



DARS/u.select News

April 2010

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Promoting u.select

While browsing various websites for academic information, it was discovered that some campuses were still referring to CAS and MNCAS. This spurred a further search to see who might need a reminder to update this information to “u.select.” We have notified most schools with websites that needed updating, however, some websites are not promoting or mentioning u.select at all. As we have shared before, one of the primary ways that students find out about u.select is by using the admissions or transfer admissions websites of our schools. Please review your websites and consider editing, adding, or promoting u.select information so that people can easily find and understand the features u.select offers.

For information and terminology, see <http://www.redlanternu.com/uselect> or contact the DARS/u.select Team for assistance.

Updating Reference Year – Reminder

For some programs, courses are only acceptable if taken within a specified number of years/terms from, in most cases, the current year. REFY is a reference date field which is used in place of a fixed year value wherever a DARS year/term date range is encoded. This field is referenced within a date range as R+ or R-, followed by the number of years to adjust the Reference date. For those of you using REFY in your COM Tables, you will need to annually update the Value (Year) to go forward or back from. If using the current year, 2010 (which includes Summer 2009, Fall 2009, and Spring 2010), you should update your REFY to 2011 when you start registering students for Summer 2010. If you update your REFY, make sure you update all COMs (MNSCU, WEB, LISTA, etc) that use REFY value.

For additional information, please see documentation for Reference Year at:
http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/documents/pdf/reference_year.pdf

NOTE: Once REFY is updated, you should notify the DARS/u.select Team, so that we can update REFY in the COM used by u.select Plan processing for your institution.

Last Year Terms (LYT) Designators

When entering LYT on Programs and Requirements and Courses in DARS, remember to enter six 9s (999999 - looks like 9999 99), rather than five 9s. Since the Oracle conversion, this has become an evident problem, especially for Plans in u.select (won't run). We have run queries and corrected the LYT since the Oracle conversion, but it is critical that the LYT is encoded correctly on an ongoing basis.

NEW PHONE NUMBERS

The new VOIP (Voice Over Internet Phone) system will be implemented this month for the Office of the Chancellor, with projected “go-live” date for WFP on Monday, April 19. The phone numbers for the DARS/u.select Team will be:

Laurie Tralle	651-201-1446 (no change)
Mary D’Andrea	651-201-1770 (new #)
Mary Delaney	651-201-1771 (new #)

DOCUMENTATION:

DARS Catalogs

DARS catalogs are available for sending to your production DARS.

Request DARS Catalogs at:

http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/documents/pdf/DARS_Catalog_request_list.pdf

Curriculum Changes and New Course Inserts

2009-2010 Curriculum Changes

2009-2010 Curriculum changes for MnSCU institutions have been posted to our website at: http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/currchanges/2009_10/2009_10.html

The curriculum changes, listed by each institution, identify new courses, dropped courses, course title changes, credit changes, and MnTC changes.

2009-2010 New Course Inserts and 2009-2010 New MnTC Course Inserts

New courses for MnSCU institutions, for the academic year 2009-2010, are available for electronically inserting into your TA tables. The electronic insert includes the new course department, number, title, and MnTC notation. The new course is hidden from u.select at the rule level. The number of new courses for 2009-2010 is approximately 2268.

New MnTC courses for MnSCU institutions, for the academic year 2009-2010, are available for electronically inserting into your TA tables. The electronic insert includes the new course department, number, title, and MnTC notation. The new course is hidden from u.select at the rule level. The number of new MNTC courses for 2008-2009 is approximately 316.

The Target course for the new courses is ACYR0910.

Institutions requesting the inserts are sent a list of the new courses inserted into the Transfer Articulation Tables.

Request 2009-10 New Courses Insert at:

<http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/documents/pdf/DARSCourseUpdates.pdf>

or 2009-10 New MnTC Course Insert at:

<http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/documents/pdf/MnTCCourseUpdates.pdf>

The annual Curriculum Changes and New Course Inserts are intended to assist encoders and transfer specialists with identifying MnSCU course changes. Including new MnSCU courses in your Transfer Articulation tables, and displaying them in u.select, provides students and advisors the most current information about course transfer.

Please contact Mary D'Andrea at mary.dandrea@so.mnscu.edu if you have questions.

TRAINING & CONFERENCES:

Remaining training dates for Spring 2010 are posted below. Fall dates will be announced at a later date. If you have new or existing staff that will be using DARS or u.select, please encourage them to attend the appropriate training session(s) as they are announced. Even if you or your staff already attended training, you are welcome to attend again. Many people find a return visit to training helpful.

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

- ➔ **Basic Encoding Training** – has been rescheduled for April 20 & 21, 2010 from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Wells Fargo Place (WFP), Training Room 3354.
- ➔ **Transfer Articulation Training** – Fall training dates will be announced at a later date.
- ➔ **u.select Administrator Training** – training offered via WebEx upon request, (after registering, participants will be contacted to arrange date & time).
- ➔ **u.select Advisor Training** – Fall training dates will be announced at a later date. If immediate training is needed, contact the DARS/u.select Team to arrange date & time for WebEx session.

Registration for all training, open labs, and conferences can be found at the following link: http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/training/training_index.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 of all training and labs, please complete the Training Evaluation at: <http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/training/evaluation.html>.

THIRD Wednesday & Thursday/DARS OPEN LABS:

Third Wednesday & Thursday – April 21 & 22 at Wells Fargo Place, Room 2204 or 3354. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 1 week prior to training or open lab dates.

DARS "**Out West**" **Open Lab** – Fall dates will be scheduled at a later time.

DARS "**Central**" **Open Lab** – Fall dates will be scheduled at a later time.

DARS "**Down South**" **Open Lab** – Fall dates will be scheduled at a later time.

DARS "**Up North**" **Open Lab** is scheduled for March 31, 2010 at Bemidji State University, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall, Room 11.

DARS "**North Shore**" **Open Lab** is scheduled for April 28, 2010 at Lake Superior College, Duluth, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in Library, Room E1022.

Registration can be found online at:

http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/training/training_regform_new.html

Driving directions and parking ramp information to Wells Fargo Place can be found online at: http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/registration/directions_WFP.html

For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Marla Delaney at marla.delaney@csu.mnscu.edu. Thank you.