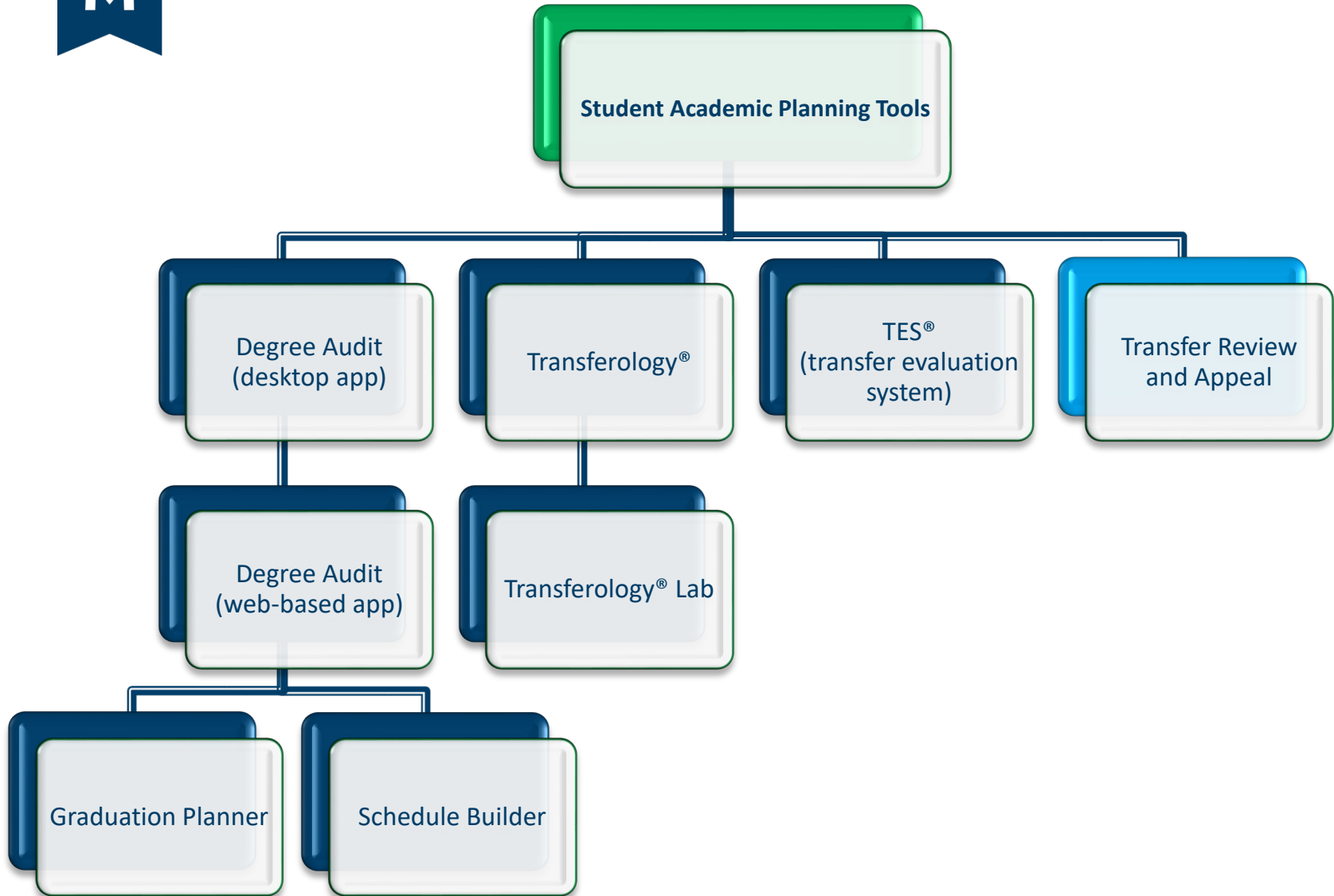
We will discuss how Minnesota State uses technology to provide comprehensive and consistent transfer information to students and staff across 54 campuses.

Presenters will share best practices, successes, and challenges they have encountered in implementing and cultivating these tools in one of the largest college and university systems in the country.





MINNESOTA STATE



Degree Audit Reporting System

Efficient and Effective Tool

- Program planning
- Graduation checking

Used By

- Students
- Staff: Advisors, Counselors, Faculty, Registrars

Accurate and Consistent Information

- Reduces risk of surprises for student when applying for graduation
- Reduces graduation processing time



Degree Audit Reporting System

Web-based Tool

- Students can login on any device
 - Can run degree audits for declared majors
 - Can run degree audits for “What-If” majors
- Students run 17,000 audits per month

Lists Degree/Program Requirements

- Courses that have been taken
- Courses that are still needed
- Transfer courses
 - How they transfer
 - How they apply to program
- Residency
- Different GPAs by graduation requirement such as:
 - Program required courses
 - Cumulative institutional
 - Cumulative college-level courses
 - MnTC/GenEd courses



DARS through eTranscript

SIS Tool

- Allows receiving institution to access student's degree audits from other Minnesota State sending institution(s)
 - Student must be admitted
 - Student must have had program declared in SIS at one point in time
- Allows staff to clearly determine which program requirements were met at sending institution
- Receiving institution staff will have access to:
 - Verification of MnTC Goal Area course completion
 - 10 Goal Areas
 - 40 credits minimum
 - Non-system institution course equivalencies
 - Progress toward degree program completion

DARS through eTranscript

SIS Tool

- Helps ensure that correct course goal areas are awarded to student at receiving institution
 - Reducing both student cost and time to program completion
- Assists in determining course equivalencies for all courses in general
- Admission Office benefits:
 - Easily able to determine the program the student was following at sending institution
 - Ensures transfer agreements, partnership, and Transfer Pathways are followed



Transferology®/Transferology® Lab

Web-based Tool

- Institutions provided with a license
- Equivalencies and degree audit carry over
- Users can see both how courses transfer and how they apply to a degree
- Also allows for communication
- Transferology Lab allows institutions to access information nationwide
- Transfer Pathway display
- Engagement up to each institution
 - Communication
 - Marketing
- Data
 - 9,375 audits were run last year
 - 1,754 accounts were created

Transfer Evaluation System (TES®)

Web-based Tool

- The Transfer Evaluation System is an online solution for researching credit, tracking evaluations, and managing equivalencies.
- **Research** – TES database houses millions of course descriptions, institution profiles, and a detailed history of catalog changes.
- **Evaluate** - The *Evaluation Tracker* in TES provides a convenient workflow for routing equivalency decisions to faculty. All user actions and the results of the process are stored for later review and to provide account administrators with a snapshot of the institution's responsiveness to transfer credit.
- **Manage Equivalencies** - Stage equivalencies between any number of courses, match to user-defined generic courses, proactively explore equivalencies using powerful algorithms that generate potential matches for you.

Transfer Review and Appeal

- When students determine that a course hasn't transferred correctly they use the tool in the student registration system to submit a review request
- Students can attach documentation to the request
- Tool allows communication between reviewer and student
- If review is denied students can appeal with the institution
- If the appeal at the institution is denied the appeal goes to the system office
- Allows us to gather data on these appeals

Graduation Planner and Schedule Builder

Students and Advisors



- Planner uses existing degree audits
 - Personalized term-by-term plans
 - Define a clear path to graduation
 - Can be created independently by students and/or with advisors
- Create Roadmaps from audits
 - Guided pathways created by schools
 - Recommended sample plans
 - Complete in defined timeframe
- Create a plan from audits or roadmaps
- Validate against the degree audit to verify completion
- Push planned courses to Schedule Builder
- Built-in notes feature

Administrators

- True course demand is captured
- Aggregate data can be analyzed
 - Better meet student needs
 - More efficient use of faculty and facilities



Successes

- Minnesota Transfer Curriculum
 - Minnesota State 
 - University of Minnesota 
- Share Degree Audits
 - DARS through eTranscript
 - Receiving institutions can view degree audits for students from sending institutions electronically
- Reverse Transfer Reports
- Transfer Review and Appeal processes
- Establishing equivalencies in the databases

Challenges

- Geography
- Technical Colleges vs Community Colleges
- Open – Admission
 - “Swirling” students
- Unions: MSCF, IFO, MAPE, MSUAASF, AFSME
- Student Associations: Students United | LeadMN
- Being student ready
- Degree Audits
 - Each campus handles/encodes their own degree audits
 - Format/layout can vary between institutions
- Establishing equivalencies in the databases
- 37 individual institutions with varying campus policies

Best Practices

- MnTC General Education Package
- MnTC Goal Areas and Transfer Equivalencies
 - Clearly labeling which goal area(s) a course is in
 - Visible on Transferology
- Non-cluttered Degree Audit
 - No excess information
 - As clear as possible for the student
- Streamlined communication
 - Between campuses and system office
 - TES & Transfer Review and Appeal
- Direct equivalencies



MINNESOTA STATE

30 East 7th Street, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

651-201-1800
888-667-2848

www.MinnState.edu

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities.
To request an alternate format, contact Human Resources at 651-201-1664.
Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities may contact us via their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.
Minnesota State is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator.