



Special points of interest:

- **TA & Exceptions training next week**
- **CollegeSource User Conference/Training Workshop 2012**
- **DARS/u.select User Conference & Transfer Conference Join**
- **u.achieve Upgrade Update**
- **International Baccalaureate**
- **New Grades for MnSCU Schools**

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DARS/u.select News

Announcements:

Transfer Articulation and Exceptions next week...

Given that DARS transfer data is already fairly robust, we have found that the Transfer Articulation Training takes less time to cover. Therefore, we've reduced TA training to 1 ½ days rather than 2 full days (2/7-2/8/12). In addition, we've added a half day of Exceptions Training on the second day(2/8/12). This gives participants the option to register for either training session or both training sessions, possibly reducing travel costs/time. We hope that our first run of this combined training time will suit your needs.

CollegeSource User Conference & Training Workshop 2012

This year's conference & training workshop will be held June 11-14, 2012 in San Diego, CA. The three days include intensive training sessions, sharing knowledge with colleagues, and networking, as well as some special pre-conference sessions. Sessions will include a Transfer Track and a Degree Completion Track. Visit the conference website for information on the agenda, fees, and accommodations at: <http://www.cvent.com/events/collegesource-2012-user-conference-and-training-workshop/event-summary-a6be09cc8e0c403ea784be16d025d830.aspx>

DARS/u.select Users Conference Plans

In response to conference evaluation/feedback, the DARS/u.select Team has joined the Program Collaboration & Transfer Team in planning back-to-back conferences/workshops to save travel costs/time, event costs and minimize overlap and topic duplication. Tentative dates for this joint effort have been scheduled for October 2-4, 2012. Over the next several months, we welcome your input on session topics and breakouts.

u.achieve Upgrade Update

We continue our testing, but at this point we have been told that it will be at least May or June before we have a Java programmer available to dedicate work time to our project. Recent announcements about staff changes in ITS may lengthen that time as well, so the implementation timeline is very much in flux.

This week we were asked to address faculty concerns 'that DARS is going away and being replaced', so an announcement was submitted for the monthly Academic and Student Affairs Newsletter. We hope that you will take advantage of any opportunity you have on your campus to explain that the DARS to u.achieve change is simply an upgrade to our current software. It's definitely a big upgrade, but we anticipate that while there will be increased functionality and improvement available by using u.achieve instead of DARwin, campus DARS encoders will see only minor cosmetic differences in the work that they do. The various DARS software screens currently in use by campus staff and the resulting audit content for students and advisors remain unchanged in u.achieve.

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Campus Announcements:

Please let us know about information you wish to share with other MnSCU schools. We particularly welcome news from you that will impact DARS encoding and transfer processing within MnSCU. Celebrate accomplishments by sharing your victories ...small or large ... with your colleagues.

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International Baccalaureate

IB Diploma Programme has recently added exams to the IB curriculum. The courses, listed below, can be added to your IB Transfer Articulation table in DARS and displayed in u.select.

ESSAY 002 World Studies Extended Essay
SOCSCI 023 World Cultures Higher Level
SOCSCI 024 World Cultures Standard Level
SOCSCI 025 History Higher Level

The list of IB courses is posted on our site at: http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/documents/pdf/IB_titles.pdf

If you would like the International Baccalaureate encoded in your Institutional Reference and Transfer Articulation tables, please contact Mary D'Andrea at mary.dandrea@so.mnscu.edu.

New Grades for MnSCU Schools

New grades have been reported for St. Cloud State University and Minnesota State University Moorhead.

New Grades for MnSCU Colleges and Universities is at: http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/documents/pdf/New_Grades_for_MnSCU.pdf

CURRICULUM CORRECTIONS:

No new corrections posted this month.

DOCUMENTATION:

No new Documentation posted this month.

SQLs:

Recently an SQL was done for a school to query all flags used in Sub-requirements and TA Rules. If you're wondering about what flags have been used or the consistency of A/R flags and their corresponding TA Target flags, let us know.

WEBINARS:

The new webinars, as well as previous webinars, are posted on the CollegeSource, Support Center, Webinars page. The latest webinar for January is:

- From Installation to Training, CollegeSource is at Your Service—February 22, 2012, 10:30-11:30am (CST)

For information about CollegeSource Webinars, go to:

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

Once logged into the CollegeSource Support Center Webinars page, click the 'Register' link and complete the online form. You can also set your Time Zone so reminders will reflect CST.

Training & Conferences

Training dates for Spring 2012 are listed below. 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.

- ◆ **Basic Encoding Training** – Spring training has been held. Fall dates will be announced at a later time..
- ◆ **Transfer Articulation Training** – February 7, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and February 8, 2012, 8:30 a.m.–noon, at Wells Fargo Place, Training Room 3354. (Note: Changed from 2 day to 1 1/2 day training session)
- ◆ **Exceptions Training** – February 8, 2012, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., at Wells Fargo Place, Training Room 3354.
- ◆ **u.select Advisor Training** – training offered via WebEx upon request, (after registering, participants will be contacted to arrange date & time).
- ◆ **u.select Administrator Training** – training offered via WebEx upon request, (after registering, participants will be contacted to arrange date & time).

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.

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 – February 15 & 16, 2012 at Wells Fargo Place, Room 2204.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 1 week prior to training or open lab dates.

- ◆ **DARS "Up North" Open Lab** – March 27, 2012 at Northwest Technical College, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in Room 322.
- ◆ **DARS "Out West" Open Lab** – March 29, 2012 at Minnesota State University Moorhead, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in Library 204.
- ◆ **DARS "Down South" Open Lab** – April 10, 2012 at South Central College, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Room 155.
- ◆ **DARS "Central" Open Lab** – April 12, 2012 at Quarry Center, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Quarry Training Lab.
- ◆ **DARS "North Shore" Open Lab** – April 26, 2012 at Lake Superior College, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in Library Bldg Room E1022.

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

DIRECTIONS: http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/registration/directions_WFP.html

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