

MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Achievement of Students Transferring
From Two-Year to Four- Institutions
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Summary Statement of 2003-2004 Assessment Study

Midlands Technical College (MTC) developed four objectives in its 2002-04 action plan to improve the effectiveness of its transfer program and assess the performance of students who transfer from MTC to four-year institutions. These objectives include: exploring strategies for expanding transferable course offerings in AA/AS programs, continuing to work with the Transfer Advisory Board to match AA/AS degree with the general education requirements of senior institutions and to ensure course transferability from MTC to senior institutions, continuing the implementation and feasibility analysis of the MTC-USC Transfer Student Tracking Model and continuing the implementation of the assigned advising system and design of the evaluation process. Additionally, the college assesses the performance of its transfer students through the review of data provided by public SC four-year institution.

Work on the four objectives developed in 2002-04 yielded the following results.

- MTC successfully negotiated the articulation of the following eight additional courses at senior institutions (ENG 212, MAT 132, PHI 106, MAT 220, PSC 205, PSC 220, MUS 106, and HIS 113. The college was active in fostering relationships and communication with senior institutions to provide more and better transfer options for the MTC student.
- Based on output from the Transfer Advisory Board, MTC AA/AS faculty members will begin offering PRAXIS I preparation workshops for students beginning in Fall 2004 and encouraging students planning to major in teacher education to take PRAXIS I before transferring. Additionally, the Transfer Advisory Board has provided valuable opportunities to discuss the impact of curriculum changes at four-year institutions on MTC transfer students.
- The implementation of the assigned advising system and design of the evaluation process has been very successful. New and continuing AA/AS students now complete information cards indicating the senior institution to which they will transfer as well as the program of study that they will pursue. This information is used to match students with advisors in their field of study. There are approximately 90 AA/AS advisors and each advisor has approximately 35 assigned advisees. This means that approximately 3150 students have been assigned a permanent advisor, an increase of 1400 advisees assigned since the 2001-02 academic year.
- Because the University of South Carolina is the primary destination for transfer students leaving Midlands Technical College, several different collaboration initiatives have been established between the two institutions. These include: annual AA/AS Advisory Board meetings at MTC, annual joint meetings between MTC and USC faculty advisors, the provision of updated transfer guides by most colleges at USC for the AA/AS programs,

departmental workshops in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department for students interested in transferring to USC and regular communication with USC representatives regarding ways to improve or clarify transfer processes.

Transfer Activity And Performance

Midlands Technical College assesses transfer activity and performance of students who transfer from MTC to four-year institutions through data provided by the receiving institutions. Every two years, each South Carolina 4-year public institution of higher education provides summary information on the fall term MTC first-time transfer cohort. The data includes number applied, accepted, rejected and enrolled as well as a comparison of term GPA for native and MTC transfers, categorized by gender-ethnicity and hours completed

In Fall 2003, 945 MTC students applied for admission to all eleven 4-year South Carolina public institutions of higher education. The actual number of MTC students transferring increased from 274 to 337, a 23 % increase. The numbers of MTC transfers increased at eight of the eleven colleges (2001 to 2003), and decreased at Winthrop, Lander and the Citadel. USC-Columbia has traditionally received the largest number of MTC transfer students and Fall 2003 was no exception (Table 1). MTC students comprised 60 percent of the total Technical College students applying to USC in Fall 2003 and 60 percent of those enrolled.

Table 1: Three Year Comparison of MTC Transfers to SC Public 4-Year Institutions						
	Fall 1999		Fall 2001		Fall 2003	
4-Year Institution	Transfers	Percent Transfers	Transfers	Percent Transfers	Transfers	Percent Transfers
USC Columbia	174	64.7%	188	68.6%	225	66.8%
USC Aiken	14	5.2%	9	3.3%	17	5.0%
Winthrop	16	5.9%	19	6.9%	13	3.9%
Clemson	16	5.9%	10	3.6%	19	5.6%
USC Spartanburg	5	1.9%	1	0.4%	7	2.1%
College of Charleston	18	6.7%	18	6.6%	12	3.6%
Coastal	6	2.2%	6	2.2%	10	3.0%
SC State	8	3.0%	6	2.2%	20	5.9%
Lander	6	2.2%	11	4.0%	8	2.4%
Francis Marion	2	0.7%	3	1.1%	4	1.2%
The Citadel	4	1.5%	3	1.1%	2	0.6%
Total	269		274		337	

In Fall 2003, 60 percent of the 945 MTC students who applied to these 11 South Carolina public 4-year institutions were accepted and 60 percent of those accepted actually enrolled (Table 2).

While 40 percent of the accepted students did not enroll, the data does not allow for the identification of students who applied to more than one institution.

Demographic data is only provided for those students who actually enrolled at the reporting institutions. In Fall 2003, Non-whites comprised 28 percent of the total cohort, an increase from 22 percent in Fall 2001 and females comprised 45 percent of the cohort, a decline from 50 percent of the cohort in Fall 2001.

Table 2: MTC First-Time Fall 2003 Transfers to SC Public Four Year Institutions (Applications, Acceptances, and Enrollments)				
Four Year Institution	Total MTC Transfer Applications	Total MTC Completed Transfer Applications	Total MTC Students Accepted	Total MTC Students Enrolled
USC Columbia	697	563	408	225
USC Aiken	67	47	39	17
Winthrop	29	22	22	13
Clemson	27	22	21	19
USC Spartanburg	27	21	18	7
College of Charleston	27	19	12	12
Coastal Carolina	20	17	11	10
SC State	20	20	20	20
Lander	19	13	12	8
The Citadel	9	8	2	2
Francis Marion	12	10	7	4
Total	954	762	572	337

While all eleven institutions provided comparisons of Native and transfer student GPA by gender-ethnicity by groupings of cumulative hours earned (transfer hours included), the small number of MTC transfer students in each category, except USC-Columbia, prevents any analysis. It is not practical to combine the data as it is averaged data. The institutions provide a “Total Native GPA” and a “Total Transfer GPA” which is calculated by multiplying that average GPA for each ethnic-gender group and dividing that sum by the total students. While this provides a data point for comparison, it is of limited value.

Table 3 presents a comparison of the Fall 2003 averaged GPA’s for Native and MTC transfer students. MTC transfer students had higher averaged GPAs at five of the eleven institutions.

Table 3: Comparison of Averaged Fall 2003 Native and MTC Transfer Student GPA At SC Public Four Institutions

	MTC Transfer		Native	
Four Year Institution	Students	Averaged GPA	Students	Averaged GPA
USC Columbia	225	2.63	14301	2.92
USC Aiken	16	2.74	2373	2.64
Winthrop	13	2.43	3794	2.83
Clemson	19	2.05	12423	2.99
USC Spartanburg	7	2.7	3223	2.61
College of Charleston	12	2.49	6557	2.94
Coastal	10	2.23	1268	2.69
SC State	20	2.53	3370	2.45
Lander	8	2.59	1165	2.58
Francis Marion	4	2.77	1994	2.51
The Citadel	2	1.66	1848	2.77

Two Objectives have been developed for the 2005-2006 timeframe: pursue partnerships that focus on improving the successful transfer of AA/AS students from MTC to 4-yr colleges and universities and continue the analysis of the USC-MTC partnership data.