

# DARS/TRANSFEROLOGY NEWS

Minnesota State DARS and Transferology Newsletter



December 2016

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*Happy Holidays  
from the  
Minnesota State  
DARS Team!*

*We hope you  
have a safe and  
wonderful  
Holiday Season!*

## *Stay Tuned...*

Some big changes are ahead for the DARS/Transferology Team in 2017, stick with us and watch for...

- ◆ A new DARS/Transferology team member
- ◆ Organizational changes
- ◆ SELF-SERVICE!

As 2016 comes to a close we want to thank all of our users for their hard work and dedication. Without you, we wouldn't be here, and we look forward to working with you in 2017.

## *DSST Titles and Scores Updated*

There have been 3 title changes for DSST (Dantes Subject Standardized Tests) effective 20165:

- Here's to Your Health changed to Health & Human Development
- Intro to Computing changed to Computing and Information Technology
- Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union changed to History of the Soviet Union

Additionally, all tests changed to the new score scale for the 2008 and later exams with a cut score of 400. Tests with a 2 digit score should be end-dated with 20085 and new scores of 400 should be dated 20091-999999.

Our documentation has been updated and is posted at: <http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/support/documents/pdf/DSST%20list.pdf>

DSST information can be found at: [http://getcollegecredit.com/exam\\_fact\\_sheets](http://getcollegecredit.com/exam_fact_sheets).

If you have questions or need assistance with these updates, please notify the DARS/Transferology Team.

# DARS Q & A: Alternate GPA

Q: What is Alternate GPA in DARS, and why do we use it?

A: Alternate GPA is used when you have to calculate the GPA for certain programs or requirements differently than your institutional policy dictates. For instance, if you don't normally calculate transfer grades in GPA, but you do for the MNTC, you're most likely using the Alternate GPA function for your MNTC.

Encoding takes place in two areas to use Alternate GPA, the subrequirement, and the Global grade Table. In the subrequirement, on the 'Reference/Other' tab, the GPA/Preference Control is set to A- Alternate GPA Calculation or D- Alternate and Best.

On the Global Grade Table, each grade that needs to be calculated into Alternate GPA has an extra entry- one with an A in the GPA Calc column above the regular entry.

A	Grade	Report Grade	GPA Pt	GPA Calc	Add Credit	A
19	TB-		2.700	A	Y	1
20	TB-		2.700		Y	1
21	TBC		2.500	A	Y	1
22	TBC		2.500		Y	1
23	TC+		2.330	A	Y	1
24	TC+		2.330		Y	1

Note: the entry with the A in GPA Calc MUST be first, to process correctly.

The screenshot shows the 'Reference/Other' tab in the DARS system. It contains two main sections: 'Sub-Requirement Reference' and 'GPA Calculation'. The 'Sub-Requirement Reference' section includes fields for Reference Cycle, Directional Reference Control, Reference Field, Reference Sub-field, and Reference Value. The 'GPA Calculation' section includes a dropdown for 'GPA / Preference Control' set to 'A - Alternate GPA calculation', and fields for 'Weight' and 'Variance'.

## Users On the Move...

One of our long-time DARS users is moving on to new adventures. Although Wendy will be missed, we wish her all the best in her newest adventure!

### **A Farewell from Wendy Antolak:**

After encoding DARS for four years and in my 28th year at Central Lakes College, I am retiring. I haven't felt the 'whoop whoop' quite yet, but hoping I will on January 1st. While my husband, Jack is still working, my ongoing jobs are caring for my still active 92 and 91 year old parents in Brooklyn Center, helping my sister-in-law at her Rosemount Floral shop, visiting our two sons in Richfield and dog sitting. We'll also try to fit in our love for distant sun and sand.

I cannot thank the DARS Team enough for their knowledge and patience. They truly are wizards. I have to say DARS is one of two duties that I have found most gratifying and FUN (I enjoy a good puzzle) at the college. The other was 15 years as the Certifying Official for our veteran students and their families.

*Is a DARS/Transferology User from your institution retiring or moving on to new adventures? Have you hired someone new, or new to DARS? Email Miranda Evans at [Miranda.evans@so.mnscu.edu](mailto:Miranda.evans@so.mnscu.edu) with news you would like to share.*

## *Transferology Webinars*

New webinars, as well as previous webinars, are posted on the CollegeSource, Support Center, Webinars page: <http://www.collegesource.com/news-events/webinars>.

### Topics Include:

*Introducing Transferology™*

*Transferology™ Lab: The Administrator Role*

*Transferology™ Lab: The Transfer Specialist Role*

*Transferology™ Lab: TES® Evaluation Integration*

*Transferology™ Lab: Recruiter and Advisor Roles*

## *Documentation*

All of our documentation from our website is also listed as a Q&A format in the “Answers” tab on the DARS Help Desk [dars.custhelp.com](http://dars.custhelp.com). You can type in the key word in the Search bar and find a Question/Answer pertaining to the key word, as well as a link to our documentation.

## *MnTC Historical Listing*

Shannan Ellis (Collaboration and Transfer) continues to compile historic lists of MnTC courses for each of the MnSCU colleges and universities. The historic list of MnTC Courses for Bemidji State University has been added [here](#).

All available listings are posted at [http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/support/MnTC\\_Courses/MnTC\\_Courses.html](http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/support/MnTC_Courses/MnTC_Courses.html).

## *Training Opportunities*

If you need assistance with DARS, or just need a place away from campus to get your encoding done without interruptions, we have our open lab December 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the System Office in Training Lab 2204. Our Central open lab is Waite Park Quarry Center Training Room on January 26th. On-Campus assistance is also available on request.

**Basic Encoder Training, Transfer Articulation Training and TransferologyLab Training** is offered upon request. When registering please indicate specific needs in comments area. You will be contacted for detailed arrangements.

Registration and information can be found at: [http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/training/training\\_dates.html](http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/training/training_dates.html).

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE** for all training and labs is one week prior to training or lab dates.