Educational Session

2769 - Connecting Faculty to Transfer Student Success: Managing a Transfer Pathway Development Process
Credits and Degree Pathways, Partnerships and Collaboration

As institutions increasingly look to transfer enrollment to meet recruitment goals, they must simultaneously consider how to ensure an efficient pathway to a baccalaureate degree, which requires departments to include transfer considerations in curriculum decisions at the discipline level. Cross-institutional partnerships amongst faculty and staff are vital to this goal. Participants will learn how an award-winning transfer partnership manages a faculty-engaged pathway development process, including key factors that have supported the success of these efforts.

Elizabeth Bartles, Coordinator for Transfer Pathways and Prior Learning
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Northern Virginia Community College
Introduction

Liz Bartles
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George Mason University (Mason)

Dr. Casey Lukszo
Associate Director, Curriculum and Innovative Education
Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA)
Connecting Faculty to Transfer Student Success: Managing a Transfer Pathway Development Process

• Do you have established transfer partner(s)?
  - If not, how would you identify those partners and start building relationships?
  - If yes, what opportunities exist to strengthen the partnership(s)?

• Do you have existing transfer guide documents?
  - If not, what interest/capacity is there to create such documents?
  - If so, what needs are these documents serving and what needs are not met?
Institutional Contexts

Mason

- Total Enrollment: 37,677
- Undergraduate: 25,508

- Over 3,000 new transfer undergraduates per year

- 45% of undergrad pop. is transfer

- 90% of VCCS transfers are from NOVA

NOVA

- NOVA Total Undergraduate Enrollment: 69,427

- Over 60% of NOVA transfers go to Mason

In VA, articulation agreements are independent

Sources:
https://research.schev.edu/TR01.asp
Early Steps in Development of Pathways

Identify

Identify partners and create a cross-institutional understanding of common interests/goals

Develop

Work with partners to develop accurate, clear pathways

Communicate

Communicate pathways to stakeholders (advising, student services, dean’s level representatives, etc.)

Scale-Up

Once a solid process is established, scale-up efforts as needed

Assess & Refine

Assess student success and refine pathway requirements as needed
Pause to Reflect

• Do you have established transfer partner(s)?
  • If not, how would you identify those partners and start building relationships?
  • If yes, what opportunities exist to strengthen the partnership(s)?
**What’s on a pathway?**

**A.S. Business Administration**

**ADVANCE Program Milestones**

**ADVANCE Milestone Requirements:** All ADVANCE students must adhere to the following requirements. For Milestones #1-3, failure to meet these milestones will prevent a student from matriculating to Mason and/or result in termination from ADVANCE. For Milestones #4-#7, failure to meet these milestones may delay matriculation to Mason.

1. Students must complete their NOVA degree within 4 years of being admitted into ADVANCE. Students are highly encouraged to be continuously enrolled at NOVA/Mason to support progress towards degree completion.
2. Students must maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA at NOVA and must have a minimum 2.5 GPA upon matriculation to Mason.
3. Students who wish to enroll at Mason for the fall semester must apply for NOVA spring graduation by March 1 or summer graduation by June 1. Students who wish to enroll at Mason for the spring semester must apply for NOVA fall graduation by October 1.
4. Students must begin developmental coursework no later than the first semester in ADVANCE at NOVA.
5. Students must take first college-level MTH course and ENG 111 in the semester immediately following the completion of any MDE or EDE courses (excluding summer).
6. In the first 30 credits, students must complete ENG 111 and ENG 112 with a C or better.
7. Students must complete a Mason Core Quantitative Reasoning course equivalent with a C or better no later than one semester before NOVA graduation. Refer to your pathway to select the appropriate MTH course(s).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOVA DEGREE REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>MASON TRANSFER EQUIVALENT</th>
<th>MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 SDV Course</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>SDV 100 College Success Skills OR</td>
<td>UNIV 100</td>
<td>General Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SDV 101 Orientation to Business</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ENG 111</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENG 111 College Composition I</td>
<td>ENGH 101</td>
<td>Written Comm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking OR</td>
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**Comprehensive Degree and Equivalency Info**

**Degree Titles**

**Pathways Archive**

**Milestone requirements**
Pathway Examples

• ADVANCE: 23-24 pathways
• Transfer Virginia Transfer Guides (see specific example here)
• Floridia International University Transfer Guides
## ADVANCE Pathway Review Process Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Summit</td>
<td>Mid-October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review Round 1: NOVA Review and approval</td>
<td>December – February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review Round 2: Mason Review and approval</td>
<td>March – Mid-April</td>
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<td>NOVA Catalog Published</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathway Final Formatting for publication</td>
<td>Mid- April – Mid-May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mason Catalog Published</td>
<td>June 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathways published to web and available for students to select</td>
<td>June 10</td>
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Pathway Lifecycle: Faculty Engagement

• Mid-October Summit is strategic in catalog cycle
• Opportunity for NOVA and Mason faculty to discuss:
  • Issues and opportunities for engagement
  • Curriculum updates, course transferability
  • Patterns in students’ experience/success
  • Build trust, cultivate relationships
• Provided: draft pathway(s), a review checklist, and a facilitator/note taker.
Pause to Reflect

- Do you have existing transfer guide documents?
  - If not, what interest/capacity is there to create such documents?
  - If so, what needs are these documents serving and what needs are not met?
- Who are your transfer champions? Who is the first person you can speak with about transfer pathway development?
Factors Influencing Success

- Strong existing partnership
- High transfer traffic
- Physical proximity
- Leadership support
- FOMO
- Engaged faculty
- Dedicated staff at both institutions
Lessons Learned

- Project management is key; significant time investment
- Must have clear guidelines for pathway development and specific timeline for changes
- Document clarity requires considerable refinement
- **Faculty engagement = collaboration and troubleshooting**
- Student feedback:
  - Pathway document
  - Academic Coach
Engagement Activity

• Discuss your reflection answers with those in your breakout room
  • Based on my position and available support, what strategies might work best for my institutional context?
  • Develop three immediate steps you can take to develop or enhance your pathway process
• We’ll come back together to share/process
Resource
ASPiEN Transfer Playbook

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