



Special points of interest:

- **DARS User Conference 2015—Time to register!**
- **Was That an Upgrade or What?!**
- **Multiple Audits (Batch) Process**
- **Recap of Upgrade Announcement via Listserv**



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DARS/Transferology News

Announcements:

DARS USER CONFERENCE—Registration is open!

Our 13th Annual DARS Users Conference will be held at Cragun’s Resort and Hotel on Gull Lake in Brainerd. Conference check-in will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday 9/29, along with refreshments. The conference sessions begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue to 4:30. We are fortunate to have a couple of people from CollegeSource presenting at this year’s conference! Please join us for a celebration honoring Laurie Tralle following the last session. Dinner will be on your own (options will follow). We will resume with breakfast served from 7:30-8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, with sessions starting at 8:30 a.m. and ending by noon. For those of you continuing on with the Transfer Specialist Conference, lunch will be on your own (daily buffet at poolside will be available, as well as other meal options within or outside the resort).

Conference (\$70 fee) includes: 10/8 - check-in refreshments, lunch, afternoon break; 10/9 - breakfast, morning break (and, of course, one and a half days of inspiring and informational conference sessions!)



Conference registration information and Cragun’s Lodging Reservation are available on our website. A separate email will contain detailed information. For those of you attending both DARS Users Conference and the Transfer Specialist Conference, registration and fees will be handled separately. However, you can select Monday &/or Tuesday night lodging and the “Stay Over Option” on Cragun’s Lodging Reservation Form and handle your lodging needs using one form. NOTE: Payment or PO must be included with Reservation (mail or fax only).

If you have questions, please contact Marla Sykes at marla.sykes@so.mnscu.edu .

We look forward to seeing you there!!

WAS THAT AN UPGRADE, OR WHAT?!

u.achieve Updates:

All in all, we felt we had a successful upgrade. Some not surprising problems happened. CAP server set-ups on campuses varied a lot, with most people able to access and use the new software seamlessly. Unfortunately, a few steps were missed by some, but we are grateful for the excellent support provided by ITS staff - Dean Broker prior to rollout and Curt Brosdahl post rollout.

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Some unexpected problems happened as well! We went into the upgrade process knowing that batch audit printing would not be acceptable, but had some ideas on how to make that work. Unfortunately, the problems in processes related to DARS in the eTranscript application took development resources away for the first week or more, so we lost valuable time we had hoped to have to work on changes needed to improve the printing of multiple audits.

We were also taken by surprise at the number of college and university staff who print each and every audit they ever look at! We hope to come up with some shared ideas on ways to encourage business practice changes that will save a few trees across MnSCU. Come to the conference with your ideas and be prepared to share! We know audits are longer as well. Please plan also to share ways you've conspired to reduce content to make audits shorter!

We want to acknowledge some of the real 'stars' behind the scenes. Maureen Cade is our database genius in ITS and is the person who had to burn the midnight oil to accomplish her magic after we were all shut down for the night. She is a whiz at what she does and we are grateful for her! Jaclyn Helgeson was our fantastically smart java programmer who skillfully did the behind the scenes programming to make processing of audits all work correctly. Randy Blankenship, our main IT technical analyst, was truly the glue that held all sides of things together and we know he had a number of sleepless nights as he managed the barrage of stuff he had to coordinate and handle the last few weeks, or was it months? Bill Halloran is the ITS manager responsible for DARS on a regular basis and he served as an excellent overall Project Manager for the whole upgrade project. He stayed on top of it all and made sure all the players were playing their parts.

We want to thank all of you as well. You've been very patient and understanding through it all! Thanks to all who have let us know what's not working and what is. We know we have things to clean up, fix and improve. Some improvement requests are within our control and others are not, some we can honor and some we cannot, but we promise to listen to all requests.

PROCESS FOR PRINTING MULTIPLE AUDITS IN ONE FILE

Please stay tuned for information coming out soon about a 'Batch Audit' report screen that will allow you to run one or many audits that will be produced in one file instead of in all separate PDF files.

It's important for you to know that the output of the report will ONLY produce text audits – they will not be PDF audits. You will have the option of making COM table changes to produce a two-column text audit. When viewing these audits, they appear as one continuous file and definitely aren't very readable in the two-column audit. If they are printed, a page break is forced between each audit and the formatting corrects itself, so this should help schools who print mass quantities of audits to hand out to students at orientations and other events.

RECAP OF LISTSERV ANNOUNCEMENT SENT OUT ON FRIDAY, JULY 31

- A MnSCU ITS System Message went out on Wednesday, July 29 announcing the remaining fixes in eTranscript functionality related to our software upgrade. Unfortunately, the time and effort it took to fix those untested processes took away from some of the things we hoped to be working on immediately post-rollout.
- It has been reported that changes made to the st_areastudy table for a student in ISRS are not reflected on the next Degree Audit run for the student or for the next audit a student runs in eServices. We have been able to duplicate this problem in our test environment and hope to get this fixed as soon as we are able.
- We've had many questions about printing batches of audits. We are working on a NEW batch report screen which will put all audits in one file, but PLEASE NOTE this screen will NOT produce PDF audits. It will produce a single column text audit. When printing, each audit has a page break. Unfortunately, that process is hung up until Randy gets back next week. Stay tuned for a notification on that once it's working.
- Many of the incoming help desk tickets and emails are questions that were covered in our WebEx sessions prior to rollout and/or are covered in the documentation we posted before the upgrade. Please take time to review the various documentation pieces at: <http://dars.mntransfer.org/updates/documentation.html#uachieve> especially if you haven't been able to keep up with reading our listserv emails or weren't able to attend one of the WebEx sessions.
- There are a few other issues reported that seem to be impacting only single schools. We've got these on our fix-it list as well. If you are a school with unresolved issues and you haven't heard back from someone on our team, PLEASE keep bugging us. And, of course, if you notice new problems, let us know by submitting a Help Desk Ticket to dars.custhelp.com

CURRICULUM UPDATES:

The 2015-2016 Curriculum changes are now posted on the DARS website. The curriculum changes are listed for all 37 institutions and identifies new courses, dropped courses, title changes, credit changes, and MnTC changes.

MnSCU colleges and universities added **166** new MnTC courses and added **1830** new courses total. Curriculum changes for academic year 2015-2016 are listed here: http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/currchanges/2015-16/2015_16.html and MnTC changes can be found here <http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/currchanges/changesmenu.html>.

Course insert availability will be delayed this year due to the u.achieve upgrade. When the process is ready for the new u.achieve database, we will send an announcement to the listserv.

2015 Curriculum Comparison Project update: In early-mid May each campus contact was sent a listings of changes and asked to proof those change and return to dars.info@so.mnscu.edu. The deadline to return the changes was June 5th. A sincere thanks to the 22 campuses who, as of June 4th, have reviewed and returned their Curriculum Changes.

The changes will be posted to the website within a few weeks after the deadline and requests for insert into DARS Transfer tables will be accepted.

WEBINARS:

The new webinars, as well as previous webinars, are posted on the CollegeSource, Support Center, Webinars page. You must have a CollegeSource account to login and register.

2015 Upcoming CollegeSource Webinars are posted at: <http://www.collegesource.com/news-events/webinars>

August Webinar highlights:

Introducing Transferology™—August 3, 2015, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM (11:00 AM-12:00 PM EDT)

Transferology™ Lab for Recruiters and Advisors — August 7, 2015, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (12:00-1:00 PM EDT)

Transferology™ Lab for Administrators—August 18, 2015, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM (1:00-2:00 PM EDT)

Introducing Transferology™—August 20, 2015, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM (1:00 PM-2:00 PM EDT)

Transferology™ Lab for Transfer Specialist—August 25, 2015, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM (11:00 AM-12:00 PM EDT)

CollegeSource is also offering some of their training materials and tutorials online. Everyone with a support center account has unlimited access to these materials at no cost. They include abridged PDF versions of u.achieve “Best Practices Encoding” and “Best Practices Intermediate Encoding.

USERS ON THE MOVE:

Is a DARS/Transferology User from your institution retiring, leaving the region, or moving on to new adventures? Have you hired someone new? We'd love to include it in a future newsletter. Email Marla Sykes at marla.sykes@so.mnscu.edu with the news you would like to share. News could include a brief history of work experience(s) at your institution, future plans/new adventures, and anything else you'd like to say.

Training & Conferences

Please indicate your interest in training by registering for the appropriate training session. Once registered, you will be contacted to arrange date(s) and time, and possibly where the training will take place.

- ◆ **Basic Encoding Training** – Training offered upon request (When registering, please indicate specific needs in the Comments area. You will be contacted for detailed arrangements.)
- ◆ **Transfer Articulation Training** – Training offered upon request (When registering, please indicate specific needs in the Comments area. You will be contacted for detailed arrangements.)
- ◆ **Transferology Advisor Training** – to be determined
- ◆ **Transferology Administrator Training** – to be determined

All training will be held at the system office in Saint Paul, unless otherwise indicated. Training will be in Room 2204 or 3354, depending on the number of registered participants.

Registration and information can be found at the following link: http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/training/training_dates.html.

The format will allow you to check the dates of the training, review agendas, and register from the same page. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 1 week prior to training or open lab dates.**

Upon completion, please complete the Training Evaluation at: <http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/training/evaluation.php>.

Third Wednesday & Thursday/DARS Open Labs

We are trying to be creative about ways for campus staff to get the help they need to update/maintain/improve DARS encoding, transfer articulation and Transferology.

We have added a link on our Training Registration page to request "On-site Campus Assistance". We'll do our best to either come to your campus or meet you half way at a convenient location that could accommodate us.

We can also schedule WebEx sessions for one-on-one assistance, plus have our Third Wednesday/Thursday Open Labs here in St. Paul and will schedule a day at the Quarry Center in Waite Park monthly.

Third Wednesday & Thursday – No 3rd Wed/Thur Open Labs for August.

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DARS "On-site Campus Assistance" – upon request

REGISTRATION: http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/training/training_regform.php

DIRECTIONS: <http://www.mnscu.edu/system/directions.html>

*For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Marla Sykes at marla.sykes@so.mnscu.edu.
Thank you.*