

Accelerated Degree Program Work Group
September 30, 2016
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Conference Call

Attendees:

Bernadette Jungblut – CWU, Wendy Holden – CWU, Mary Wack – WSU, Scott Coleman – Evergreen, Emily Leggio – UW, Steve VanderStaay – WWU, Joe Holliday – SBCTC, Tracy Hall – Evergreen, James Crandall – Senate Majority Coalition Caucus, and Julie Garver – COP

Discussion of Three-Year Data Points

COP provided the Work Group with a data summary of students who attended a four-year public college or university directly from high school and graduated within three years. The summary indicated that 8.6% of students who graduated in 2014 and attended a public four-year college or university directly from high school graduated in three years or less. The summary also included demographic data for the graduating Class of 2014 by income (measured by receipt of a Pell Grant or State Need Grant), race/ethnicity, and STEM/High Demand degrees. In addition, the data identified the top five areas of study. Data is available beginning with the graduating Class of 2008.

The Work Group wanted to know what percentage of this student population earned college credit in high school prior to entering college or university. COP will work with the ERDC to find out if this data point is available.

The Work Group discussed transfer students who attain accelerated degrees. While there are challenges in identifying three-year graduation rates for this population, the community and technical colleges and the public four-year institutions have worked to reduce excess credits, streamline high demand programs, such as computer science and nursing, and potentially accelerate degree completion through direct transfer agreements and major related programs. The Work Group suggested that a portion of the report focus on the work of the sectors in this area.

Discussion of Draft Report Outline

COP shared a draft outline for the report. The outline follows the pathways' framework identified by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities: (1) dual credit, (2) compression, (3) competency, and (4) reduced credits. The majority of the report focuses on the deliverables identified in the charge to the Work Group: (1) Develop a set of institutional best practices to promote students' abilities to successfully graduate with a baccalaureate degree within three years of entering, (2) Identify challenges or obstacles that prevent wider adoption of accelerated degree program options and university students from participating in three-year or other accelerated degree programs, (3) Evaluate how public and private institutions of higher education in other states have engaged in accelerated baccalaureate degree programs, and (4) Develop recommendations that would effectively increase the overall rate of students achieving their baccalaureate degree within three years.

The Work Group approved the outline.

Discussion of Draft Recommendations

COP shared draft recommendations developed by Chair Steve VanderStaay and Julie Garver. The Work Group discussed the scope of the Group's work and the report. It was decided that some of the issues discussed, such as financial barriers for students who wish to pursue accelerated degree pathways and three-year degree options for transfer students, are beyond the scope of this current work given the charge of the work. The Work Group agreed to include these issues and others that were beyond the scope of this work as issues for future work or next steps in the report.

The Work Group reviewed the recommendations and approved the draft recommendations.

Next Steps

The Work Group agreed to cancel the October meeting to give time for work on the report and feedback. The Accelerated Degree Work Group will hold its next conference call on November 15 from 2:00-4:00. The Group will focus on the initial draft of the report and feedback.