

NISTS 2023

BE A CONNECTOR FOR TRANSFER STUDENT SUCCESS

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The following presentation was given at the 21st Annual Conference for the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students. Please cite responsibly and direct questions to the original presenter(s).

Educational Session

2797 - Making Transfer a Priority: Articulation Supports and Programming

Credits and Degree Pathways, Transition Programs and Supports

Governors State University is a small public university (<5,000) in south suburban Chicago where 90% of undergraduates are transfer students. Over the last 10 years, GSU has elevated its transfer pathways to include academic supports, co-curricular activities, and student success programming. Having these critical elements in place, when new initiatives call for more than just an articulation agreement, the question is not "How can we make this happen?" but rather "What MORE can be done?"

Jessica Specht, *Director of the Dual Degree Program*

Lisa Helm, *Director of Transfer and Persistence Initiatives*

Governors State University

Making Transfer a Priority: Articulation Supports and Programming

Presented by:

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Governors State
UNIVERSITY

A Little About GSU...

- Public university in University Park, IL (30 miles from Chicago)
- Minority-serving institution
- Less than 5,000 students (undergrad, grad, doctoral)
- Founded as an upper division and graduate university
- Started admitting first-year students in 2014 (max. of 270)
- Continues to be predominately transfer students at the undergraduate level (approximately 90%)



← *Scan to visit the Governors State University website!*

“Articulation” Is Our Middle Name

- Crafting traditional articulation agreements and transfer guides since the 1990’s
- Fortunate to be in IL and benefit from Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI)
- Posted on our website at www.govst.edu/transferguides
- Encourage both AA and AAS degrees (even a couple of certificates!)
- Moving to comprehensive planning guides that will provide both curricular and non-curricular information
- Utilizing Technology – Transferology, iTransfer, course database, and the Jaguar Transfer Credit Evaluator

3+3 GSU-SIU LAW SCHOOL PATHWAY



To Do's

Classes:

- FYS-1001
- COUN-1008
- ENGL-1000
- POLS-2100
- MATH
- SS GE

Activities:

- Add Pre-Law Minor
- Set Up LSAC Account at www.lsac.org
- Set up Khan Academy Account at [Khan Academy](http://KhanAcademy)
- Develop a LSAT study plan

To Do's

Classes:

- ENGL-1010
- POLS-2101
- Fine Arts
- Life Science
- CJUS-2360

Activities:

- Join a Club or Organization
- Attend virtual law school sessions
- Continue studying for LSAT

To Do's

Classes:

- COMM-1000
- POLS-2950
- PSYC-1101
- PHIL-1886
- CJUS-2100

Activities:

- Continue studying for LSAT
- Attend virtual law school sessions
- Meet with your advisor

To Do's

Classes:

- POLS-3150
- POLS Selective
- Physical Science
- Suggest ENGL-4100 and CJUS-3440

Activities:

- Consider attending a summer pre-law program
- Continue studying for LSAT
- Consider over the summer a first attempt at LSAT

To Do's

Classes:

- SOSOC-4500
- POLS Selective
- POLS Selective
- CJUS-3250 or 4465
- Elective (1)

Activities:

- Take LSAT
- Work on draft of personal statement
- Work on resume
- Speak with faculty about letters of recommendation

To Do's

Classes:

- POLS-4900
- POLS-4600
- POLS Selective
- POLS Selective
- Elective

Activities:

- Complete Law School Application by end of March.

To Do's

Classes:

To be selected with Law School Advisor

Activities:

- Apply for Graduation from GSU
- Remember to breath

To Do's

Classes:

To be selected with Law School Advisor

Activities:

- If you want to participate in GSU's Commencement - order cap and gown
- Submit official transcript to GSU at the end of the semester.
- Submit official bachelor's transcript to SIU after commencement.

Dual Degree Program (DDP)

- Partnership between GSU and 17 Illinois community colleges.
- Students may join DDP any time from enrollment to graduation at community college but are encouraged to join as early as possible.
- Students must maintain good academic standing (2.0+ GPA).
- Both full and part-time students are eligible to join.
- Students are provided with intensive advising throughout their experience in DDP, receive guaranteed admission to GSU with a locked-in tuition rate, and the have chance to compete for full tuition and fee scholarships at GSU.



← *Scan to visit the Dual Degree Program website!*

The Who & Why of DDP

Who were we seeking to help?

- Illinois residents
- First-Generation
- Pell Grant Eligible
- Underserved Populations
- Inclusive of all ages and genders
- Inclusive of all majors
- Inclusive of international students
- Inclusive of undocumented students (who are eligible for in-state tuition)

Proven strategies for student success:

- Promote the completion of associate degree
- Seamless study plan for associate-to-bachelor's programs
- Require continuous enrollment through the bachelor's
- Participate in transitional programming to create a diverse social network of peer support
- On-campus employment that builds leadership skills
- Offer need-based awards to overcome financial barriers
- Provide community-based service opportunities
- Create diverse social network of peer support

Complete College America (2011), Doyle (2006), and McGill & Lazarowicz (2022),

What We Do in DDP

Remove Financial Barriers

- Tuition Lock-In
- Application Fee Waiver
- Competitive scholarships exclusively for DDP students (both need & merit-based)

*Eligible Undocumented Students
Encouraged to Apply for Scholarships!*



High Touch Personalized Advising

- Required Check-In with DDP Transfer Specialist
- DDP Study Plan updated once a semester, based on college catalog and Transfer Guides
- Transfer Guides outline associate degree req's AND major prerequisites
- DDP Transfer Specialists are cross-trained to ensure students seamlessly move through the admissions processes to enrollment



Engage Early and Often

- Induction/orientation to DDP
- Cording Ceremonies at the completion of both the associate and bachelor's degree
- Back 2 School Socials & Student Org Fair
- National Transfer Student Week activities
- Annual Career & Scholarship Symposiums
- Monthly community service opportunities

Strategies & Student Supports

- General education is the same as the statewide IAI General Education Core Curriculum.
- DDP Transfer Specialists (advisors) and Undergraduate Academic Advising Center advisors receive joint professional development on working with transfer students.
- Community service projects designed for transfer students to experience each other's community.
- Student engagement and campus programming inclusive of transfer and adult student groups.
- University Honors Program is a flexible points system (rather than courses) so that transfer students can participate and customize their experience based on time and interests.
- Honors societies that focus on transfer students and highlight transfer student success on campus.
- Office of Career Services offers career planning for transfer and community college students.
- Train transfer students as peer mentors, ambassadors, and Student Transition Assistants (DDP)
- Maximize student employment with opportunities that offer evening and weekend hours.

... and all on a shoestring state budget!

Collaboration with External Relationships

Pro Devo with Partners

- Community College Counselor Update Luncheons
- Faculty and Staff Mix & Mingles
- Summer Institutes

Celebrating OUR Students

- Continuous data transferring
- Leadership participation at institutional events
- Social media and promotional materials



Collab with External Relationships (cont.)

Partnership Initiatives

- Dual Degree Program
- Male Success Initiatives
- Center for Junior Year
- TransferBOOST
- GSU-to-SIU Law Pathway

Articulation Necessities

- Form 13s
- Transfer Guides
- Program MOUs
- Transferology / iTransfer / Jaguar Transfer Credit Evaluator



DDP Success Metrics

- Over **1,080** DDP students completed their associate degrees and enrolled at GSU.
- Over **85%** of the students that completed their associate degrees and transferred to GSU have graduated or are enrolled and on-track for their bachelor's degree
- Average GPA at graduation is **3.61**
- **60%** of DDP students at GSU graduate in four semesters or less
- Award **\$150,000-200,000** in DDP Scholarships per semester at GSU
- Since 2013, students have contributed over **3,000** hours of community service

DDP Success Metrics (cont.)

	All GSU Transfers	DDP Transfers	Difference
Fall to Fall Retention (entry in Fall '21)	63%	85%	22%
Fall to Spring Persistence (entry Fall '19-Fall '22)	77%	89%	12%
Time to Degree (AY 21-22 Grads)	2.6 Years	2.3 Years	1 Less Semester

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NISTS 2023

BE A **CONNECTOR**
FOR **TRANSFER STUDENT**
SUCCESS

Thank you
for attending!

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A SESSION EVALUATION**

(via the conference app)

This
session's
id# is:

2797