HLC Accreditation Evidence

Title: Ellucian Degree-Works

Office of Origin: Vice President of Student Services

Ellucian Degree Works™

Take a more direct route with academic planning tools

Helping your students complete their educations successfully has always been a primary goal of academic advising. But it's not always easy. Too often, students encounter obstacles in their path, slowing progress to graduation, or worse, interrupting that progress permanently. And students seeking to transfer credits to your institution are often frustrated by a lack of transparency into which courses do and don't "count."

With a new emphasis in higher education policy on completion rates and time to degree, finding better ways to support your students as they design and complete academic plans is more important than ever.

Fostering student success

Ellucian Degree Works™ is a comprehensive academic advising, transfer articulation, and degree audit solution that helps students and their advisors successfully negotiate your institution's curriculum requirements. Students are less likely to take courses they don't need and more likely to stay on a direct path to graduation. Available as a fully integrated complement to Banner® by Ellucian's student information system, Ellucian Degree Works can also be easily integrated with any other vendor or homegrown student information system.

Ellucian Degree Works provides powerful academic planning tools and real-time counseling capabilities that create new efficiencies and foster more personal interactions between advisors and students. Your students receive the academic advice they need to succeed and your advisors gain new capabilities to help them counsel their students more successfully. The result? More successful transfers, increased retention, and a shorter time to degree.

In addition, Ellucian Degree Works captures invaluable aggregate information, providing senior administrators with important metrics for planning future term course offerings, streamlining processes for more efficient cost management, and keeping pace with new national and global higher education standards.

ellucian®

Better access to academic advice

Ellucian Degree Works is built around a set of powerful web services that guide students through complex degree requirements, helping them negotiate the most effective path to graduation. Your institution can easily define general education, core, distribution, major, minor, and concentration requirements. Students and advisors can easily track mandated competencies, remedial courses, and test scores. With direct access to web-based worksheets and related hyperlinked information such as catalog information, class schedules, transcripts, help desk services, and FAQs, your students spend less time deciphering degree requirements and more time pursuing academic goals.

Better support for academic goals

Ellucian Degree Works allows advisors and students to create detailed educational plans to guide every student to a more successful outcome. Advisor note capabilities help advising staff clearly articulate their advice to students, and these notes follow students from advisor to advisor. Web-based exception processing for waivers and substitutions streamlines internal processes and helps students and advisors understand a student's current status faster. Ellucian Degree Works also provides powerful "what if?" scenarios and "look ahead" capabilities that allow students and advisors to understand the impact of every academic option. Finally, user-friendly GPA calculators keep students on track, eliminating tedious manual calculations.

Better transfer articulation

An optional component, Ellucian Degree Works Transfer Equivalency, provides your staff with the tools they need to more efficiently determine how coursework from other institutions is assessed and applied at yours. And intuitive self-service capabilities mean that prospective transfer students can see immediately which course credits will be accepted for transfer.

Better insight into research and reporting

Ellucian Degree Works includes an accessible storehouse of advice, audits, and plans. Using SQL-compliant ad hoc report writers, academic planners can query the storehouse to report on how courses are being used to fulfill requirements, whether a student is meeting the terms of a financial aid award, which students are not following educational plans, or what required courses are missing from those plans. And because audits and educational plans contain detailed academic advice on future course options, Ellucian Degree Works provides a valuable repository for academic planning—a virtual road map to future course work demand and emerging enrollment patterns.

Ellucian Degree Works benefits
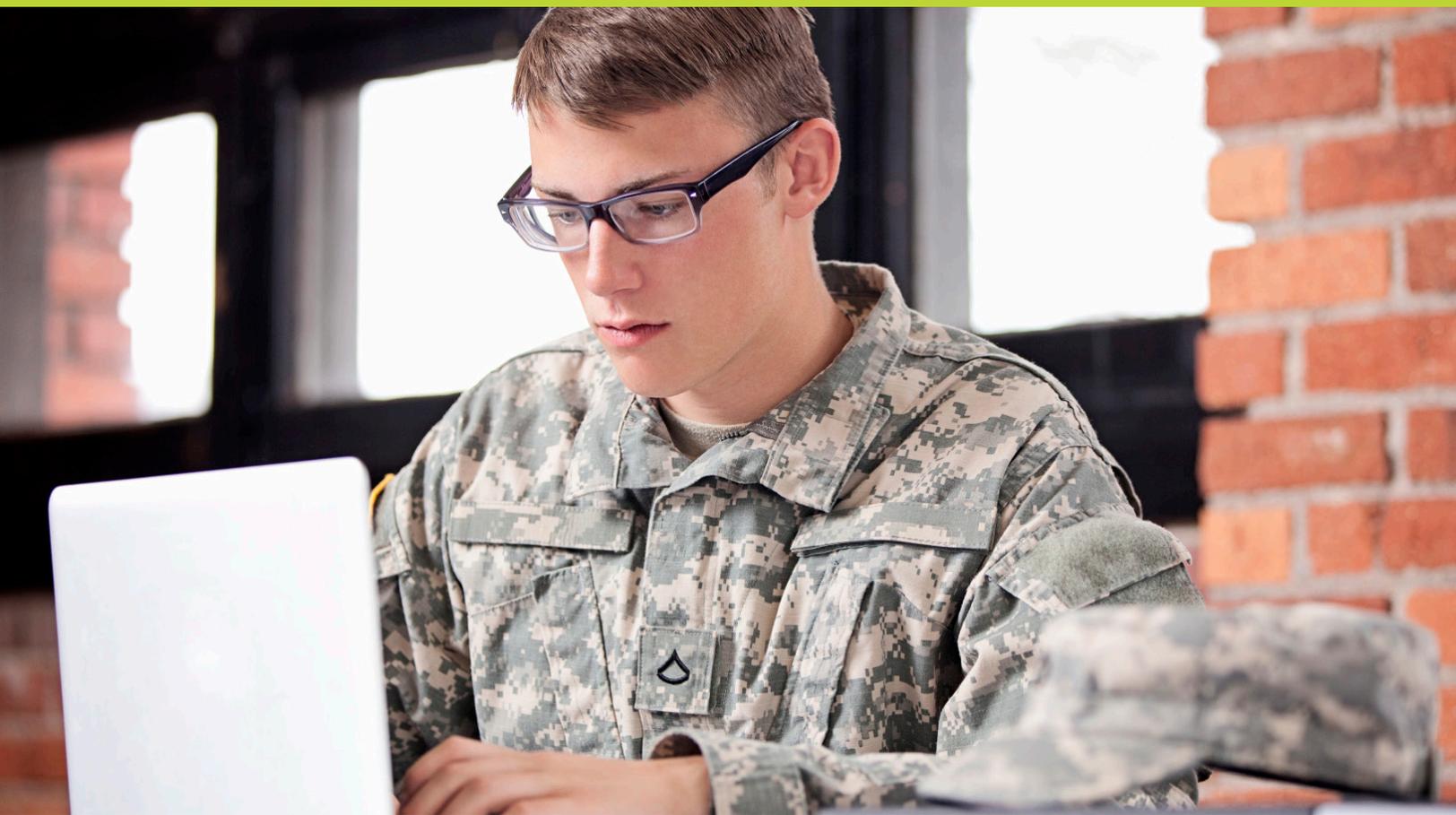
Benefits for students:

- Real-time advice and counsel

- Interactive "what if?" scenario planning

- More transparent course and credit transfer

- Clear path to graduation

- Easy access to related services and advice

Benefits for advisors:

- More personalized advising

- Improved retention and graduation rates

- More transparent transfer articulation

- Clear and consistent degree plans

- More timely degree certification

Benefits for institutions:

- Improved completion rates and time to graduation

- Rapid ROI through better retention and improved transfer recruitment

- Robust analytical and decision support tools for institutional planning

Better support for military students

Military students have jobs that require them to move often—and that makes it difficult for them to earn a degree. So Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) make it easier for them by limiting the amount of course work required, making it easy to transfer courses, and awarding credit for military training and nationally recognized tests. Military students simply choose a SOC Consortium member school as their home school to track course credits and monitor their progress towards a degree.

The home school tallies each military student's prior education and experience and gives the student an academic plan which shows what classes are needed to complete a degree. The result of this official evaluation is a SOC Degree Network System (DNS) Student Agreement form which works as a contract—the student agrees to meet the requirements and the home school agrees to award the degree once the requirements are met.

Ellucian Degree Works features a SOC Audit worksheet that includes the exact information in the same format as the SOC DNS Student Agreement form.

Better SOC DNS Student Agreement form processing

The SOC Audit worksheet in Ellucian Degree Works automates this manual process by gathering military information from the home school's student information system and adding the course and credit information required to complete the form. The SOC Audit can be saved at any point and features a SOC history tab that provides an audit trail of the SOC audits created for a given student. The result is a faster, more accurate form with fewer hassles associated with manual processing.

Comparison of the SOC DNS Agreement forms
produced manually vs. automatically

SOC DNS Student Agreement spreadsheet produced manually

Ellucian Degree Works SOC Audit worksheet produced automatically

ellucian.

ABOUT ELLUCIAN

Ellucian helps education institutions thrive in an open and dynamic world. We deliver a broad portfolio of technology solutions, developed in collaboration with a global education community, and provide strategic guidance to help education institutions of all kinds navigate change, achieve greater transparency, and drive efficiencies. More than 2,400 institutions in 40 countries around the world look to Ellucian for the ideas and insights that will move education forward, helping people everywhere discover their futures through learning.

To learn more, please visit www.ellucian.com