

The University of Maryland Student Government Association  
Testimony for HB1082  
Committee on Appropriations, Thursday, March 5, 2020  
Higher Education – Denial of Transfer Credit – Notice and Report (Transfer With Success Act)  
POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the Student Government Association, we would like to thank Delegate Solomon for introducing this bill. We would also like to thank the Appropriations Committee for the opportunity to explain how the measures in this bill will positively benefit students at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) and across the state.

Currently, students transferring to UMD have their credits evaluated to see if they meet the school's requirements of level, scope, content and expected learning outcomes. Often the school determines that certain classes taken at previous institutions do not meet these requirements without communication about the specific reasons why to either the student or the institution the credits originated from. Many times, there are only small discrepancies in courses, or the receiving school does not have an updated syllabus on file. Some students find classes taken at other institutions in the University System of Maryland do not transfer to UMD.

The denial of transfer credits can be a particularly stressful position for many students to be in. Students transfer to UMD with the expectation that their classes taken at other Maryland universities and community colleges will transfer, and the denial of the credits can significantly affect academic plans. Students may be forced to take classes similar in scope to classes they have already taken, or they may get no credit at all for hours of prior course work. The denial of these credits can also force students to take additional classes or extend their time at the university which can be an unnecessary financial burden. Additionally, without knowledge of why these credits are being denied, institutions from which the credits originated from may have no way of ensuring that these credits are not denied in the future or may not know to communicate with universities as to updates in current class syllabi.

No student should have to search for prior class syllabi from the institution from which they are transferring themselves, a process that is currently not uncommon. Students should not be required to retake classes simply because of a lack of communication between institutions in the state of Maryland. This bill will create a reporting structure that will facilitate communication between institutions to help avoid unnecessary transfer credit denial in the future. Internal reviews of credit denial will give institutions opportunities to improve the transfer process for all students and annual reports on credit denial will add needed transparency that does not currently exist.

The policies outlined in HB 1082 have the potential to benefit many of the hundreds of students who transfer to the University of Maryland, and schools across the state, in the future. The Student Government Association respectfully urges you to vote yes on this bill.

Sincerely,



Ireland Lesley  
Student Body President



Samay Singh Kindra  
Director of Government Affairs



Philemon Kendzierski  
Transfer Representative

