

Implementing eTranscript California

UCSB's process and what we learned

Our Electronic Transcript Intake Process

1. Download XML Transcripts (automatic, daily)
2. Parse Data (mapped to our DARS tables)
3. Apply Subsequent Transcript Logic
4. Feed into DARS Tables for Evaluation
5. Generate PDF Versions and Feed into Imaging System

Phased Implementation Plan

1. Map XML data to DARS tables
2. Develop/test with trading partners (repeat as necessary – will continue throughout subsequent phases)
3. Implement subsequent transcript processing logic
4. Set up automated transcript download
5. Develop mechanism to generate PDFs and feed into Imaging System
6. Develop mechanism for tracking transcripts and logging into SIS
7. Implement sending functionality
8. Integrate with UC application

Problems Encountered

Internal Issues

- Resources (technical and functional)
- Differences eTran and SPEEDE data
 - Switch from EDI to XML
 - Integration with internal transcript evaluation system (iflags)
- Testing with Santa Barbara City College

Issues with eTran

- ASCII to XML translation
- PDF download
- XAP Communicator Compatibility (Windows NT/2000/XP)

Testing Process

- Ask sending institutions to help with testing
- Create list of students who have sent us transcripts from those schools; transcripts must already be loaded or data entered into our evaluation system
- Request electronic versions of these students' transcripts to be sent through eTran
- Load XML transcripts into our test evaluation system
- Run scripts to compare test transcripts with originals
- Have functional staff view test transcripts in test evaluation system, looking for errors

Lessons Learned

- Devote sufficient resources (technical and functional)
- Don't get too hung up on what you were doing before
 - In some cases it might be easier to develop certain logic or functionalities from the ground up rather than trying to salvage what you have
- When you are having trouble finding where in the schema a data element is stored, talk to a sending school
- Sending schools are eager to help you test!
- Don't test with schools that are still testing themselves
- If your data is mapped well and your logic is good, adding new trading partners requires MINIMAL testing (YAY!)

Questions?

