WHAT IS A Transfer Affordability Guarantee (TAG)

A Transfer Affordability Guarantee (TAG) is a student-centered and equity-driven partnership between institutions that respects students’ investment of time and money into higher education. Institutions that offer a TAG ensure that students can complete a bachelor’s degree in a timely manner by supporting them through a mapped pathway, guaranteeing that all credits apply to completion, and clearly defining cost and time-to-degree.

80% of community college students want a bachelor’s degree. 1

43% of credits are lost nationwide through the transfer process. 2

31% of community college students transfer to a 4-year institution. 2

4% of community college students earn a bachelor’s degree within 6 years of entry to postsecondary education. 3

Research suggests that clear information about college costs can go a long way in keeping students on the college path.

Across the country, higher education students face burdensome barriers to success, particularly Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and underrepresented AAPI students, students from low-income backgrounds, student parents, and more. Using local data to identify equity gaps will help institutions understand which students they can better support through a TAG.

HURDLES OF THE TRANSFER PROCESS

43% of credits are lost nationwide through the transfer process. 3

Loss of transfer credits means taking more classes, which makes costs unclear and creates financial burden for students.

Only 4% of community college students earn a bachelor’s degree within 6 years of entry to postsecondary education. 4

Research suggests that clear information about college costs can go a long way in keeping students on the college path.

THE FOUR KEY ELEMENTS OF A TAG REMOVE THOSE HURDLES FOR STUDENTS

ALL CREDITS TRANSFER SEAMLESSLY

A TAG recognizes that today’s students do not have time nor money to waste, so ensures that credits are seamlessly transferred from a two-year to a four-year institution to support students on their path to a bachelor’s degree.

PROVIDE SET COST

Recognizing that the increasing costs associated with a postsecondary credential, including non-tuition costs, can be an insurmountable barrier for many students, a TAG provides a set cost that will not change over the course of the student’s path toward a degree.

CLEAR TIME TO DEGREE

Institutions offering TAGs will offer wraparound student supports to ensure students are able to stay on their pathway and complete their degree in a timely manner.

DIRECT COMMUNICATION TO STUDENTS

A program is only as good as its implementation. To ensure students, particularly historically marginalized students, enjoy the benefits a TAG can provide, institutions that offer TAGs develop clear, consistent, and direct messaging designed to connect with students and ensure both awareness of and participation in a degree pathway.


Learn more at: ihep.org/transfer-boost

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