# Insights into Automation in Completion and Reverse Transfer

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# Auto-completion and reverse transfer are popular strategies, but implementation is limited

Nearly 7 out of 10 Texas community and technical colleges reported awarding 50 or fewer degrees through reverse transfer in AY 2017-18.



#### Student Identification

- · Partner Institutions
- Eligibility Critiera
- Frequency and Scope

#### Consent

- Consent Methods
- Consent Method Outcomes

#### Transcript Exchange

- Transcript Exchange Method
- Transcript Exchange Capacity

#### Degree Audit

- Technology Infrastructure
- Course Equivalency Systems

#### Degree Conferral and Advising

- Notification
- Engaging and Advising Near-Completers

\*Taylor, J.L. and Bragg, D. D. (2015) *Optimizing reverse transfer policies and processes: Lessons from 12 Credit When It's Due states.* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

#### **Texas Context**

#### Eligibility for Reverse Transfer

- Does not have an associate degree
- 66 cumulative SCH
- 30 SCH at community college partner

#### Consent

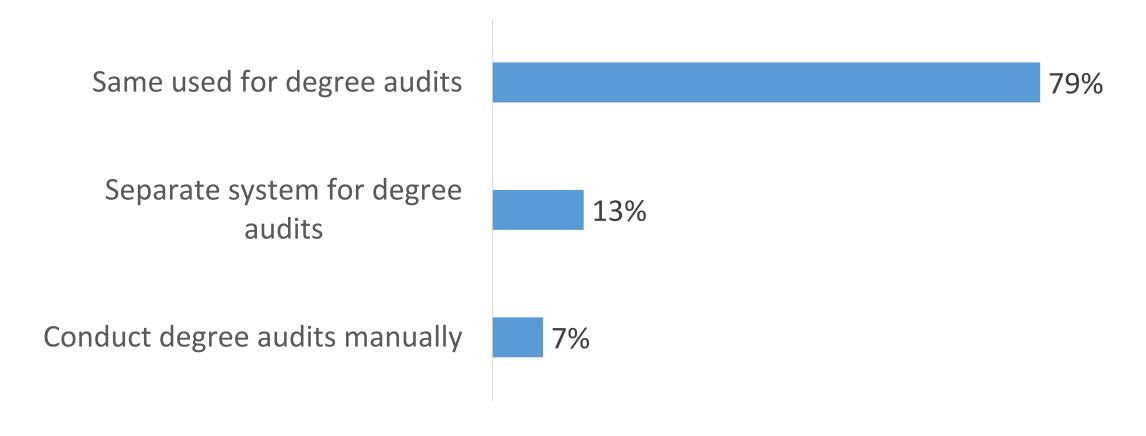
- ApplyTX items
  - 'Yes' selected

#### Transcript Exchange

69% of CTCs reported using SPEEDE



THECB surveyed institutions in spring 2019. Most institutions reported their student information system/enterprise resource planning system incorporates the degree audit system their institution deploys.





# Common Features in Degree Audit System

Enables student access via a web portal

Tracks progress toward certificates, minors, specializations, or concentration programs

Tracks student progress toward core requirements

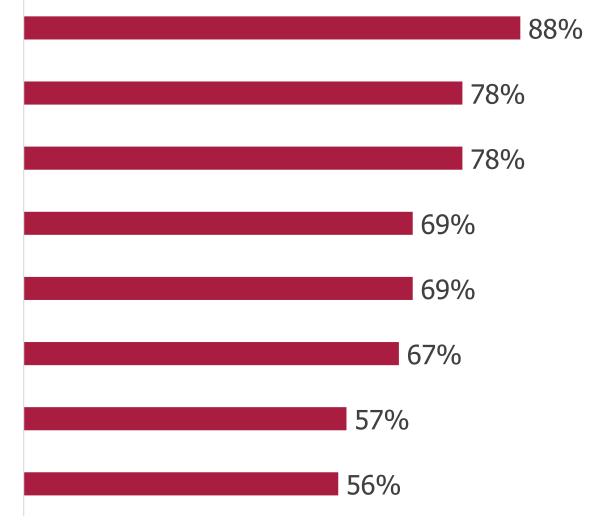
Provides students with "what if" function so they can understand academic progress

Tracks substitution or waived credits

Tracks student progress toward field of study completion

Runs batch degree audits

Tracks transfer credit applicability





## Less Common Features in Degree Audit System





Tracks and automatically provides elective classifications for non-applicable course

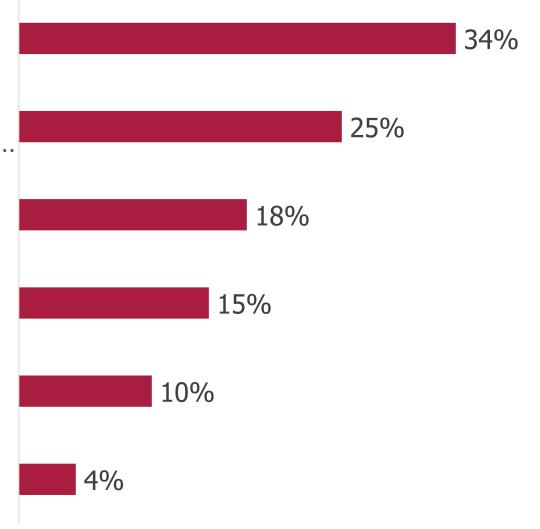
Automates identification of students who have completed a degree program (Auto-...

Facilitates automated electronic data exchange

Integrates student directory information to aide delivery of degrees

Provides a scheduler, so audits can be performed when final grades are posted

Automates identification of students who have completed a degree program via...







### Common Issues

- Manual processes may still required even when using a degree audit system
  - Some systems can only perform one student audit at a time
  - Conversions of transfer credit from transcripts
  - Degree audit is student-initiated process
- Features have limitations that require customizations
  - Some features are not user-friendly for staff, so institution adapts
  - Departments/colleges have specific needs that must be accommodated, such as substitute courses or elective credit designations
  - Batching or filtering requirements
  - Some institutions do not have resources, training, or capacity to make adjustments.



# Common Issues, Continued

- Not all capabilities or features are being used
  - Vendors may require additional costs for degree audit capabilities
  - Need for further consultation and training
  - Lack of full integration with all course catalogs, departments, or other idiosyncratic needs



# Suggestions for Improvement

- Improve transcript data exchange among institutions
  - Establish common standards and format for electronic data exchange
    - Issues when transcripts arrive as paper or PDF.
    - SPEEDE does not identify 'reverse transfer' students
    - Universities do not use the Texas Common Course Numbering System (TCCNS)
  - Implement a reporting schedule for reverse transfer
    - Identify dates for data transfer for reverse transfer, so students are easily identifiable in batch datashould
- THECB provide additional guidance and opportunities for discussion on auto-completion and reverse transfer
  - How to accept junior- or senior-level coursework
  - How does auto-completion affect financial aid
  - What is required under accreditation

