

**Proposal for Partnership between Oregon Postsecondary Institutions and OSAC**  
Issue for discussion:

Postsecondary institutions are experiencing administrative difficulties in the delivery of financial aid for students attending multiple institutions and wishing to have all credits count toward their financial aid eligibility.

Many community colleges and Oregon University System schools have entered into co-admission agreements, which allow and encourage students to simultaneously attend both institutions. Delivering financial aid to these students creates an administrative burden because enrollment data is often stored at the institution delivering the instruction. This makes the combining of co-enrolled students credits a manual process for most institutions.

Since distance education is quickly becoming a popular method of instruction for students, this issue is growing rapidly.

Proposal:

Institutions are seeking a method to store and track information in a timely, accurate and consistent manner to serve the needs of the institution as it relates to:

- Admissions
- Registrar
- Business Office
- Financial Aid

Is there a role for the Oregon Student Assistance Commission in providing this service?

With the technological improvements that OSAC has recently made, is it possible that the OSAC could serve as the clearinghouse for Oregon schools to coordinate the flow of information and funds between schools?

Could the OSAC provide one clearinghouse/platform that provides standard procedures and access to agreed upon data that participating schools could go to that would address the issues relating to each of the institutional offices at a school?

Examples that the clearinghouse would address for institutional access:

- student's enrollment at all schools
- student's attendance at all schools
- withdrawal records at all schools for monitoring satisfactory academic progress and calculating refunds
- cost of education in developing an appropriate student budget
- reporting of grades for academic satisfactory academic progress determination
- determination of classes toward appropriate degree or certificate

- coordination of information so only one institution processes aid for student

Issues that have been raised:

- identity of students taking distance education courses
- obtaining signatures of student for registering for classes and releasing financial aid (electronic signature/PIN number?)
- transferability of credits between schools:
  - semester vs. quarter based
  - 300 or 400 level coursework not eligible for a community college student

Two potential models:

1. A database managed by a central entity (OSAC) and accessible by schools that would address all of the above issues for:
  - a. Oregon schools only, or
  - b. All schools choosing to participate, providing one school is an Oregon school
2. A database and electronic interface to the database that would allow both students and schools to access the database (e.g. using web-based technology) to sign up for classes, award aid, track enrollment, deliver funds, track/report the information necessary to administer the educational offering to ensure compliance with federal regulations, etc.