AcademyOne respectfully submits this nomination for the PESC Annual Best Practices Competition for South Carolina’s launch of SC TRAC (the South Carolina Transfer and Articulation Center, online at www.SCTRAC.org). SC TRAC is a statewide transfer and articulation web portal that addresses student degree completion through better information access across the state’s 33 public two- and four-year institutions. We believe this successful statewide implementation stands out as a beacon for states and institutions as they seek to address the challenges of bridging disparate student information systems through the application of advanced technological tools and common national data standards designed to improve information interoperability and ultimately degree completion. Moreover, this implementation simultaneously and seamlessly spans institutional data systems boundaries and helps to implement state transfer and articulation policies to the benefit of students, families, and all South Carolina education and economic development stakeholders.

The imperative to address the large population of students who never finish two- or four-year degrees in today’s knowledge-driven economy is a significant challenge for states across America. As a result, there is a strong national call to action and South Carolina has responded admirably. For many reasons, it is not a simple undertaking to target and successfully reach students who never finish earning college credentials. Effective degree completion strategies must bring relevancy and utility to the process of earning a degree. Such strategies must also help to link job opportunities and career pathways with academic pursuits.

Strategic planning efforts of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education’s Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) recognized the need for a coordinated, system-wide solution to support students and help the state meet its degree completion and workforce development goals. The plan of action to address these needs was developed in response to South Carolina’s Education and Economic Development Act of 2005 (EEDA). With 33 public higher education institutions, including three research institutions, ten teaching institutions, 16 two-year technical colleges, and four two-year regional campuses of the University of South Carolina, the state’s public institutions collectively serve over 185,500 undergraduate students. Under the leadership of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education in collaboration with the state’s public higher education institutions and other EEDA stakeholders, South Carolina partnered with AcademyOne to develop and implement an ambitious, multi-year project utilizing AcademyOne’s Student Passport, web portals, consulting and project management services, and technology vision to address academic credit portability and to help meet the state’s degree completion goals.

Technologically, the South Carolina project leverages EdUnify as a public registry of web services. The implementation embeds the use of common data standards through open source adapters which deliver real-time, standards-based web services across the state’s public higher education institutions to facilitate student course planning and academic progress tracking. Real-time web services radically improve the ability of students to assess their transfer planning efforts better with accurate, secure, and authentic data.
retrieved from disparate student information systems which have their own authentication protocols, academic calendars, and data structures. The small footprint web service demonstrates how interoperability and common data access methods can be achieved even though the type and version of student information systems deployed at each institution vary widely. Most importantly, the application of web services reinforces the use of and respect for authoritative data sources. Such an approach minimizes the need to collect and compile aggregate information that can complicate security, syndication and accuracy.

AcademyOne’s Student Passport on the www.SCTRAC.org portal is the front-end application that helps to facilitate the behind-the-scenes work that is accomplished on behalf of South Carolina's students. The implementation of the AcademyOne Student Passport enables students to assess how prior coursework may potentially transfer between and among the state’s public institutions through course maps that can display numerous potential destination institutions. Thousands of students use the AcademyOne Student Passport annually across the United States; however, through the customized state portal, South Carolina's students are able to import their coursework from state institutions they attended previously. This function is made possible since the disparate student information systems where students’ records are stored are now interfaced directly to the state’s centralized portal through real-time, published web services that can be called by third party tools such as the Student Passport.

Because of the work achieved through the PESC Academic Progress Workgroup in 2009 that leverages EdUnify and the Academic History Web Service, students in South Carolina are able to compile coursework with the push of a button. Thousands of students are now using AcademyOne's Coursework Importer which is enabled by a request that transparently calls the Academic History Web Service. These South Carolina students have compiled on average 20 courses per Student Passport, compared to the national average of ten. Since transfer students average taking one extra semester of courses to satisfy degree requirements, we believe the simple addition of the real-time web service helps South Carolina’s students recognize significant savings by allowing them to compare courses for which they may be awarded credit with courses for which no credit would be awarded. AcademyOne plans to explore this trend further in follow-up studies. Of particular interest is the fact that the Academic History Web Service is a scaled-down version of the PESC postsecondary college transcript which focuses solely on the coursework schema elements.

In 2008 (the last year for which data are available), 15,658 of the students enrolled in public institutions in South Carolina were transfer students, an increase of 9.6 % from the previous year and an increase of 16.8 % from two years prior. In addition, over 11,000 South Carolina high school students take college courses annually. Focusing attention on the needs of transfer students and how institutions can effectively serve them was central to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education’s (SC CHE’s) plan*.


Contact Information:

Mr. Clint Mullins
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Objectives:

- To improve degree completion with real-time access tools that enable academic progress and tracking;
- To provide improved access to institutional services and information that increases advantageous course selection by transfer students;
- To connect advisors and students in order to help reduce taking courses that are not part of established college degree pathways; and
- To ensure state policies regarding award of college credit for IB and AP exams taken by high school students who are planning for college are honored and are transparent to students.

Benefits:

- Deployment of standards-based methods focusing on reuse and common data standards. The PESC common data elements are mapped and reused to foster bridges across disparate student information systems. Web services can be used for more than one function, including mobile support;
- Use of an abstraction layer that is not controlled by proprietary interests or any one vendor;
- Leveraging the PESC Academic Progress Workgroup’s effort, South Carolina has successfully adopted a vendor-neutral approach that spans Datatel, PeopleSoft, and SunGard as well as home-grown student information systems;
- Low cost to support and sustain the infrastructure and components since the abstraction layer limits unique hooks to individual student information systems and buffers evolutionary systems changes anticipated in the future;
- Responsive to students and their higher expectations for real-time access and services;
- Reduction in the amount of student confusion regarding the transfer process by providing tools that help students self-assess how coursework will transfer prior to enrollment, not after; and
- Proactive efforts to foster transfer pathways for student success which are far more beneficial than focusing on reactive processes. Coursework mapping requires institutions to publish their course equivalencies and allows institutions to help students meet their goals.

Why should the South Carolina Transfer and Articulation Center (SCTRAC) effort be considered for the PESC Annual Best Practices Award?

- South Carolina is the first state to utilize PESC EdUnify and the public registry to demonstrate how web services can lower the cost of technology while providing a coordinated, statewide, real-time solution.
- South Carolina is the first state to utilize the PESC common data elements published within the Academic History Web Services to provide direct services to students.
- South Carolina is the first state to bring together disparate student information systems with a loosely-coupled architecture that delivers real-time information access to improve degree completion.

Implementation Details:
The AcademyOne Student Passport utilizes secure web services to enable students to import coursework and evidence of prior coursework. The open source Academic History Web Services were created by PESC’s Academic Progress Workgroup as shared methods that support applications such as the personalized informal (unofficial) transcript audit within the Student Passport. The Student Passport is a limited-use, e-portfolio application designed to be student-centric and is hosted by AcademyOne. As such, the Student Passport incorporates a storage center and messaging platform which enables students to interact with multiple institutions and their respective staff members.

The logical topology map is presented below following several screen shots that explain the workflow of a student who is in the process of importing coursework to compare course applicability at potential transfer institutions with course equivalencies. Students can also share outputs through a common messaging platform.
Coursework Importer accessing the Academic History Web Services
### Midlands Technical College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Term</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993 Spring</td>
<td>CPT 125 - Main Frame Assembler Programming I</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993 Summer</td>
<td>CPT 168 - Programming Logic and Design</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993 Winter</td>
<td>CPT 115 - Cobol Programming I</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993 Winter</td>
<td>CPT 225 - Main Frame Assembler Programming II</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994 Spring</td>
<td>CPT 215 - Cobol Programming I</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994 Spring</td>
<td>CPT 242 - Database</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994 Summer</td>
<td>IST 220 - Data Communications</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994 Summer</td>
<td>CPT 234 - C Programming I</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994 Winter</td>
<td>CPT 235 - C Programming I</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994 Winter</td>
<td>IST 252 - Lan System Manager</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995 Spring</td>
<td>IST 271 - Object Oriented Technologies</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Courses: 11  Credits: 24.00

---

### Check out the transfer schools which matched your courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equivalency Map</th>
<th>View Profile</th>
<th>Matches</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of South Carolina-Aiken</td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>91.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lander University</td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>63.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of South Carolina-Columbia</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>51.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of South Carolina-Beaufort</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>48.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Charleston</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>45.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina State University</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>42.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-County Technical College</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>43.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aiken Technical College</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>43.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winthrop University</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>42.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamsburg Technical College</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>40.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of South Carolina-Lancaster</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>39.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>39.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence-Darlington Technical College</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>33.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of South Carolina-Sumter</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>33.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Technical College</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>33.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clemson University</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>31.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of South Carolina-Upstate</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>31.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Carolina University</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>27.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenville Technical College</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>24.00 / 100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
My Equivalency Map

Equivalency Map for University of South Carolina-Aiken

This Equivalency Map is an unofficial guide to how your courses may transfer. Other factors that must be taken into consideration are grades received in your original courses and the major you will be pursuing after you transfer. In all instances, final decisions on acceptance of course credit will be made by each individual institution.

1993 Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Equivalency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midlands Technical College</td>
<td>CPT 125 - Main Frame Assembler Programming I</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>ELECTIVE - ELECTIVE credit awarded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credits: 3.00  Transferable Credits: 3.00

1993 Summer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Equivalency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midlands Technical College</td>
<td>CPT 168 - Programming Logic and Design</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>ELECTIVE - ELECTIVE credit awarded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credits: 3.00  Transferable Credits: 3.00

1993 Winter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Equivalency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midlands Technical College</td>
<td>CPT 115 - Cobol Programming I</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>ELECTIVE - ELECTIVE credit awarded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlands Technical College</td>
<td>CPT 225 - Main Frame Assembler Programming I</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>ELECTIVE - ELECTIVE credit awarded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credits: 6.00  Transferable Credits: 6.00

1994 Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Equivalency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midlands Technical College</td>
<td>CPT 215 - Cobol Programming II</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>ACSC 205 - Business Application Programming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Loosely Coupled PESC EdUnify Web Services with Scaled-Down Academic History Web Services

**Figure 1 Coursework Importer Web Services Topology Map**

**Provider Descriptions:**

**Authentication Provider**

The Authentication Provider receives the student credentials from the Academic History Web Service. The Authentication Provider then authenticates the student’s credentials and returns either a message that indicates failed authentication or the ID of the student. Authentication Providers for LDAP and Active Directory are already being developed and institutions are able to use them where applicable.

**AcademicHistory Provider**

The AcademicHistory Provider receives the student ID supplied by the Authentication Provider and retrieves the list of courses the student has taken at the institution from the institution’s student information system database.

The data elements that are needed for the AcademicHistory Provider are: Prefix, Number, Title, Year, TermID, Credits Received and Grade. Please see the associated DummyAcademicHistoryProvider.java for an example of the population of these elements.

**AcademicCalendarProvider**

The AcademicCalendar Provider is needed to give context to the courses found in the Course History. With each course, the year and term the course was taken are included. The Calendar Information Provider specifies the name, start date, and end date of the terms so that the term values specified with each course can be interpreted by the AcademyOne system and the student.
The data elements that are needed for the Calendar Information Provider are: Year, TermID, TermName, Start of Term Date, and End of Term Date. Please see the attached DummyAcademicCalendarProvider.java for an example of the population of these elements.

The Academic History Web Services are published on EdUnify and document their end points and policies. Please see below:
Improving College Transfer with the South Carolina Transfer and Articulation Center (SCTRAC.ORG) Website – State Launches Web Portal Devoted to the Transfer of Academic Credit among Public Colleges and Universities

Columbia, SC, March 29, 2010 – The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education is very pleased to announce the launch of a web portal designed to improve college course transfer and articulation in the state. This system has been developed by AcademyOne, Inc. of West Chester, Pennsylvania, with the participation and support of all South Carolina public institutions of higher education. The web-based portal will assist students and support college and university staff members by providing online tools that make it easier to transfer academic credit and evaluate how higher education coursework will transfer among South Carolina’s public colleges and universities. The web portal, called SCTRAC (the South Carolina Transfer and Articulation Center) can be accessed online at www.sctrac.org.

Developed under the auspices of South Carolina’s Education and Economic Development Act, SCTRAC provides a first of its kind online resource that will help improve student advising and persistence across institutions, help provide seamless pathways for adequately prepared students to move directly into institutions of higher education, and foster student degree completion in the state. The system provides students with the information and tools needed to make sound academic decisions and better choices by avoiding taking courses which will not count toward a degree. Using the site, students can easily:

- locate information related to transfer, including application deadlines, requirements concerning the transfer of credit, and contact information for institutional transfer officers;
- access transfer agreements that exist among the state’s public institutions as well as statewide transfer agreements; and
- search for course equivalencies to determine how courses taken at one institution may transfer to another.

In addition to helping students make sound academic decisions, the transfer and articulation portal enables higher education institutions to display course equivalency and articulation information that pertains to college transfer and helps institutions coordinate articulation efforts with other institutions. The portal also streamlines the publishing of institution-specific information and other processes that support each institution’s programs and course offerings, including requirements for degree completion. By using the online system, institutions are able to present their institutional offerings in a consistent framework to better serve the state’s college students, high school students taking college courses, and adults aspiring to enter or re-enter college.
South Carolina has 33 public higher education institutions, including 13 four-year universities, 16 two-year technical colleges, and four two-year regional campuses of the University of South Carolina which collectively serve over 180,000 students. Last year, 15,658 students enrolled in public institutions in the state were transfer students, an increase of 9.6% from the previous year and an increase of 16.8% from two years prior. In addition, over 11,000 students take college courses annually while enrolled in high school.

Handling the increasing volume of academic credit transfer requests and the myriad of administrative tasks that accompany such requests can prove to be burdensome and costly for postsecondary institutions. “Especially in times of fiscal exigencies such as those South Carolina is experiencing presently, we must implement cost effective practices that yield more efficiency and enable students to make the most effective choices toward degree completion in order to avoid additional expenses and delays,” says Dr. Gail M. Morrison, Deputy Director and Director of the Division of Academic Affairs & Licensing at the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. According to David K. Moldoff, AcademyOne’s founder and CEO, “states that tackle these trends head-on and develop a coordinated approach to college transfer and evaluation of prior coursework are going to be ahead of the game when it comes to workforce and economic development. The investment will ultimately save money and provide improved service to citizens.”

Public service announcements and radio advertisements designed to reach the college-going public have been developed with the support and assistance of the South Carolina Education Lottery and South Carolina Educational Television and will begin airing immediately.

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education serves as the coordinating board for the state’s public postsecondary institutions. AcademyOne, Inc., a leader in information technology for higher education, specializes in solutions which address student mobility and academic credit transfer.
The South Carolina Transfer and Articulation Center (SC TRAC)
A statewide transfer and articulation system implementation
Improving student access, success, and degree completion with cost conscious system and institutional productivity solutions

Background

Strategic planning efforts of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education’s Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) recognized the need for a coordinated, system-wide solution to support students by helping to create seamless pathways from secondary to postsecondary education, thereby supporting the state’s goals of increasing degree completion to bolster workforce development. A plan of action to address these needs was developed in response to South Carolina’s Education and Economic Development Act of 2005.

With 33 public higher education institutions, including three research institutions, ten teaching institutions, 16 two-year technical colleges, and four two-year regional campuses of the University of South Carolina, the state’s public institutions collectively serve over 185,000 undergraduate students. In 2008, 15,658 of the students enrolled in public institutions in South Carolina were transfer students, an increase of 9.6% from the previous year and an increase of 16.8% from two years prior. In addition, over 11,000 South Carolina high school students take college courses annually.* Focusing attention on the needs of transfer students and how institutions can effectively serve them was central to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education’s (SC CHE’s) plan.

South Carolina partnered with AcademyOne to develop and implement an ambitious, multi-year project utilizing AcademyOne’s state-of-the-art technology and other higher education services to address academic credit portability and help to meet the state’s goals.

*Source: Report on the Migration of First-Time Undergraduate Transfer, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, March 2010

Project Mission & Goals

Handling the increasing volume of academic credit transfer requests and the complex administrative tasks that accompany such requests can prove to be burdensome and costly for postsecondary institutions. “Neither higher education institutions nor students have been insulated from the negative financial effects of the current economic downturn. At the same time, obtaining a college degree has never been more important to individuals and indeed to the nation. Now more than ever, states must do everything possible to eliminate barriers to degree completion and to ensure that students avoid additional expenses and delays. AcademyOne is helping South Carolina implement cost effective technology-based solutions that work for students, institutions, and the state,” said Dr. T. Michael Raley, Director of the Division of Academic Affairs and Licensing at the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

The SC Commission on Higher Education sought to provide an integrated, web-based solution with software tools to meet the course articulation and college transfer needs of South Carolina’s public colleges and universities and their students. The system that was developed by AcademyOne to meet South Carolina’s needs allows institutional autonomy, flexibility, and individual practice in serving stakeholders while achieving three primary goals to help students:

- FINISH a degree faster, thereby saving money and time.
- MAKE BETTER CHOICES and avoid taking courses which will not count toward a degree.
- JOIN THE WORKFORCE EARLIER and become part of the state’s economic engine.

To begin gaining the benefits of an online solution as quickly as possible, a multi-year project plan consisting of three overlapping phases and associated deliverables was developed and deployed.

Phase One: Software Tools Implementation

Phase One included the systematic collection of a variety of transfer-related information from institutions and system offices. Easy to access, collaborative web-based tools were provided to institutions so that information could be easily updated and maintained using coordinated and sustainable content management methods.
"Access to up-to-date course equivalency information is extremely vital to students, faculty, and staff. It is necessary to have this information in one easily accessible and navigable place. AcademyOne has done a great job with this; SCTRAC.org provides a wealth of knowledge and is easy to use to find information.

The initial setup of the system took some time, but now it is basically maintenance free. I just make sure our database is accurate and the synchronizer maintains the information available on SCTRAC.org. I also appreciate all of the options AcademyOne provides when entering your course information into their system. This flexibility is very helpful since every college has a unique way of entering course information and equivalencies.

AcademyOne has been great to work with. They are extremely knowledgeable and are there when you have questions or need help."

Taylor Johnston, Transfer Articulation Director, Office of the Registrar, Lander University

The specific AcademyOne software tools that were deployed in South Carolina are:

**The Course Equivalency Management Center (CEMC)**, which helps institutions map courses at other institutions to their own courses, records courses in the database as equivalencies, and provides updates.

**The Transfer Agreement Management Center (TAMC)**, which enables institutions to publish their transfer agreements, codify them, and promote their agreements to prospective students.

**The Transfer Profile Management Center (TPMC)**, which provides a summary of transfer information. Institutions can promote their programs and services, such as admission requirements and transfer credit information, which are especially relevant to prospective transfer students.

The result is the availability of consistent, accurate, and up-to-date institutional information for students, advisors, and the public to access.

**Phase Two: Customized Web Portal Deployment of SCTRAC.ORG**

South Carolina required an electronic web portal to assist students in making better choices about the transfer of academic credit. The web portal supports both students and academic professionals by providing tools that allow students to evaluate how prior coursework will transfer among and between public postsecondary institutions. The South Carolina web portal, www.SCTRAC.org, was launched in Spring 2010.

SC TRAC is a one-stop information source for transfer students and the administrators, advisors, and faculty who support their academic progress. SC TRAC facilitates student transitions between and among South Carolina’s institutions of higher education and supports academic professionals who are charged with making and managing transfer and articulation decisions, agreements, and policies. The web portal provides professionals with a trusted source of validated information and an electronic means to coordinate and collaborate with each other across campuses.

SC TRAC makes available a first-of-its-kind online resource that helps to improve student advising and persistence across institutions, helps to provide seamless pathways for adequately prepared students to move directly into institutions of higher education, and fosters student degree completion in the state. The system provides students with a reliable, easy-to-access information resource that assists them in making sound academic decisions and better choices by avoiding taking courses which will not count toward a degree. Using the site, students can easily:

- **LOCATE** information related to transfer, including application deadlines, requirements concerning the transfer of academic credits, and contact information for institutional transfer officers;
- **ACCESS** individual transfer agreements that exist among the state’s public institutions as well as statewide transfer agreements that affect all institutions; and
- **SEARCH** for course equivalencies to determine how courses taken at one institution may transfer to another.

In addition to helping students make better academic decisions, South Carolina’s customized transfer and articulation portal enables higher education institutions to display course equivalency and articulation information that pertains to college transfer and helps institutions coordinate articulation efforts with other institutions. The portal also streamlines the publishing of institution-specific information and other processes that support each institution’s programs and course offerings. By using the online system, institutions are able to present their offerings in a consistent framework to serve better the state’s college students, high school students who take college courses, and adults who aspire to enter or re-enter postsecondary education.

To help create public awareness and promote SC TRAC, public service announcements and radio advertisements designed to reach the college-going public were developed with the support and assistance of the South Carolina Education Lottery and South Carolina ETV Radio and began airing in the Spring of 2010. The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, the state’s higher education coordinating board, is the agency responsible for managing the SC TRAC implementation.
Phase Three: Institutional Interfaces Utilize Web Services to Promote System Integration, Data Synchronization, and Real-Time, Self-Service Academic Planning

What makes South Carolina’s AcademyOne implementation such a success is the sophisticated use of technology to reduce the effort required to maintain a statewide, coordinated transfer and academic data repository in order to provide real-time student guidance and advising services. The project is also an outstanding example of cross-institutional, system-wide collaboration.

Institutional interfaces allow for the connection of institution-based student information systems to the centralized SC TRAC portal. Automated connections help students by offering the ability to create a personal account that allows students to manage their coursework, reduce manual entry of data, and improve accuracy in degree planning. Administrative overhead is reduced and time is saved in campus departments by enabling high-quality online, real-time student self-service. The institutional authentication process is supported by the use of a secure private network. Records cannot be altered, and transfer and admissions staff members can be confident that students receive accurate degree planning information through web-based advising and guidance.

**Coursework Importer Software for Two-Year Institutions**

One of the barriers to helping prospective students assess transfer pathways is the lack of access to their academic course history. AcademyOne provides a secure interface, the Coursework Importer, between an institution’s student information system and SC TRAC. The Coursework Importer permits a student’s academic course history to be imported automatically into the Student Passport, the student’s account on SC TRAC. No identifying student information is retained by the system; only the course, year/term taken, and grade received are retained. Once an academic course history is imported to the Student Passport, students have the ability to create Course Equivalency Maps to destination institutions they are interested in attending. Students can update their accounts at any time and can use the system to learn if planned future coursework is transferable.

**Equivalency Synchronizers for Four-Year Institutions**

The Equivalency Synchronizer is an integration tool that automatically accepts many thousands of course equivalencies from an institution’s student information system (SIS) and/or degree audit system (DAS) and synchronizes the equivalencies with SC TRAC. Equivalency synchronization eliminates the need for common course numbering, and resolves course and institutional crosswalk coding challenges.

**What’s Next?**

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education strives for continuous improvements to student and institutional service as well as to system productivity. The agency is investigating new and improved ways to utilize SC TRAC with the software tools and interfaces the system provides. For example, SC TRAC is now being used to support the display of Advanced Placement (AP) exam and International Baccalaureate (IB) exam credit awards by institutions in accordance with state policies. Enhanced functionality for students and South Carolina’s higher education institutions will be added to SC TRAC using suggestions and feedback that are continuously solicited. Outreach to high school counselors will help extend awareness to high school college-bound students who can use the system to discover a world of degree pathways.
SCTRAC.ORG

A guide for students.
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Welcome to SCTRAC.ORG, the most comprehensive website for students looking to transfer academic credits in South Carolina.
Useful Areas for Students

Quick Links for Students

Search for Course Equivalencies

Search for Transfer Agreements

Search for Courses

Search for Programs

Plan Your Transfer

Learn the Language

Common Questions

Participating Institutions

The “Quick Links” area is an easy way for users to begin looking for information including Courses, Equivalencies, Programs and more!
Useful Areas for Students

Additional information for students can be found using the “Student” tab on the navigation bar.
"Search for Course Equivalencies" can be found in the Quick Links area or under the Student tab.

### Search for Course Equivalencies

You can search for course equivalencies for a particular Transfer From or Transfer To School by selecting the school from the drop lists. You can also see equivalencies that Transfer From 'All' Schools to a specific School you select in the Transfer To School.

#### Step 1: Transfer FROM

- **Check this box to display ONLY participating South Carolina institutions here:**
- **College:**

#### Step 2: Transfer TO

- **College:**

#### Step 3: Additional Search Fields

Fill in any of these fields in order to further refine your search. All of these fields are optional.

- **Subject:**
- **Course Prefix:** (Optional)
- **Course Number:** (Optional)
- **Course Title:** (Optional)

- **Find Only SC Universally Transferable Courses?**

**NOTE:** Enter at least one FROM or TO institution
Search for Course Equivalencies

As you begin typing in the “Transfer FROM” field, a list of matching institutions will be returned. Click on the one you wish to select.

By checking the box, only participating South Carolina institutions will be displayed in the “Transfer FROM” field.
Search for Course Equivalencies

The “Transfer TO” field is a drop-down list containing all participating South Carolina institutions.
Search for Course Equivalencies

You can search for course equivalencies for a particular Transfer From or Transfer To School by selecting the school from the drop lists. You can also see Equivalencies that Transfer From 'All' Schools to a specific School you select in the Transfer To School.

Step 1: Transfer FROM
- Check this box to display ONLY participating South Carolina institutions.

College:
- Aiken Technical College

Step 2: Transfer TO

College:
- University of South Carolina Aiken

Step 3: Additional Search Fields

Fill in any of these fields in order to further refine your search. All of these fields are optional.

- Subject: math
- Course Prefix:
- Course Number:
- Course Title:

Find Only SC Universally Transferable Courses

Additional search criteria can be added, but it can help to start very general and work towards specifics.

TIP: Additional search criteria can be added, but it can help to start out more generally and refine your search as you go.

SC Universally Transferable Courses are courses which are guaranteed by policy to transfer among all two- and four-year public institutions in SC.
Search for Course Equivalencies

The search results screen allows you to page through the equivalencies that were found in your search.
Search for Course Equivalencies

Clicking “Details” will give more information about an equivalency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Institution</th>
<th>Target Institution</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Equivalent?</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aiken Technical College</td>
<td>University of South Carolina</td>
<td>MAT 110 - College Algebra</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT 110</td>
<td>AMTH 108 - Applied College Algebra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clicking Details will give more information about an equivalency.
Search for Course Equivalencies

The “Refine Your Search” option will allow you to change your search criteria.
Search for Courses

Enter institution or course search criteria and select “See Results.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search for Courses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use this search to find course information for participating SC TRAC institutions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To find courses by keyword, enter some or all of the following, then select the See Results button.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institution Name</strong> (Enter all or part of the Institution’s Name)</td>
<td>lander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course Title</strong> (Enter all or part of a Course Title, for example, biomedical)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course Subject</strong> (Enter a Course Subject, for example, Psychology)</td>
<td>english</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course Description</strong> (Enter a keyword or keywords from a Course Description, for example, hemmingway or impressionism)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course ID</strong> (Enter all or parts of a Course ID, for example, ACC or HIST)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>See Results &gt;</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
View the course information, which may span multiple pages.

Use the “Search Again” area to add or change your search criteria.
Search for College Profiles

Select an institution from the list.

Enter a ZIP code and radius.

Enter a program you are interested in pursuing.

Enter an institution keyword.

Select institution size or the highest degree type offered.

NOTE: All fields are optional. Be sure to select at least one field
Search for College Profiles

Click on an institution name to view their Transfer Profile.

Aiken Technical College
Aiken Technical College is a public, open-door, comprehensive two-year institution offering associate's degrees, diplomas, and certificates in more than 60 areas. Many of the credits earned at ATC transfer to other South Carolina colleges. Full-time tuition for Aiken County residents is approximately half the cost of tuition at area four-year colleges. Residents of surrounding counties in South Carolina and Georgia pay only a nominal, additional tuition fee. A variety of financial aid options, including S.C. Lottery Tuition Assistance, make a quality education at ATC very affordable.

Central Carolina Technical College
Central Carolina Technical College is a comprehensive, public, two-year institution of higher education that is dedicated to fostering a positive environment of teaching and learning for faculty, staff, and students. The College serves primarily the region of Clarendon, Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter counties in South Carolina and confers associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates.
Viewing College Profiles

Aiken Technical College

Aiken Technical College is a public, open-door, comprehensive two-year institution offering associate’s degrees, diplomas and certificates in more than 80 areas. Many of the credits earned at ATC transfer to other South Carolina colleges. Full-time tuition for Aiken County residents is approximately half the cost of tuition at area four-year colleges. Residents of surrounding counties in South Carolina and Georgia pay only a nominal, additional tuition fee. A variety of financial aid options, including S.C. Lottery Tuition Assistance, make a quality education at ATC very affordable.

Address:
2276 Jefferson Davis Highway
Granteville, South Carolina 29829
Aiken
United States

Transfer Admissions Contact Information:
Christina Dunn
Transcript Evaluator, Admissions and Records
dunnrc@atc.edu

Transfer Services Contact Information:
Kathryn Fowler
Transfer Counselor, Counseling Services
fowlerk@atc.edu

Phone Number: (803) 593-9954
Email: sommersl@atc.edu
Website: www.atc.edu

Additional Contacts

International Admissions Contact
Dawn Butts
Registrar, Admissions and Records

Athletic Director Contact
Dr. James A. Schmidt
Vice President of Student Services, Student Services

All profile information is provided and maintained by each individual institution.

Scroll down the page to get additional information about transfer policies, requirements, deadlines and more!
Select the “Request More Information” link to submit your contact information to institutions you are interested in.
Submit your contact information to institutions of your choice. A representative from the institution(s) will contact you.

NOTE: Personal information submitted through SCTRAC.ORG is not shared with third parties.

Be sure to indicate when you are looking to enroll at the institution and what type of student you are.
Select multiple institutions to compare their Transfer Profiles side-by-side.
Use the "Remove" option to reduce the number of institutions viewed side-by-side.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Key Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clemson University</td>
<td>Clemson, South Carolina 29634</td>
<td>Yes, Clemson University enrolls over 1000 transfer students each year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Carolina Technical College</td>
<td>Sumter, South Carolina 29130-2499</td>
<td>Central Carolina Technical College accepts credits from various institutions throughout the state. These may be applicable towards a degree at CCTC, pending receipt of transcripts and a satisfactorily completed Transient Information Request Form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aiken Technical College</td>
<td>Graniteville, South Carolina 29820</td>
<td>The Admissions and Records Office evaluates &quot;official&quot; college transcripts from regionally accredited colleges and universities for transfer credit consideration. Official transcripts are MAILED directly from one college to another.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Clemson University</th>
<th>Central Carolina Technical College</th>
<th>Aiken Technical College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Applications Received</td>
<td>Fall 2009: 1933</td>
<td>Fall 2009: 1392</td>
<td>For the academic year 2008: 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Applications Accepted</td>
<td>Fall 2009: 1392</td>
<td>Fall 2009: 69%</td>
<td>For the academic year 2008: 1268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Accepted</td>
<td>Fall 2009: 69%</td>
<td>Fall 2009: 69%</td>
<td>For the academic year 2008: 55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Applicants Fall</td>
<td>Fall 2009: 980</td>
<td>Fall 2009: 69%</td>
<td>For the academic year 2008: 55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Scholarships</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For the academic year 2008: 55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For the academic year 2008: 55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please do not delay in filling out the FAFSA if you are applying for financial aid. This can be done online and must be submitted as close to January 1 as possible. The federal code is 003425 for race, color.
Transfer Agreements are posted by institutions to show students how courses and academic credit can transfer from one institution to another. Enter search criteria to view the agreements available to SC students.

NOTE: All search criteria are optional.
Search for Transfer Agreements

Select “View” to open a copy of the transfer agreement posted by the institution.
Search for Transfer Agreements

Use the “Refine Search” option to change your search criteria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From College</th>
<th>Transfer FROM</th>
<th>Transfer TO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>York Technical College</td>
<td>Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Technical College</td>
<td>Science Technologies</td>
<td>Any Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Technical College</td>
<td>Social Science - General</td>
<td>Any Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Technical College</td>
<td>AS</td>
<td>Environmental and Conservation Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Technical College</td>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
<td>Direct Transfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Technical College</td>
<td>Winthrop University</td>
<td>BS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Technical College</td>
<td>Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Technical College</td>
<td>Science Technologies</td>
<td>Science Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Technical College</td>
<td>Social Science - General</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Technical College</td>
<td>Environmental and Conservation Sciences</td>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Technical College</td>
<td>Environmental and Conservation Sciences</td>
<td>Winthrop University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

View Agreement

Display: 10 results per page

24
Search for Programs

Enter an Institution name, Keyword(s), or Award Type to search for programs offered.

NOTE: All search criteria are optional.
Search for Programs

Use the “Search Again” area to change your search criteria.
Click on the “+” and “−” icons to expand or collapse the program data for each institution.
Creating a Student Account

What are the benefits of creating a student account on SCTRAC.ORG?

By creating a student account you can:
- Enter and save your course history
- Find institutions that award the most credit based on your course history.
- Create Equivalency Maps.
- Store documents.
- Share your information with recipients (e.g., school admissions and advisors).
- Receive valuable information from institutions that respond to your shared information.
Creating a Student Account

Select “Register” from the home page of SCTRAC.ORG.
Creating a Student Account

Create a Username and enter your Name, Email address, and a password to sign up.

All personal information is confidential and will not be shared with third parties.

Be sure to read the “Terms of Use” and select the checkbox before submitting.
The “Welcome” and “What Do You Know?” areas are great places to start once creating an account. Follow the steps to enter your course history, create equivalency maps, and share your information with recipients.
Getting Started with your Student Account

The “My Account” links allow you to access all areas of your account from any page.
My Course History

Three different options are available for entering your course history:
- Add courses manually
- Import your courses from your institution
- Add standardized tests
My Course History – Adding Courses Manually

You can use My Course History function to build a list of your courses. You can either add courses manually or use the import function below if your institution is a member.

Add Courses

Start typing any part of your institution's name and select your institution from the list.

Institution: Technical College of the Lowcountry

Year: 2009

When you start to type Prefix and Number, you will see results from your institution's recent catalogs. If the course is not listed, then you will have to enter it manually.

Prefix: BIO

Number: 100

Title: Introductory Biology

Credits: 4.00

Grade: B

Courses: 4 Credits: 13.00

Total Courses: 4 Total Credits: 13.00
My Course History – Importing Your Courses

Select your institution from the drop-down list, enter your student credentials, and import your courses.

NOTE: If your institution is not available, you will have to manually add your course information.
My Course History – Find Transfer Institutions

After completing your Course History, select the “Find Transfer Institutions” button.
The “Credits” column indicates how many credits may be awarded when transferring.

NOTE:
These results can be used as an unofficial guide to how your courses may transfer. Other factors that must be taken into consideration are grades received in your original courses and the major you will be pursuing after you transfer. In all instances, final decisions on acceptance of course credit will be made by each individual institution.
Click on the institution's name to see how each course transfers into that particular institution. This action automatically places the equivalency in the “My Equivalency Maps” area of your account.
Select “Create a New Equivalency Map”, choose an institution from the drop-down list, and click on “Create”.

- An equivalency map will show you available course equivalencies from the institution you specified for all the courses in your course history.
- To create a new equivalency map, please specify which institution are you planning to transfer to?

  University of South Carolina Aiken

[Create] [Cancel]
My Equivalency Maps

Create new Equivalency Maps to find out how your courses would transfer to another institution.

Create a New Equivalency Map

You have 2 equivalency maps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Creation</th>
<th>Equivalency Map</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
<th>Transferable Credits</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 30 2010 3:38PM</td>
<td>South Carolina State University</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>31.00</td>
<td>Delete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 30 2010 3:42PM</td>
<td>University of South Carolina Aiken</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>Delete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Click on the newly-added school to view the detailed equivalency map showing how each course will transfer.
Upload documents that you may wish to share with recipients to your Storage Center.
Sharing your information is easy! Enter a recipient’s email address and select the information you wish to share.
Need Technical Assistance?

For technical assistance using this site, please contact:

Academy One, Inc.
601 Willowbrook Lane
West Chester, PA 19382

Phone: 610-436-5680

Email: sctracfeedback@academyone.com