

# ECCompass – A Technology Solution for Institutional Initiatives Focused on Credit Mobility for Students

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# Session Agenda

- Session Objectives
- The Evolving Learner Profile
- The Focus is on Affordability
- Credit Mobility
- Credit Mobility Support in ECCompass
- Feedback from Advisors
- Q & A

*However, please ask questions at any time during the session.*



# Session Objectives

- Understand barriers to affordability for learners.
- Review how **Credit Mobility** can address those barriers.
- Demonstrate support for **Credit Mobility** in ECompass.
- Sample feedback from college staff addressing learner needs using ECompass.





# The Evolving Learner Profile

Increasingly, learners gain skills and knowledge through work, college, and informal sources.

Learners also seek degree and non-degree post secondary credentials for career goals, career transitions or to enhance their careers by “upskilling” or “reskilling”.

Learners today may transfer institutions to acquire those credentials as their needs evolve.

# The Evolving Learner Profile

38%

Of all first-time students transfer institutions within their first **6** years. Of those who transfer, almost **half (45%)** change institutions **2** or more times.

64%

Of students work while in college.

34%±

Of students take college courses in high school and **88%** of high schools offer dual enrollment.

39

Million Americans have some college credit but not a post secondary credential.

# The Focus is on Affordability

Affordability is a significant factor that affects completion of post secondary credentials by learners.

# The Focus is on Affordability

**University affordability** is the **top obstacle** among four key factors impacting students' ability to transfer—regardless of age, gender, or racial or ethnic background\*.

Students who transfer and apply more credits to degree completion are **more likely to complete a bachelor's degree**.

Current transfer and prior learning evaluation approaches suffer from many disconnects that make completing a post-secondary credential **more challenging** and **more expensive** for students.

*\*In a recent survey of community college students*

# The Focus is on Affordability

**There are 7 transition points** for students where **disconnects** between learner needs and existing institutional processes **impact affordability**.

Processes and practices that support **Credit Mobility** help address those disconnect and hence, affordability.



# Credit Mobility: What Is It?

The ability to receive credit for all prior learning, accumulated across multiple sources, in a uniform, transparent, and efficient manner, and optimally apply those credits to complete a post secondary credential.

# Credit Mobility: Why?

Students who **transfer** or **seek postsecondary credentials** for upskilling, reskilling, career transitions, etc., inherently need **Credit Mobility**.

## Credit Mobility Helps Address Affordability.

# Credit Mobility: What Does It Deliver?

- **Minimize time** to evaluate prior learning.
- **Transparency** in evaluation of prior learning.
- **Uniformity** in credits granted and accepted across an institution.
- **Maximize credits applied** for lowest time and cost to complete.
- **Student facing tools.**

# Credit Mobility Support in ECCompass

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## What Does The Student Need?

Students seek to receive credits for prior learning in high-quality settings ranging from dual enrollment in high school to military experience, digital badging and work-based learning.



## Where Is The Disconnect?

Students are faced with a lack of robust Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) policies and practices.



## How Does It Impact Students?

Students do not receive credits for prior learning and find they must take courses that cover content they already know or retake courses already taken - costing them time and money on their path to completion.



## How Does ECCompass Fix the Disconnect?!

ECCompass supports equivalencies for any type of credential for which credits are granted – exams, courses, military courses, military occupation specialties, certifications, licenses, badges, etc.



# Credit Mobility Support in ECCompass

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## What Does The Student Need?

Students seek to transfer and apply academic credits taken at other postsecondary institutions toward completion.



## Where Is The Disconnect?

Students are faced with a lack of intentional practice to ensure unbiased, efficient credit evaluation.



## How Does It Impact Students?

Students lose time and money as they are forced to retake courses and forfeit investments of time and money already spent. Inefficient and lengthy credit evaluation processes can mean students do not learn which courses they need to take in a timely manner.



## How Does ECCompass Fix the Disconnect?!

ECCompass provides an institution wide **student facing equivalency database** which supports **uniformity**, **transparency**, and **robustness** for CPL policies. It also provides students with rapid, 24/7 availability of informal CPL evaluation.

# Credit Mobility Support in ECCompass

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## What Does The Student Need?

Students desire the ability to efficiently submit evidence of the quality of their previous work and learning experiences (e.g., transcripts).



## Where Is The Disconnect?

Students are faced with a lack of sharing of electronic, machine-readable learner and employment records and transcripts.



## How Does It Impact Students?

As students wait for their transcripts to be received and processed, they may miss out on the ability to register for the right courses at the right time. This can force students to wait to take needed courses or lead them to take unneeded courses that will not count toward completion.



## How Does ECCompass Fix the Disconnect?!

Users can create a **comprehensive record of their learning** - upload transcripts that create a 'portfolio' of prior learning experiences and add additional elements (such as jobs or certificates) to their portfolio, as well as attach supporting documentation.

# Credit Mobility Support in ECCompass

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## What Does The Student Need?

Students need an optimal pathway to completion that maximizes credits from their existing learning and work experiences.



## Where Is The Disconnect?

Students are faced with a lack of information about how their previous work and learning experiences will apply to completion of a postsecondary credential.



## How Does It Impact Students?

Students do not have information to impact decisions about which institutions or programs will maximize existing learning, and how much time and credits will still be required before completion.



## How Does ECCompass Fix the Disconnect?!

Evaluation of prior learning is **immediately** available to users. Users can identify **academic or career pathways** and dynamically map out the application of those credits to credential requirements including remaining credits and unfulfilled requirements.

# Credit Mobility Support in ECCompass

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## What Does The Student Need?

Students seek to receive advice on the right programs to choose and courses to register for that will put them on an affordable and strategic path to completion of a credential.



## Where Is The Disconnect?

Students are faced with a lack of access to and knowledge of intentional career and academic advising.



## How Does It Impact Students?

Without adequate advice and guidance, learners might not know how to choose an academic program aligned to their career aspirations or the courses required for completion of a program.



## How Does ECCompass Fix the Disconnect?!

The College Connect feature allows students to request access to staff or advisors for expert advice. Embedded data related to careers enables the linking of careers to credentials (including military experience) which provides students with details on both desired and recommended career pathways.



# Credit Mobility Support in ECCompass

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## What Does The Student Need?

Students seek to finance their educations.



## Where Is The Disconnect?

A lack of fair and equal access to financial aid.



## How Does It Impact Students?

Students are not receiving equitable aid and support to finance their educations.



## How Does ECCompass Fix the Disconnect?!

ECCompass provides an estimated cost required to complete a degree or credential. It also includes estimates of military education benefits for military students. Other aid options can also be added such as Pell grant estimates and information about other financial aid options.

# Credit Mobility Support in ECCompass

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## What Does The Student Need?

Students seek to transfer into a postsecondary institution that is ready and equipped to serve them.



## Where Is The Disconnect?

A lack of institutions that are equipped and ready for students who transfer.



## How Does It Impact Students?

Students face unfair challenges that can impede their academic performance and timely progression to completion.



## How Does ECCompass Fix the Disconnect?!

Implementation of the portal – the data and information gathering, introducing uniformity and transparency, identifying gaps, etc., can help institutions complement all their other initiatives to be better equipped for students who transfer.

# ECCompass – Credit Mobility Demo

[Transfer Partners](#) [Programs & Courses](#) [Events](#) [Log in](#)



[About TransferVA](#) [Transfer Steps](#) [Transfer Tools](#) [Resource Center](#) [Contact an Institution](#)



Your credits. Your degree. Your move.

[WELCOME](#) [TRANSFER PARTNERS](#) [TRANSFER GUIDES](#) [Where Will My MAJOR TRANSFER?](#) [Where Will My COURSE TRANSFER?](#) [Where Can I Find An EQUIVALENT COURSE?](#) [CREDIT EVALUATION](#) [MY FASTEST DEGREE](#)

# Credit Mobility: Real World Feedback From Advisors

*"My favorite feature on the Transfer Virginia website is the Where Will My Major Transfer? ...[students] will type in the exact degree program that they're in, hit search, and then be able to filter and see all of the available options to them for bachelor's degrees or even other associate degree programs."*

**Madison, Transfer Advisor at a VCCS College**

*"I am also a parent of a college student who is planning to transfer. After sharing this tool with him, he has been able to identify the remaining courses needed in order to transfer to the college of his choice. Thank you for such a friendly and comprehensive tool."*

**Kenyada, Faculty Advisor at a VCCS College and parent of college student**



# Credit Mobility: Real World Feedback From Advisors

*"I think the portal is a great one-stop shopping hub" to research and pick the right school, and determine if it's the right fit for you.*

**Matt, Transfer Advisor at a VCCS College**

*"I go to Programs & Courses...and type in the student's major...to see all the places that it's offered and then do some research into each one of them."*

**Kris, Transfer Advisor at a VCCS College**

# Thank you!

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