

## ICRC Fall 2025 Meeting - Executive Summary

October 9-10, 2025 | Whitman College

### Overview

The Intercollege Relations Commission (ICRC) held its fall 2025 meeting with representatives attending from 38 Washington institutions and agencies. Key discussions centered around AA-DTA degree revisions, ongoing articulation review processes, and collaborative efforts to improve student transfer success.

### ICRC Committee Reports & Discussion

**Ongoing Articulation Review (OAR) Committee.** ICRC's OAR Committee, chaired by Amber Brock (TCC), will pause institutional reviews to reconsider the review process to ensure it makes sense. **Rationale:** Current 6-7 year review cycle may not be efficient given institutional growth, rapid documentation updates, and staffing turnover. **Next Steps:** Monthly committee meetings to redesign process; potential collaboration with Joint Transfer Council (JTC); possible survey to member institutions.

**Handbook Committee Updates.** ICRC's Handbook Committee, chaired by David Sundine (UW), proposed the following changes that were subsequently approved by attending member vote:

- Added Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW) member bullet point
  - Changed "regionally-accredited" to "institutionally-accredited" language
  - Added vacancy appointment procedures for the Executive Board
  - Updated Provisos for Gonzaga, UPS, and Whitman
  - Removed Computer Science from AS-T, Track 2 degree (replaced by CS DTA)
  - Updated acronyms section (added WACSE and WCERTE)
- **Motion:** Approved with additional suggestion to prioritize same-sector replacements for board vacancies

**ICRC Financial Report.** Current balance: \$4,562.45 (as of October 7). Anticipated total after all dues collected: \$10,662.45. 39 institutions/agencies have paid 2025-26 dues so far.

## **Major Discussion Topics**

**1. DTA Revision Proposals:** The proposed Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) revisions generated extensive discussion. **Proposed DTA Changes:**

- Reduction of distribution area credits from 15 to 10
  - 15 credits move to ‘Electives’ area (possible major-readiness advising; awaiting definition of ‘Electives’)
- Addition of diversity course requirement
- Reduction of local variation credits

### **Key Concerns and Opportunities:**

- Opportunity: Need for four-year institutions to define “major-readiness electives” for specific programs
- Opportunity: Balance between flexibility and guided pathways
- Concern: Equity in course equivalency review processes
- Concern: Variation in institutional capacity to offer recommended courses
- Opportunity: Positive Impact for Running Start students
- Concern: Need for better data tracking on degree completion timelines

### **Institutional Responses:**

- Several universities working on transfer pathways and planning tools
- Recognition that DTA success depends on collaboration between CTCs and Bis
- Concerns about standardization versus institutional autonomy

## **Transfer and Articulation Q&A Topics**

- 1. Computer Science Course in Social Sciences Distribution.** Question raised about CS “computers in society” course counting toward social science distribution. Consensus: Course included in DTA would transfer; individual course evaluation needed without DTA. Recommendation: Contact individual institutions for specific transfer guidance.
- 2. Grade Point Average on Transcripts.** Major concern: ctcLink only shows cumulative GPA including below-college-level courses. The legacy system previously showed both cumulative and college-level GPA. An enhancement request exists but implementation remains complex. Financial aid implications complicate potential solutions.
- 3. International Transcript Evaluation.** Significant discussion on English Composition equivalency from non-English speaking countries. Varied institutional approaches: some require English proficiency exams, others review syllabi. Several institutions employ dedicated international evaluators or partner with external agencies.

**Agency Updates – See Presentation Slides for additional context and links.**

**State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC).** Federal adult basic education funding at risk (House proposal: \$0; Senate: level funding). Perkins funding may shift entirely to K-12. Workforce Pell rulemaking in progress. CTE dual credit pilot underway at SVC and EvCC. Pre-Nursing DTA/MRP workgroup relaunching in December. Electronic transcript issues being addressed.

**Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW).** Washington College Grant and Collegebound Scholarship funding are at risk. ICW scholarship funds supplementing aid at ICW campuses.

**Council of Presidents (COP).** See written updates under presentation materials.

**Joint Transfer Council (JTC).** Computer Science DTA now in effect. Biology MRP proposal under review (single unified degree, not a DTA). Planning two communities of practice (Biology and Math).

**Articulation and Transfer Council (ATC).** Focus on DTA revision implementation. Fall 2025 Professional development opportunities (“Leading from the Middle”). Common Course Numbering expansion to third and fourth-year courses. Research on course retake patterns for transfer students.

**Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC).** FAFSA/WASFA campaigns launched. New transfer reports released (Transfer Efficiency Updates, Beyond Transfer Degrees). Data dashboards available on WSAC website. Parenting students best practices brief published.

**Professional Development and Breakout Session Topics:**

**Recommendation for Pre-ICRC Meeting Workshops:** Interest in software-specific pre-meeting workgroups for institutional collaboration. Exploration of AI tools for transcript evaluation. Student Financial Responsibility Agreement (SFRA) implementation required by spring quarter. Fraudulent application prevention strategies. Pre-meeting workshops will not be moderated by the ICRC executive board, but workshops and topics should be relevant to ICRC topics and any outcomes should be shared out during main meeting sessions.

## **Professional Development Priorities for Spring 2026**

- SBCTC dashboard training
- "Leading from the Middle" soft skills development
- Student transfer panel
- Show-and-tell sessions on campus innovations
- AI and transfer evaluation tools

## **Collaboration Opportunities**

- Potential ICRC-JTC task forces on specific transfer issues
- Communities of practice for specific discipline areas
- Course-sharing options between smaller CTC institutions
- Alignment of state council meeting schedules (calendar)

## **Future Meetings**

- **Winter 2026:** February 5 (virtual, half-day)
- **Spring 2026:** April 9-10 at South Puget Sound Community College, Olympia
- **Fall 2026:** October 8-9 (host institution TBD; CWU exploring)

## **Attendance**

38 institutions and agencies participated in the Fall 2025 meeting, representing community and technical colleges, baccalaureate institutions, independent colleges, and state agencies across Washington.

*For detailed discussion notes and complete agency reports, please refer to the full meeting minutes expected to be available on the website soon.*