



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
WOODSWORTH COLLEGE

# Determinants of Academic Success for College to University Transfer

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# Diploma to Degree



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## Why did we develop the Diploma to Degree Program?



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## Transfer Student Withdrawal Ratios by Institution, 2007-2011

Institution Name	Number Registered	Number Withdrawn	Withdrawal Ratio
Sheridan	56	18	32.1%
George Brown	43	14	32.6%
Seneca	24	8	33.3%
Humber	39	16	41.0%
Centennial	29	12	41.1%
<b>Seneca Woodsworth Facilitated Transfer Program</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18.0%</b>
<b>All First Entry Undergraduates*</b>	<b>12,029</b>	<b>1,965</b>	<b>16.3%</b>

Previously transferred students:

- > Needed 3.2 GPA
- > Received 2.0 transfer credits
- > Retention rates far below U of T average
- > No incentives to transfer
- > No facilitation or support

\*Includes Faculty of Arts and Science, Engineering, Music, Kinesiology, UTSC and UTM and includes transfer students from Ontario colleges.

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What did we do with the Seneca College pilot project?

- > Review **academic rigour** at college
- > Agreed to offer **six transfer credits** for college transfer students
- > Would **facilitate and support** students & work directly with colleges
- > **English Facility Requirement** would be satisfied

Foundation of the model

- > **One half credit course taken at U of T with a minimum grade of 60% retained towards degree – dual credit agreement**
- > Completion of 2-year Liberal Arts or General Arts and Science Diploma
- > A minimum GPA upon graduation of 3.0
- > A recommendation from Seneca College

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## Transition Challenges

- > Size and complexity of the University of Toronto
- > Increase in academic challenges and expectations
- > Diversity of student population
- > Reputation, pressure and competition
- > Increase in financial burden
- > Value of Liberal Arts Degree

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## Program Model



## Facilitated Transfer Model

### Goals

- > To break down perceived barriers
- > To demystify this large institution
- > To introduce the academic culture
- > To respond to student concerns
  - > Level of academic preparedness
  - > Financial support
  - > Ability to continue paid work
  - > Individual support & counselling

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## Program Model

- > Partnership with three Toronto-area colleges
  - > George Brown College
  - > Humber College
  - > Seneca College
- > Facilitated transfer model
  - > College-driven recruitment
  - > Collaborative program advising
  - > Ongoing advising support at Woodsworth
- > Arts & Science Access
  - > Minimum one semester as a visiting student
  - > Enter degree studies with up to 6.0 credits +
  - > Required minimum of 0.5 retained credits from visiting semester +
  - > Breadth requirements already complete for degree program
  - > Entrance into humanities and social sciences in the Faculty of Arts and Science



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## Program Model

- > Dedicated staff to deliver specialized advising
- > Internal, streamlined admissions process, transfer credit assessment and program advising
- > Tailored services and supports to ease the transition to the institution
- > Dedicated online presence with full transparency on program & transfer credit agreements



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### Diploma To Degree at UoT

The Diploma to Degree program is a pathway to university studies for students attending a two-year liberal arts diploma at partner institutions, including Seneca College, George Brown College and Humber College.

The Diploma to Degree is a facilitated transfer program into Woodsworth College in the Faculty of Arts and Science at the University of Toronto. The program is designed for student to transfer into programs in the social sciences and humanities with up to 6 transfer credits and any retained credits completed at UoT as a Visiting student.



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## Program Model



- > College Visits
  - > Connect with students at home college
  - > Overview of program
  - > On-site group and individual advising
  
- > U of T Campus Visits
  - > Registration overview
  - > Detailed program advising
  - > Introduction and orientation to U of T

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## Program Model

### Support Strategies

- > Belonging to Woodsworth College
- > Dedicated admission & academic advisor
- > In-house financial aid advisor
- > Embedded Learning Skills Strategist, Career Educator
- > Writing Centre and Math Aid Centre
- > Access to central student services available to all U of T students



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## Program Pathways

Complete a double major in Sociology and Political Science

Enrol in college program

Develop interests and strengths in various subject areas

Enroll in degree studies in Faculty of Arts and Science

Apply to be a visiting student during diploma studies

Meet with an advisor to select program options and assess transfer credits

Attend a campus visit to Woodsworth College to explore options

Apply for degree studies

Complete minimum of 0.5 credits with 60% grade

Take Sociology of Healthcare

Complete liberal arts diploma with 3.0 GPA and recommendation

Take Politics of Development



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## Preliminary Results

- > Diploma to Degree students: 55% Male, 45% Female
  - > The reverse of the broader Arts and Science population
- > Retention rate of 84%
  - > Equivalent to the overall rate in Arts and Science
- > Average CGPA at graduation: 2.77 - greater than the Faculty average
  - > Prior to the facilitated transfer model: 2.28
- > Average number of credits at graduation: 20.8
  - > 20.0 credits required to graduate

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## Future research questions

Do facilitated transfer students take more than 20 credits to complete their degree? If so, why?

How long does it take a facilitated transfer student to complete their degree?

How does the GPA of a facilitated transfer student compare to other transfer students? To the rest of the Arts and Science population?

If these students do better, why? What are the determinants of success?

What supports and services do these students access?

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Questions?

Ideas?

Thoughts?