

APPENDIX E

OVERVIEW OF SPEEDE AND RELATED PROJECTS

Prepared by Jim Rowan
Office of Admissions
September 28, 2001

ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI)

What is EDI?

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) allows organizations to send data and information to each other electronically rather than in paper form.

This technology can be adapted in administrative areas of education to move student transcripts and other data electronically between computer systems.

“For over ten years AACRAO (American Association of College and University Registrars and Admissions Officers) has sponsored the development of standard data formats for use by colleges and universities and represented postsecondary interests in the North American standards-setting body, the American National Standards Institute Accredited Standards Committee X12. EDI in Education is often referred to as SPEEDE/ExPRESS.” (Source: AACRAO Web site-www.aacrao.com/technology/edi.htm)

Postsecondary and K-12 institutions in several states have developed and implemented the EDI approach to transmitting transcripts (e.g., Iowa, Texas, and Florida). Postsecondary and K-12 institutions in other states, such as South Carolina, are working to implement an EDI network.

Benefits of EDI for postsecondary and K-12 institutions:

“EDI is a way to replace paper form with electronic delivery of information. By making it possible to communicate, EDI trading partners realize the following benefits:

- Timesavings in getting information from the sender to the receiver
- Increased accuracy of data
- Improved privacy of confidential data
- Cost savings as manual systems are replaced with electronic ones.”

(Source: AACRAO Web site-www.aacrao.com/technology/edi.htm)

Other important savings identified include postage, paper, and envelope costs. The state of Iowa EDI project team estimates that at the elementary and secondary level the cost of processing a transcript is \$18 in staff time and material.

SPEEDE/ExPRESS

What is SPEEDE/ExPRESS?

The EDI project for electronically transmitting *Postsecondary* transcripts is called SPEEDE (Standardization of Postsecondary Education Electronic Data Exchange).

The EDI project for electronically transmitting *Elementary and High School* transcripts is called ExPRESS (Exchange of Permanent Records Electronically for Students and Schools). The Minnesota EDI Management Team has currently adopted this acronym for the K-12 transcript aspect of its EDI project.

What's happening in Minnesota?

Representatives of MnSCU, the University of Minnesota, and the University of St. Thomas have formed a management team to implement SPEEDE/ExPRESS. To-date, the Minnesota EDI management team is using the SPEEDE/ExPRESS acronym and has not developed a project name specific to Minnesota.

When the project is running successfully, the management team will begin actively promoting SPEEDE/ExPRESS to other institutions in the state. There is a strong interest among all of the institutional representatives on the SPEEDE/ExPRESS management team to convert to the electronic transmission of high school transcripts, both among K-12 school systems and to colleges and universities.

The following institutions are part of the SPEEDE/ExPRESS pilot project:

- MnSCU institutions: St. Cloud State University, Metropolitan State University, Century College, and Hennepin Technical College.
- The four campuses of the University of Minnesota.
- The University of St. Thomas.
- The Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning (CFL).
- TIES (Technology Information and Educational Services), which is a non-profit consortium providing technology support for 38 Minnesota school districts.

Status of the project:

SPEEDE

On June 1, 2000, transcripts were exchanged between the University of Minnesota and the University of St. Thomas. Work continued through the summer of 2000. Technical issues with the software were identified in August 2000, and live transfer was halted.

Work has continued on these software issues, and a new go-live target date of December 1, 2001, is planned. At this point, MnSCU, the University of St. Thomas, and the University of Minnesota hope to participate in live transfer of transcripts.

If no major problems are identified when we go live, we will actively market the project to our colleagues at other institutions.

After the pilot project has been implemented, it will be relatively easy to add additional MnSCU institutions because of the centrally developed computer system that will be used by all MnSCU institutions. Additional institutions from the private college sector will be encouraged to join the Minnesota SPEEDE/ExPRESS effort.

ExPRESS

Wayne Sigler and George Hudachek met with Lakes District principals and with Apple Valley/Eagan/Rosemont vice principals during winter 2001 to promote SPEEDE/ExPRESS.

A high school contact list was obtained from JMC, a major vendor in southern Minnesota (JMC is active with ExPRESS in Iowa). After going live with SPEEDE, the project team will be contacting high schools to more actively pursue the implementation of ExPRESS.

Although the ExPRESS project is in the early planning stages, we are optimistic that this will become a reality after the SPEEDE project is operational.

OTHER COOPERATIVE INITIATIVES

DEGREE AUDIT REPORTING SYSTEMS (DARS)

The Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS), developed and marketed by Miami University of Ohio, is designed to facilitate the evaluation of transfer credits and the production of user-friendly degree audits.

DARS is being installed at various campuses of MnSCU and has been installed at all of the campuses of the University of Minnesota. The joint UM/MnSCU SPEEDE/ EXPRESS management team is not focusing on DARS and is leaving it to the discretion of individual campuses to implement DARS.

The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities is very close to completing the initial phase of DARS implementation. By October 1, 2001, transfer articulation tables will have been built for 38 feeder institutions. This will enable the Office of Admissions to electronically evaluate the transfer credit from these institutions, which represent approximately 55 percent of the transcripts received by the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Office of Admissions.

COURSE APPLICABILITY SYSTEM (CAS)

MnSCU and the University of Minnesota have also purchased the Course Applicability System (CAS) from Miami of Ohio. The University of St. Thomas has agreed to join the CAS project.

CAS provides the ability to publish *Course Equivalency Guides, Academic Programs, Courses Offered, Transfer Course Evaluations, and Degree Audit Reporting* in a web environment. Information is easily retrieved from a **CAS** site on the internet by students, faculty, and the interested public. Students contemplating a transfer may submit their coursework to any institution within the **CAS** network for evaluation against that institution's academic programs.”

(Source: CAS Web site-<http://miami.transfer.org/cgi-bin/cas/cas20>)

CAS, a front-end system to DARS, uses web-based technology to enable students and counselors from around the United States to determine the transferability and applicability of college coursework to a MnSCU institution, a campus of the University of Minnesota, or a participating Minnesota private college.

The participating institutions will transmit the transfer credit data from DARS (or their own transfer equivalency systems) to CAS. In the initial stages, we will focus primarily on developing transfer credit equivalencies from Minnesota colleges and universities.

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities equivalencies have been identified for popular introductory courses including psychology, sociology, political science, physical and biological sciences, engineering, computer science, math, English, and composition.

MnSCU has purchased and prepared a server that should be adequate for initial use. MnSCU technical staff will provide support and backup for the server. CAS is currently being tested in a production environment. Currently the DARS transfer articulation rules/data have been loaded in CAS for two MnSCU institutions (Anoka-Ramsey C.C. and Century College). DARS data has been loaded into the CAS server for the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. This data is being reviewed.

The conversion process from DARS to the CAS server should be completed by October 5, 2001. Each school planning to use CAS must set up their courses on the central server. The University of Minnesota and some institutions in MnSCU currently plan to be ready for students to access the CAS system by March 1, 2002.

September 28, 2001