Transfer Credit and Prior Learning Assessment: Updates and Opportunities

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Objectives

- Provide context regarding the transfer and prior learning assessment (PLA) processes at the University
- Provide updates on transfer course evaluations numbers
- Provide insight into what is next for transfer and PLA

Transfer Admission by the Numbers

Summer/Fall 2018 (as of April 21, 2018)

	Commonwealth Campuses	University Park	World Campus	Total
Applications	2,400	1,411	1,916	5,727
Offers	914	308	1,091	2,313
Paid Accepts	469	146	966	1,581

Transfer Adult Learners by the Numbers

Summer/Fall 2018 (as of April 21, 2018)

	Commonwealth Campuses	University Park	World Campus	Total
Applications	698	183	1,554	2,435
Offers	288	35	932	1,255
Paid Accepts	150	17	831	998

Why the Change?

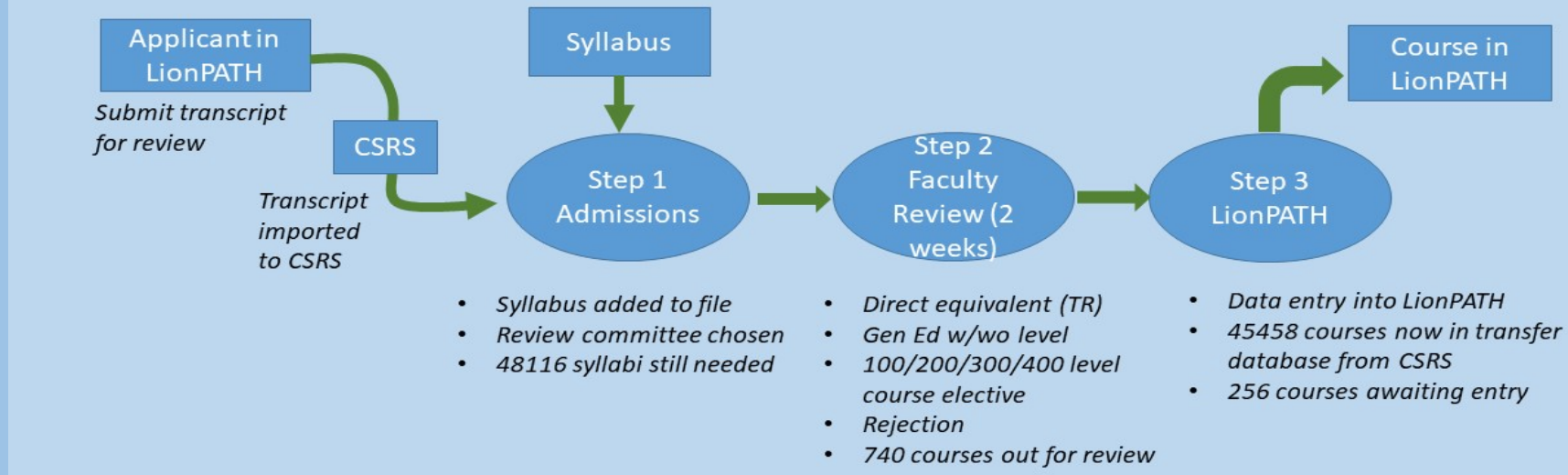
Legacy System Environment

- No specific policy guiding course evaluation decisions
- Legacy database with outdated and erroneous evaluations. Only direct, non-transferrable and general evaluations available.
- Only UP faculty determining evaluations and mostly staff making transfer evaluations and approving degree audit substitutions.
- Some syllabi and many course descriptions used to determine evaluations.
- Mostly general evaluations with reliance on audit substitutions creating inconsistent evaluations across colleges and campuses

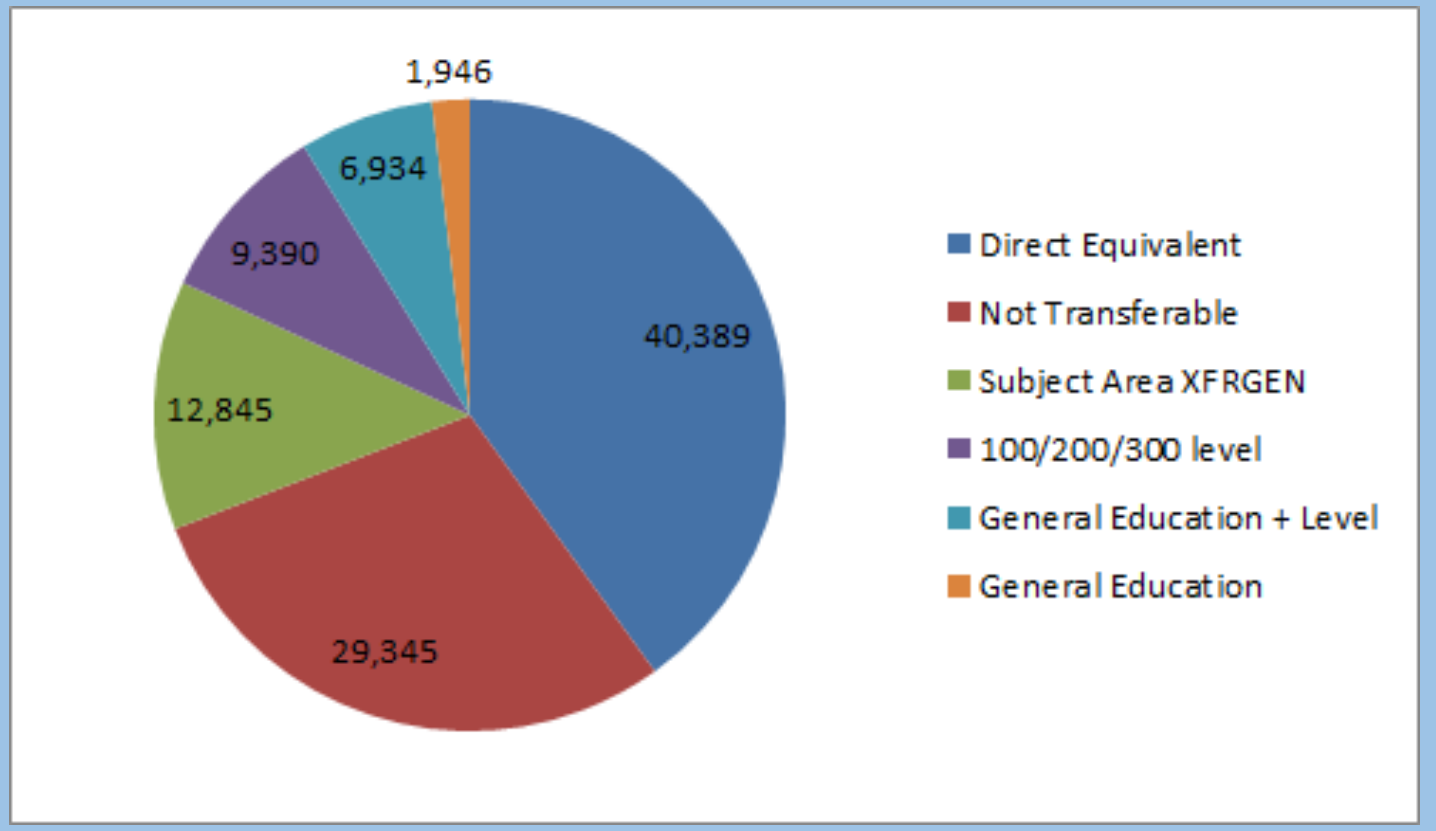
LionPATH Environment

- Policy defining a direct equivalent course as meeting 80% content and learning outcomes.
- Building a new database of course equivalencies. Direct, general (XFRGEN), level only, general education, general education and level and non-transferrable evaluations are available.
- Faculty from all campuses participating in course evaluations.
- Students are required to submit syllabi for transfer courses.
- More equivalent courses and fewer substitutions.

Transfer Course Evaluation Process



Transfer Course Evaluations by the Numbers



Updates

- Defense Language Institute transfer course evaluations
- Pre-approvals for current students now come through CSRS too
  - Guidelines for students
- Developing student-initiated approvals for current students' pre-approvals and TRN XFERPEN courses via CSRS
- Inter-domain course reviews coming to CSRS

Transfer Credit Tool

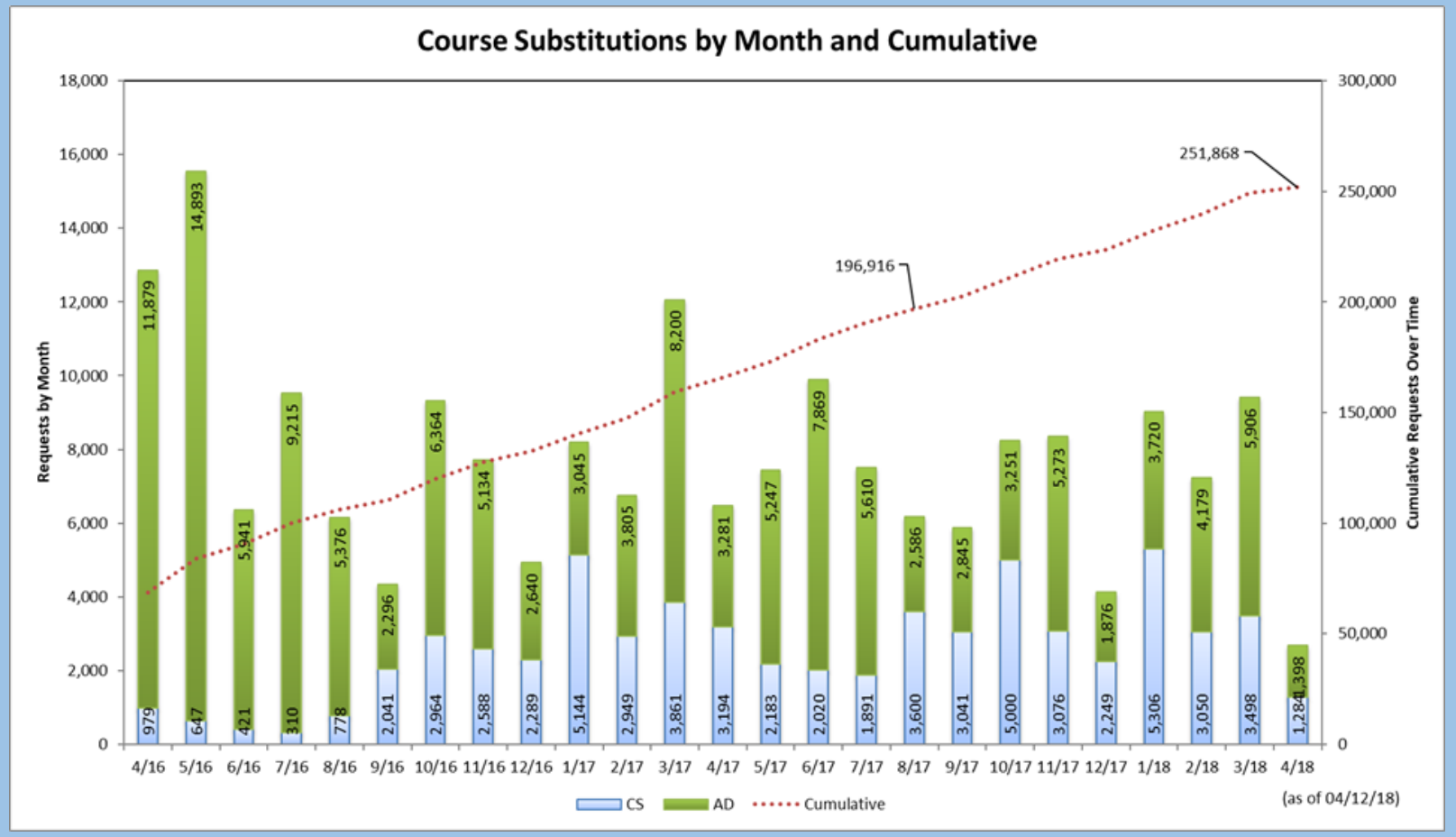
- Demo:
- https://www.admissions.psu.edu/my_admissions/tas/

Things to Know

- Pre-2000 courses receive general credit, which may trigger a substitution request, and do not go into LionPATH.
- If the student has a TRN XFRGEN, then no syllabus was provided for the course, and it has not been reviewed by faculty.
- If the student has TRN XFRPEN, while it is possible that the course is in CSRS with faculty or awaiting LionPATH entry, it is more likely that the syllabus needs to be sent to crediteval@psu.edu Average numbers are 600 courses in CSRS at any given time.
- International Courses that show GEN may need college substitution as they are not reviewed in CSRS.
- Fractional credits courses may need to be reviewed by the accepting college if credit count from previous institution is lower than PSU requirement.
- Leftover XFRCNV courses may need to be reviewed by the accepting college.
- A 3-credit MATH or STAT will never be equivalent to MATH 110 or STAT 200 because of the credit discrepancy. If the accepting college wants to use those, they will need to be reviewed at the college/department level.
- Any 3-credit ACCTG transfer will never be a direct equivalent for the 4-credit ACCTG 211. If the accepting college wants to use it, it will need to be reviewed.
- ENGL often sees Comp I/Comp II courses that are some variation of ENGL 015 but not 015+202

Reminders

- Course substitutions: responsibility of the college/department
- XFRGEN
  - Subject XFRGEN (evaluated in LionPATH)—committee awarded general credit
  - Subject XFRGEN (not evaluated in LionPATH)—committee didn't review syllabus, student received general credit, course still needs an evaluation
  - TRN XFRPEN—waiting on a syllabus
  - TRN XFRGEN—student did not provide a syllabus
- Understanding equivalencies https://admissions.psu.edu/info/future/transfer/transfer-credit-equivalencies/


Course Substitutions by Month and Cumulative
Requests by Month
Cumulative Requests Over Time
18,000
16,000
14,000
12,000
10,000
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
0
300,000
250,000
200,000
150,000
100,000
50,000
0
251,868
196,916
11,879
14,893
5,941
9,215
5,376
2,296
6,364
5,134
2,640
3,045
3,805
8,200
3,281
5,247
7,869
5,610
2,586
2,845
3,251
5,273
1,876
3,720
4,179
5,906
1,284
979
647
421
310
778
2,041
2,964
2,588
2,289
5,144
2,949
3,861
3,194
2,183
2,020
1,891
3,600
3,041
5,000
3,076
2,249
5,306
3,050
3,498
398
4/16 5/16 6/16 7/16 8/16 9/16 10/16 11/16 12/16 1/17 2/17 3/17 4/17 5/17 6/17 7/17 8/17 9/17 10/17 11/17 12/17 1/18 2/18 3/18 4/18
CS
AD
Cumulative
(as of 04/12/18)

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