

AGENDA ITEM C2: ARTICULATION AND TRANSFER

BOARD RULE 400.0300.00

TRANSFER AMOUNTS AND RATES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: JUNE 23, 2011

Belmont Technical College supports the University System of Ohio's (USO) transfer and articulation system by providing students with opportunities to earn transfer degrees and transfer credits and by accepting transfer credits from students who transfer into the College. The goal of the USO's articulation and transfer system is to ensure that students can transfer coursework from one public institution in Ohio to another without having to duplicate that coursework. Transfer degrees and articulation agreements between institutions facilitate the transfer process for students. The Associate of Arts and Associate of Science Degrees have been designed to allow students to complete the first two years of a Bachelor's degree at Belmont and then to transfer seamlessly to four-year institutions. In addition, students completing degrees other than pre-baccalaureate degrees also are encouraged to continue their education and pursue four-year degrees.

This report focuses on the numbers of students who transfer from Belmont to Ohio public four-year institutions. The Higher Education Information (HEI) system provides data on transfers in its Mobility Report. HEI data capture the number of students transferring from Belmont to four-year institutions within Ohio. The HEI data are available on the Ohio Board of Regents website and provide quarterly counts of students transferring. Data are categorized by institutions to which students transfer. Mobility report data are available for the past five years and for three quarters of 2011. The transfer rates for Belmont students from summer 2006 through winter 2011 are derived from these HEI data and are shown in Table 1, *Transfer amounts within USO, 2006/2007 through 2010/2011* and in Chart 1, *Transfer rate within USO, 2006/2007 through 2010/2011*. **The transfer amounts shown in the first table and chart are transfers within Ohio only.**

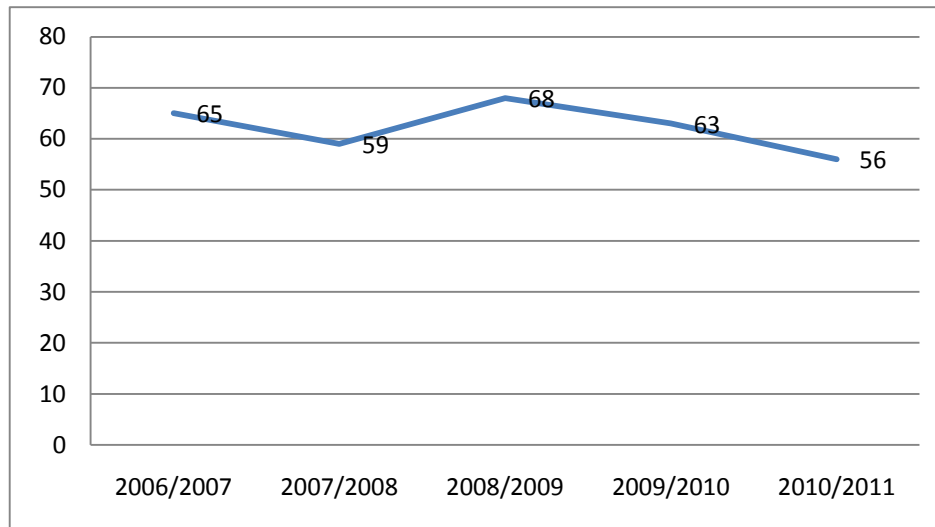
Another source of transfer data is the Student Tracker, a subscription resource of the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). Data from the Student Tracker reports *subsequent* enrollments of Belmont students in four-year institutions across the nation. Reporting of prior enrollments, such as in the case of a Belmont student transferring to another institution, is self-reported by students when they arrive at another institution. Students can report only one "prior institution" for the Student Tracker system. Thus the records from NSC only include students who report their own transfers and who report Belmont as the most recent institution where they have been enrolled. In spite of this limitation on reporting of prior enrollments, the Student Tracker data show an interesting variety of enrollments for former Belmont students who transferred to four-year institutions both within and outside the University System of Ohio. (See attached data sheet, *Transfer amounts to four-year institutions, January 2006 through March 2011*.)

Data

Table 1, *Transfer amounts within USO, 2006/2007 through 2010/2011*

Institution	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Kent State	1	1	3	1	3
Ohio University	52	44	44	43	44
The Ohio State Univ.	3	1	1	4	3
University of Akron	1	1	6	1	1
University of Cincinnati	NR	NR	NR	NR	1
University of Toledo	1	NR	NR	NR	NR
Wright State University	1	1	NR	NR	NR
Youngstown State Univ.	6	11	14	14	4
Total by year	65	59	68	63	56

Chart 1, *Transfer rate within USO, 2006/2007 through 2010/2011*



The table and chart displayed above show that a total of 311 Belmont students have transferred to four-year institutions within the USO over the last five academic years. The highest number of students transferring was in the 2008/2009 year when 68 students moved on to Kent State, Ohio University, The Ohio State University, Youngstown State University (YSU), and the University of Akron. The lowest number of transfer students (n=56) is reported in the most recent academic year, 2010/2011. **The lower number for the current year reflects transfers for the first three quarters of the year only.** The number of transfers for 2010/2011 will increase in the next reporting period when HEI data reflect spring quarter transfers.

Over the last five years, the rate of transfer from Belmont to YSU has been 15.7%. One factor that may explain the number of students transferring to YSU is Belmont’s 2+2 articulation agreement with YSU that extends Belmont’s Power Plant Technology program to a four-year degree at YSU. The number of transfers to YSU during the current academic year includes summer, fall and winter quarters *only*, and when the number of transfers to USO institutions for spring quarter is updated and reported by HEI, the overall transfer rate for 2010/2011 may be above the high of 68 reported for the 2008/2009 academic year.

Belmont requests and receives data from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) that are summarized in a report showing counts for former Belmont students who subsequently enrolled at four-year institutions. NSC data covering the last six years indicate that 341 former Belmont students transferred to 54 four-year institutions in 20 different states and the District of Columbia.

Analysis

Data from the HEI system show that on average over the last five years, 62 Belmont students per year have transferred to public four-year institutions within the USO. During a similar time period, data from NCS indicate that on average, 30 Belmont students per year transferred to public and private four-year institutions across the nation. Taken together, these two pieces of data are useful as a starting point for developing strategies to encourage Belmont students to take advantage of transfer opportunities.

There are limitations on the extent to which data from HEI and NSC can be interpreted. Limitations with each of these data sources compound analysis and usefulness of the data. Some of the issues that constrain the data include the following:

- There is a mismatch between data collection methods for HEI and NSC.
- HEI data are reporting transfers within the USO in public institutions, and NSC data report all public and private institutions;
- Academic years are used by HEI reporting to report the year in which students transferred; calendar dates are used in NSC data to report when students earned degrees;
- HEI reports include aggregate data for Belmont students. HEI data are gathered from institutional reports to the HEI system;
- HEI data are gathered systematically through established USO methods of data reporting;
- NSC data are record level and are gathered from participating institutions on a subscription basis and from students' self-reports when they transfer between and among institutions.

Conclusions/Recommendations

The AA and AS degrees are designed to provide seamless opportunities for Belmont students to complete two-year degrees and go on to bachelor's degree programs at Ohio's public four-year institutions. According to student advising records, an increasing number of students are enrolling in the AA and AS degrees each year. Individual tracking of students' progress through degree completion plans should make Belmont's institutional data more useful for planning strategies to assess and support students' transfer and four-year degree completion goals.

HEI data capture the number of Belmont students continuing to pursue educational opportunities in Ohio's public four-year institutions. HEI data indicate that 227 of the 311 Belmont students who transferred to Ohio public four-year institutions enrolled at Ohio University (OU). This suggests that 73% of Belmont students exploring transfer options may have chosen to remain in this geographic area. Moving beyond reliance upon HEI and NSC data for transfer amounts and rates will be useful for helping students attain their educational goals.

The College is actively working toward approval of all applicable technical and general education semester courses for the Ohio Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG), Career Technical Assurance Guides (CTAG) and Transfer Module learning outcomes and guidelines in order to make Belmont even more attractive to students wishing to transfer those courses into other educational institutions.

Targets for improvement have been identified to support articulation and transfer within the University System of Ohio. These include the following:

1. Continue working with summer scheduling to offer courses at times convenient for students transferring to and from Belmont.
2. Continue working toward having all applicable courses either TAG or Transfer Module approved.
3. Continue to actively pursue articulation agreements with Ohio public four-year institutions to facilitate transfer.
4. Continue to encourage active partnerships with other four-year institutions to increase opportunities for and awareness of Belmont students transferring to those schools. This will include, but not be limited to participation in Belmont's planning of recruiting activities and visits by four-year institutions, dissemination of appropriate marketing materials, and provision of requested Belmont student information to the four-year institution.

Table 2, *Transfer amounts to four-year institutions, January 2006 through March 2011*

State	Transfer institution	N	% of Total N
AL	UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA	1	0.3%
AZ	GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY TRACK	1	0.3%
	UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX	15	4.4%
CA	ASHFORD UNIVERSITY	2	0.6%
DC	STRAYER UNIVERSITY-WASHINGTON	2	0.6%
	UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	1	0.3%
FL	EDISON STATE COLLEGE	1	0.3%
	NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY	1	0.3%
GA	LIFE UNIVERSITY	1	0.3%
HI	UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA	1	0.3%
IL	ARGOSY UNIVERSITY-PHX-ONLINE	1	0.3%
	DEVRY UNIVERSITY - DUPAGE	1	0.3%
	LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO	1	0.3%
IN	BALL STATE UNIVERSITY	2	0.6%
KS	WASHBURN UNIVERSITY	1	0.3%
LA	LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY	1	0.3%
MD	UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - BALTIMORE COUNTY	1	0.3%
MI	EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY	1	0.3%
MN	WALDEN UNIVERSITY	3	0.9%
MO	CHAMBERLAIN COLLEGE OF NURSING	7	2.0%
NY	ELLIS COLLEGE @ NY IT	1	0.3%
OH	ASHLAND UNIVERSITY	1	0.3%
	DEVRY UNIVERSITY - COLUMBUS	2	0.6%
	FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE	8	2.3%
	FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY	20	5.8%
	KENT STATE UNIVERSITY	11	3.2%
	MALONE UNIVERSITY	4	1.2%
	MARIETTA COLLEGE	3	0.9%
	METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO	1	0.3%
	MIAMI UNIVERSITY	1	0.3%
	MOUNT VERNON NAZARENE UNIVERSITY	2	0.6%
	MUSKINGUM COLLEGE	4	1.2%
	OHIO UNIVERSITY	129	37.6%
	OTTERBEIN COLLEGE	1	0.3%
	THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY	10	2.9%
	UNIVERSITY OF AKRON	5	1.5%
	UNIVERSITY OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO - COLL OF TECH	1	0.3%
	YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY	12	3.5%
OR	PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY	1	0.3%
PA	CHATHAM UNIVERSITY	1	0.3%
	MOUNT ALOYSIUS COLLEGE	1	0.3%
	POINT PARK UNIVERSITY	1	0.3%
	SETON HILL COLLEGE	2	0.6%
	UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH	1	0.3%
	WASHINGTON JEFFERSON COLLEGE	1	0.3%
VA	JEFFERSON COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES	1	0.3%
	LIBERTY UNIVERSITY	1	0.3%
WV	FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY-TRAD	5	1.5%
	MARSHALL UNIVERSITY, HUNTINGTON	1	0.3%
	MOUNTAIN STATE UNIVERSITY	5	1.5%
	WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY	11	3.2%
	WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY	1	0.3%
	WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY	8	2.3%
	WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY	39	11.4%
Total		341	100.0%