Creating Seamless Mobility: A Perspective on How Partnership Programs Can Shape the Future of Transfer

AACRAO Transfer Conference
February 1, 2011

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Mary Darrow – Iowa State University College of Engineering
Overview

• Transfer students
• Iowa State University/Iowa Community Colleges
• Admissions Partnership Program (APP)
• Engineering Admissions Partnership Program (E-APP)
• Program assessment
Transfer Students

TAKE THE NEXT STEP.
Admissions Partnership Program

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Transfer Students

- Nearly 60% of all students are transfers, and nearly 75% of all who graduate each year have some transfer credit. (Adelman, 2006, 2008)

- Approximately 5 million new entering community college students plan to transfer to earn a bachelor’s degree each year. (Provasnik & Planty, 2008)

- Almost 20% of new entering four-year college students are transfer students. (Berkner & Choy, 2008)
Academic and Social Concerns

- **Acceptance of credits**
- Meeting major prerequisites of a four-year college or university degree program
- Academic support
- Financial and work concerns
- Class size
- Campus familiarity
- Social acceptance
- **Individual attention**
Transfer Shock

The term often associated with a temporary decline in GPA performance after transferring from a community college to a four year college or university.

Community College Alumni

Tom Hanks

Clint Eastwood
Community College Alumni

Mark Hamill

George Washington Carver
Iowa State University
Iowa Community Colleges

One path. Unlimited possibilities.
## Enrollment Comparison 2000-2010

### Iowa Regents & Community Colleges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Iowa CC’s</th>
<th>Regents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2010</td>
<td>106,597</td>
<td>72,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2009</td>
<td>100,736</td>
<td>71,353</td>
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<td>Fall 2008</td>
<td>88,104</td>
<td>70,325</td>
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<td>Fall 2007</td>
<td>87,072</td>
<td>69,178</td>
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<td>Fall 2006</td>
<td>84,961</td>
<td>67,701</td>
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<td>Fall 2005</td>
<td>82,499</td>
<td>67,896</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2004</td>
<td>81,803</td>
<td>68,949</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2003</td>
<td>78,292</td>
<td>70,566</td>
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<td>Fall 2002</td>
<td>73,805</td>
<td>71,521</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2001</td>
<td>68,581</td>
<td>70,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2000</td>
<td>65,836</td>
<td>68,930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
High school enrollment increased to 26,111 students. This fall, 25.9% of enrollment were composed of jointly enrolled students—down since last year.

Source: Iowa Department of Education, Community Colleges & Workforce Preparation, Iowa Community College Performance Indicators, July 2008
Iowa State University

New Transfer Student Matriculation

- Fall 2007: 1,527 Total Transfers, 948 Iowa Comm Colleges
- Fall 2008: 1,537 Total Transfers, 945 Iowa Comm Colleges
- Fall 2009: 1,622 Total Transfers, 982 Iowa Comm Colleges
- Fall 2010: 1,673 Total Transfers, 1,001 Iowa Comm Colleges

Legend:
- Total Transfers
- Iowa Comm Colleges
1,673 New Transfer Student Enrollment

Fall 2010

- Iowa Comm Colleges: 60%
- Foreign: 8%
- Non-Iowa: 18%
- Iowa Four Year: 8%
- Private: 6%
- Iowa Four Year Public
Partnerships can make a difference!
Admissions Partnership Program

TAKE THE NEXT STEP.
Admissions Partnership Program

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
APP History

• First signing – Spring 2006
• First student accepted - Summer 2006
• Over 100 students accepted - Fall 2006
• First APP Day - Fall 2006
• First APP Advisers’ Forum – Spring 2007
• Over 50 APP students transferred to Iowa State – Fall 2007
• First APP students matriculated to Iowa State – Spring 2007
• Signed agreements with all 15 IA community colleges – Spring 2008
• Engineering APP (E-APP) developed - 2008
APP “Touch Point” Strategies

• Academic Advising from Iowa State

• Transfer Credit Evaluation each term

• Degree audit for intended Iowa State major

• Regular community college visits by Iowa State admissions

• Student ID Card (ISUCard)

• Iowa State e-mail account

• Iowa State academic and social resources

• Iowa State housing

• Athletic and cultural events
Program Participation
Since fall 2006, 1,289 students have participated in APP

Of the 1,289 students:
• 511 students have matriculated
• 60.3 % (777) male
• 39.7% (512) female
• 17.5% (222) minority students

As of fall 2010:
• 465 active APP participants
• 40 living in Iowa State residence halls
Program Assessment

Purpose of assessment: To study the impact of APP on transfer students and to determine program effectiveness.

- Relationship to academic performance
- Relationship to retention
- Reduction of transfer shock
- No reduction of CC students transferring having earned an AA or AS degree
Comparison of APP and Non-APP Transfer Students

First Semester GPA

- **Fall 2007**: 59 APP students (2.35) compared to 889 non-APP IA CC students (2.45)
- **Fall 2008**: 79 APP students (2.52) compared to 866 non-APP IA CC students (2.40)
- **Fall 2009**: 136 APP students (2.49) compared to 846 non-APP IA CC students (2.30)
- **Fall 2010**: 137 APP students (2.50) compared to 864 non-APP IA CC students (2.33)
Comparison of APP and Non-APP Transfer Students

One Year Cumulative GPA

- **Fall 2007**: 59 APP students (2.45) compared to 889 non-APP IA CC students (2.48)
- **Fall 2008**: 79 APP students (2.63) compared to 866 non-APP IA CC students (2.49)
- **Fall 2009**: 136 APP students (2.58) compared to 846 non-APP IA CC students (2.40)
Comparison of APP and Non-APP Transfer Students

First Year Retention Rate

- **Fall 2007**: 59 APP students (88%) compared to 889 non-APP IA CC students (77%)

- **Fall 2008**: 79 APP students (85%) compared to 866 non-APP IA CC students (79%)

- **Fall 2009**: 136 APP students (92%) compared to 846 non-APP IA CC students (79%)
How can APP serve prospective students better?

I think you are doing a great job now, but APP could have an easier application process.

I think APP could be promoted better. A lot of my friends are not aware of the program.

You need to offer more APP Days every semester. I was unable to attend the one in the fall because of my busy class schedule.
Engineering APP Learning Community: Get Connected *Early and Often!*

Mary E. Darrow – Transfer Coordinator, NSF STEP Project Manager, Iowa State University College of Engineering
E-APP History

- APP Development
- Established Learning Community Program at Iowa State
- NSF STEM Talent Expansion Program (STEP)
Why E-APP Learning Community?

Student Voices...

- “Consult with an advisor from ISU before signing up for classes at the community college.”
- “I would recommend that students check with ISU frequently and ask an ISU advisor for the classes that would transfer while they are still taking classes at their community college.”
- “Talk to an ISU advisor in the department you would like to transfer into, they know the score.”
Why E-APP Learning Community?

- *Early* academic advising is needed in engineering.
- *Early* engagement may decrease “Transfer Shock”
- Retention rates of transfer students in engineering are significantly lower than with DFHS students.
- Retention rates for Iowa Community College (IA CC) transfer students *that participate in a Learning Community* are comparable to students entering directly from high school (DFHS) that participate in a Learning Community.
- The percent of IA CC transfer students (in engineering) that participate in a Learning Community is increasing, but is still relatively low.
Learning Community Retention Rates in Engineering
Ten Year Averages
“What, then, are students’ main concerns regarding transfer? Overwhelmingly, they center on academic ability and college costs.”

Steven J. Handel
National Director Community College Initiatives
College Board

Engineering APP (E-APP) “Touch Point” Strategies

- EGR100
- Iowa State Advising
- Transfer Planning
- Access to Engineering Career Management System
- Peer Mentor Program
- EAPP Newsletter
- Professional E-Network Site (Groupsite)
- Engineering Career Fair
- Connections with WiSE
- VEISHEA Event
- Connections with Student Orgs.
- Undergraduate Research Experiences
- Scholarships
Our Peer Mentor Team
Virtual Peer Mentor Program
STEM Student Enrollment and Engagement through Connections
Student Learning Outcomes

E-APP Students will:

• Enter Iowa State with a transfer plan and connections which will assist them in their transition to Iowa State.

• Connect with Transfer peer mentors, ambassadors, and role models will through multiple points of engagement (“touch points”).

• Transition into departmental learning communities and/or other cohort programs within the college upon transfer.

• Have higher engagement, retention, and graduation rates than non-E-APP students.
E-APP Assessment Plan

- Track engagement or “touch points”
- Electronic Professional Network
- Analytic data
- Transfer Survey
- Track enrollment, engagement, retention and graduation rates
Student Testimonials

“The on-line group was a good way to keep up with Iowa State events that were relevant to me.”

Andrew Owens
Sophomore E-APP Aerospace Engineering
from Iowa Central Community College

“E-APP helped me get ready for Iowa State by getting an ISU adviser, student ID card, and knowing that all my classes were going to transfer.”

Mitchel Steffes
Junior E-APP Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering
from Des Moines Area Community College
References


