

## UPAC Meeting Notes

August 17, 2016

Marley 230

9:00-10:15 AM

I. Welcome: Kristen Geary, UPAC Co-Chair

II. Transfer Credits: Nicole Kontak, Director, Transfer Curriculum & Transfer Student Center

- All in-state transfer course equivalencies are in the Course Equivalency Guide at [aztransfer.com](http://aztransfer.com). Almost all the degree pathways, 2+2, can be found under the pathways section in Degree Search - there are still a few more for Nicole to enter.
- For out of state course equivalencies, check the Transfer Credit Guide at <http://registrar.arizona.edu/academics/transfer-credit-guide#ceg>.
  - The Registrar's office is actively creating a bank of course equivalencies in the Transfer Credit Guide.
  - When an out-of-state transcript is sent to the U of A for evaluation, the Registrar's office intakes it and enters departmental or general elective credit. It then goes to Nicole's office to review for direct equivalencies.
  - If a student needs direct equivalency credit for an out-of-state transfer course, English course equivalencies are done via email and Math course equivalencies go through the math department's website. For all other courses (language, sciences, etc.), please use the Course Equivalency or Credit Request form: <https://aztransmac2.asu.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/acres.woa/wa/form?id=498>. Requests are routed to faculty in the appropriate department for review. This form is not meant to create course equivalencies for your own major courses.
  - Both direct equivalency pre-approvals and post-transfer credit evaluations go through the Course Equivalency or Credit Request form. The Transfer Credit Pre-Approval form will still be available for pre-approvals that **do not** require a direct equivalency (gen eds, etc.)
  - Rachel Hamm is the contact person for questions related to the Transfer Credit Guide.
- Nicole also directs activities for the Transfer Student Center which offers resources for transfer students
  - Under "Resources" on the Transfer Student Center website at [transfer.arizona.edu](http://transfer.arizona.edu), you will find Reverse Transfer, which helps UA students transfer coursework back to a community college if they are eligible for an associate's degree.
  - There is a statewide initiative to increase degree completion. Nicole runs reverse transfer reports to find students who may be eligible for an associate's degree. Students must complete a consent form if they are interested in reverse transfer.

- Links to the Transfer Credit Guide, Arizona Course Equivalency Guide, English and Math transfer credit evaluations are found under “Resources” as well.

### III. Recalculation Dates Recap: Meghan McKenney, Project Manager, UA Scholarships and Financial Aid

- Early FAFSA
  - The FAFSA will now be available October 1<sup>st</sup>, instead of January 1<sup>st</sup>, and will go off of prior prior year (PPY) tax information. For example, 2017/2018 academic year’s FAFSA will be available in October 2016 and will go off of 2015 tax information.
  - This change is mandated by the Department of Education and is beneficial because most families will have filed their taxes at the time the FAFSA becomes available. The IRS data retrieval tool, which is preferred for verification documents, will be available for more students than before.
  - UA’s long term goal is to bump up date when financial aid offers are made, possibly in conjunction with admissions letters.
- Verification Changes
  - The Department of Education now requires UA to verify all students they select for verification. As a result, they will be increasing the number of students to verify tax information in the next academic year.
  - When students are selected for verification, it will show up as a to-do item in UAccess and Financial Aid will send them an email.
  - To help with the increased volume, Financial Aid has partnered with Campus Logic, an online portal requiring netid access, in which students can upload documentation. They will begin using this system in February or March next year.
- Recalculation Policy
  - Starting fall 2016, financial aid will be re-calculated throughout the semester as a student makes enrollment changes.
  - Policy impacts undergraduate students with grants (Pell, University or TEACH). If a student is receiving loans only, they will not be impacted.
  - There are multiple recalculation dates each semester and not all calculation dates apply to every student - it depends on enrollment.
  - Financial Aid will be posting recalculation dates to their website beginning spring semester.
  - If a student receives a decrease in financial aid, the grant is pulled back and it creates a balance on the student’s Bursars account.
  - See Handout – A decision tree to assist advisors in understanding how/when a student’s aid is recalculated. If a typical student is in 15 week courses only and doesn’t make enrollment changes before 9/5/16, their enrollment will be locked in on 9/5 and they will not be recalculated again.

- Financial aid is prepared for issues and will work with students to resolve them. In preparation for implementing the policy, Financial Aid analyzed enrollment patterns for last two of years. They anticipate less than 1000 students will be expected to pay back a balance with this new policy.
- Tuition refunds are completely separate from pulling back financial aid. If a student drops a course and receives a tuition refund they are also informed that they may need to pay back financial aid.
- Complicated questions about recalculation should be referred to Financial Aid counselors.
- Contact
  - Please send all basic financial aid questions to the general contact at [askaid@email.arizona.edu](mailto:askaid@email.arizona.edu) or 520-621-1858. The counselors have case loads of 6000-7000 students and do not have the time to answer general questions. The main office knows when to escalate more complicated questions to the counselors.

#### IV. Advising Updates: Nicole Gonzalez, Advising Resource Center

- A list of fall seminars available through ARC was emailed out to UPAC recently. Registration links were included in the attachment.
- Speed Dating Event – Student Services departments have tables and advisors get a chance to talk with them about their top three resources for students. If you want to present at this event, email Nicole at [advising@email.arizona.edu](mailto:advising@email.arizona.edu)
- ARC is moving to Bio Sciences East. Will still be using Marley 230 for UPAC meetings and SUMC 411 for seminars and workshops.
- Advising News and Advising Bulletins
  - The Advising Bulletin contains policy changes and important info for advisors
  - Advising News announces seminars, UPAC, social events etc.
- Too many course announcements are being sent to UPAC listserv. Please send course announcements to Nicole and Roxie and they will add it to the ARC website, periodically reminding advisors to check it.
- Brown Bag Meetings - looking for ideas! If you want to present or have an idea, contact Nicole and Roxie.