

California State University Los Angeles

An Electronic Data Interface with Community Colleges: Facilitating Degree Audit, Transfer, Advising and Graduation

Prepared for the Joint Meeting of the CSU Provosts and Chairs of the Campus Academic Senates

October 5, 2005

Cal State L.A. is continuing to work on, and embarking on a number of new initiatives, that address the 22 items enumerated in Chancellor Reed's August 2, 2005 coded memorandum to facilitate timely and efficient graduation. One of the endeavors that we believe is particularly promising, and exciting, is a system that will allow students at community colleges to electronically transmit their transcripts to Cal State L.A. for evaluation and feedback. This initiative addresses a number of the items enumerated in Chancellor Reeds coded memorandum including # 15, Strongly Timely Major Advisement, #16 Frequent Use of Degree Audits, and # 17 Mandatory Audits.

Cal State L.A. in collaboration with the Los Angeles Community College District and Pasadena City College to implement an Electronic Data Interface (EDI) that will allow for the electronic transmission of student transcripts from the respective community colleges to Cal State L.A. When transcript information is received by Cal State L.A. it will automatically be uploaded and evaluated. Students will learn within 48 hours that: 1) Their transcripts have been received and, 2) how the course work completed at the community college applies to the Cal State L.A. requirements in GE and their chosen major. This information will be available to students on line as well as to Cal State L.A. faculty to use in advising and planning students' programs. The system will provide for much more timely feedback to the student and faculty and thereby allow for more effective planning and advising than the current transcript transmission and evaluation process allows.

When the system is fully developed, it will be available for use by prospective students at the respective community colleges to request "in-progress" assessments while at the community college before transferring. This will allow students to verify that they are taking the appropriate courses and to receive the "validation" that students often seek with regard to the work they are taking at the community college.

The system being developed will provide transfer students with much more timely feedback about work in-progress and/or completed at their community college. It will allow for more effective planning by students, and advising of students by faculty, both of which will facilitate students' transfer and more timely and efficient degree completion.