

Transfer Explorer

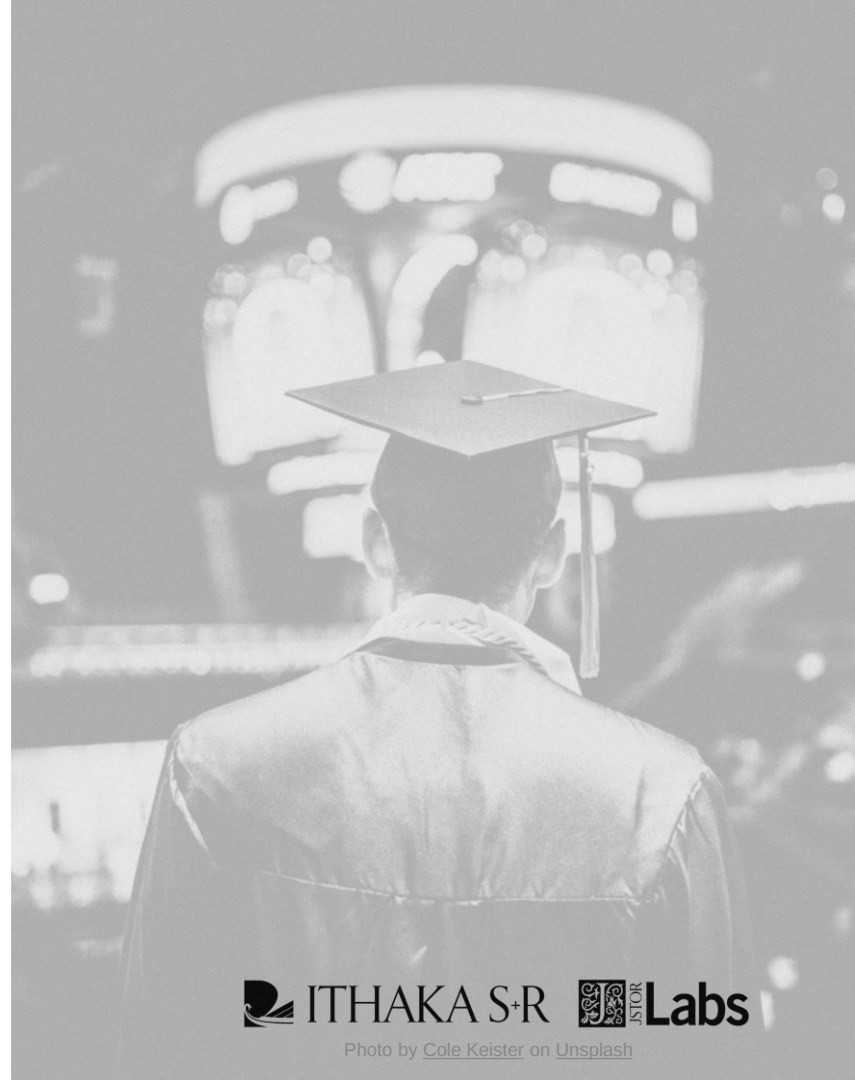
Early Successes, Lessons Learned, and What Comes Next

South Carolina Transfer Convening - October 8, 2025
Emily Tichenor, Ithaka S+R & Chris Buonocore, ITHAKA



Agenda

- Overview of the Transfer Explorer project in South Carolina
- Demo of beta website
- Panel discussion with participating South Carolina colleges and universities
- The next phase of Transfer Explorer





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ITHAKA S+R

We are a nonprofit with a mission to improve access to knowledge and education for people around the world. We believe education is key to the well-being of individuals and society, and we work to make it more effective and affordable.

Strategy + Research
sr.ithaka.org

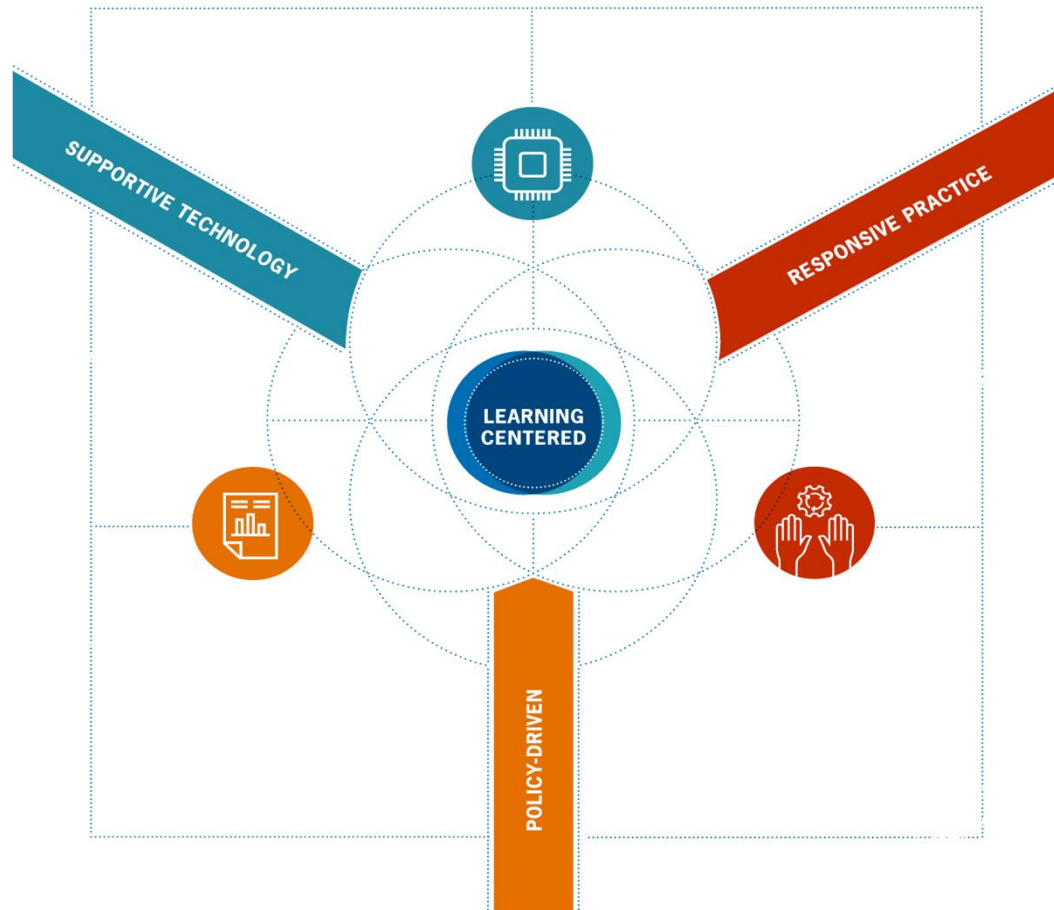
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Learning mobility is the norm, but it is a struggle



- Large share of degree holders possess transcripts from multiple higher education institutions
- Student mobility is increasingly multi-directional, across institution types, system and state boundaries
- College-level learning is increasingly multi-source and non-linear
- Credit mobility is a major accelerator for students

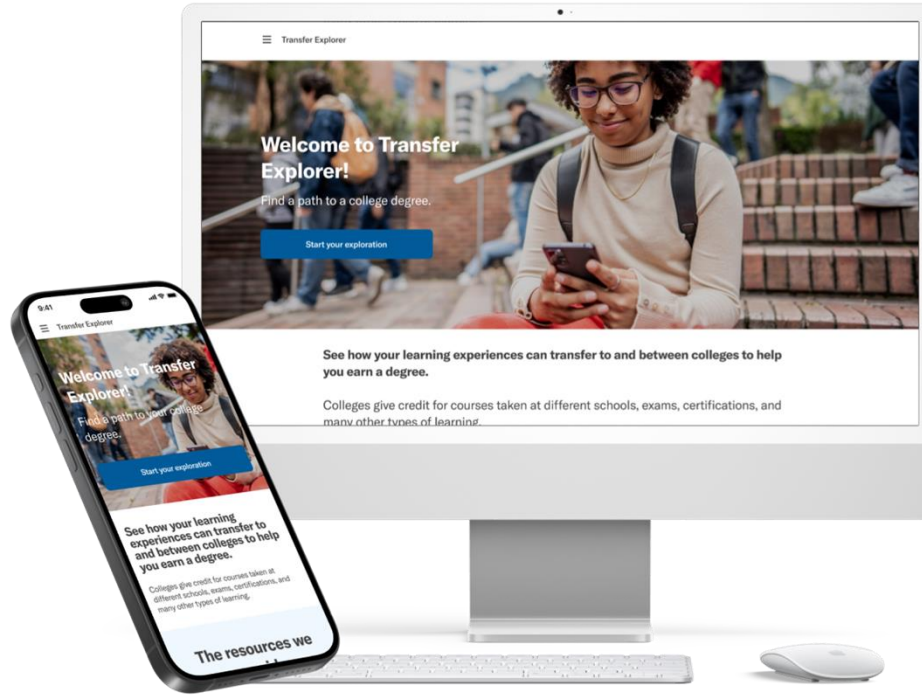
Despite all this mobility, transferring credit into and between institutions of higher education so that prior validated learning meaningfully applies to a program of study has proven a persistent and stubborn challenge.



All information about transferring to different colleges (*particularly credit transfer*) should be completely public and easily accessible.

The Results

1. Students can make better informed course and transfer destination choices
2. Transfer credits errors/inefficiencies can be easily spotted and fixed
3. Institutions have actionable information to help advance policies/processes that attract and retain transfer students



TransferExplorer.org

Beta Launched in February 2025

Who is participating in South Carolina?

Aiken Technical College
Coastal Carolina University
Denmark Technical College
Lander University

College of Charleston
Horry-Georgetown Technical College
USC Columbia
USC Aiken
USC Beaufort
USC Upstate

Palmetto College campuses:

- USC Lancaster
- USC Salkehatchie
- USC Sumter
- USC Union



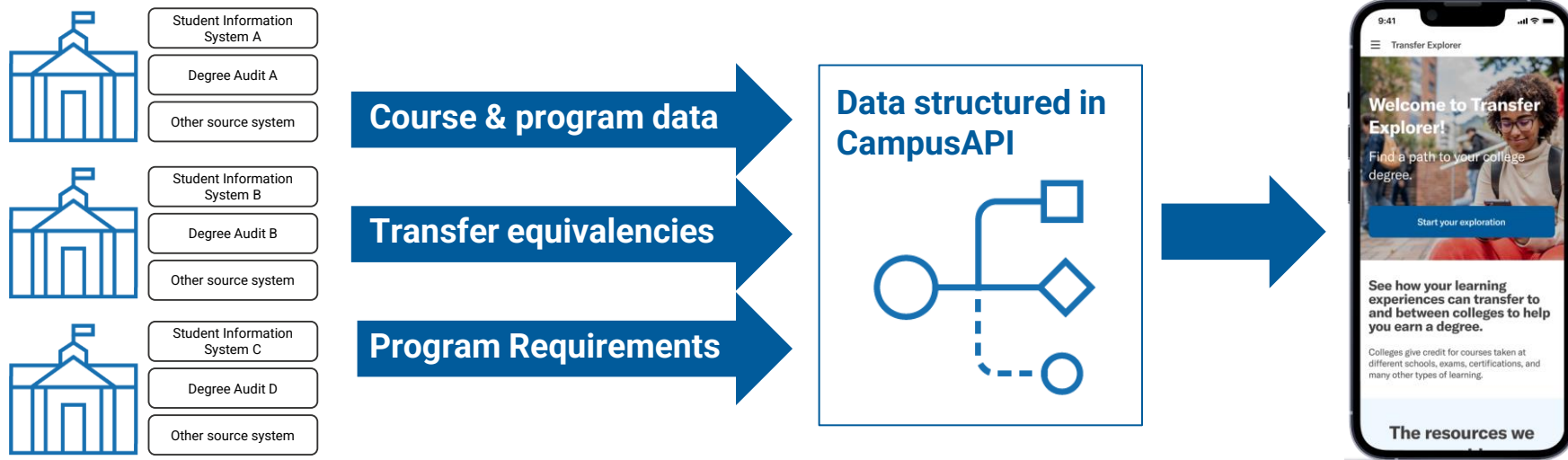
Transfer Explorer boosts transparency

Both Transfer Explorer websites enable any user to investigate how courses transferred into a participating institutions will count toward a specific college degree or credential.

How it works?

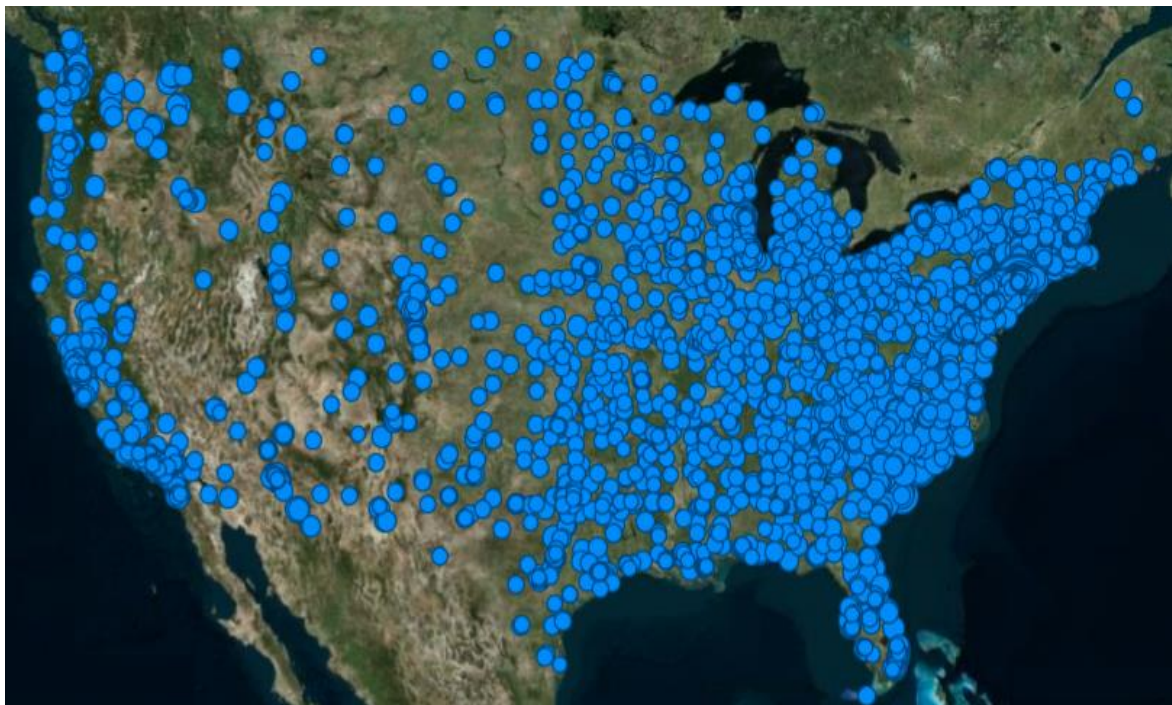
- ✓ Unifies data from multiple colleges and universities on one platform
- ✓ Open and accessible without a login
- ✓ Accurate and up-to-date information
- ✓ Allows a user to compare how their learning transfers and applies at different institutions and to different degrees
- ✓ Prioritizes information transparency and access

How does Transfer Explorer work?



As of August 2025, Transfer Explorer has connectors to eight of the most widely used student information and degree audit systems, encompassing more than 80 percent of market share in the US.

Connecting Transfer Data Nationally



Working with:

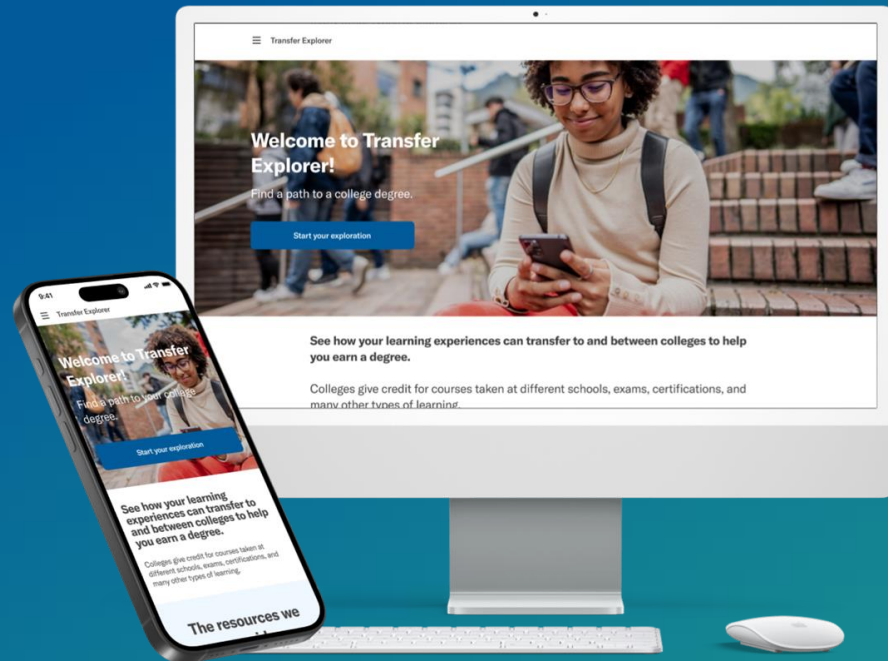
- 44 individual colleges & universities
- 3 systems (WSU, CUNY, Univ. of South Carolina)
- Across 4 states

Transfer Explorer Dataset (to-date):

- 2,106,565 course equivalency rules
- 2389 academic programs
- From 5 student information and degree audit systems

Transfer Explorer Website Demo

@ transferexplorer.org



Panel Discussion - Transfer Explorer Project



Leslie Barrett Brown

Associate Director for Adult Learner Pathways
Coastal Carolina University



Crystal Edwards

Dean of Student Success & Retention
Aiken Technical College



Lloyd Willis

Dean College of Business and Technology
Lander University

What's Next for Transfer Explorer

Fall/Winter 2025:

- Continue to launch pilot institutions for exploration and participate in training and rollout
- Continue user experience testing, research, and community building
- Feature development including, but not limited to:
 - inclusion of credit for prior learning,
 - program requirements enhancements,
 - streamlining entry of user learning,
 - and addition of user accounts.

ITHAKA has received philanthropic support for the next phase of Transfer Explorer!

In 2026 we will shift to a non-profit business model and invite new state, system, and institutional partners to join the Transfer Explorer community. We will also continue the development of new tools and features.

Thank you to our project collaborators, pilot systems, & philanthropic supporters



**Ascendium
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**The Gates
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**The Ichigo
Foundation**

Thank you!



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Transfer Explorer

Additional Resources



Resources - Transfer Explorer and Credit Mobility

1. Transfer Explorer overview videos: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11617475>
2. Monday, A., Wutchiett, D., & Logue, A. (2025, August 21). [How a Tool Called T-Rex Can Help Students Transfer Smarter](#). (Insidehighered.com)
3. Buonocore, C., Logue, A., & Vickery, C. (2025, April 3). [Credit Mobility Transparency: Policy and Practice Foundations and Building Blocks](#). (Insidehighered.com)
4. Buonocore, C., Humphreys, A., Kurzweil, M., & Tichenor, E. (2025, March 20). [Decoding the Transfer Path to a Degree: ITHAKA's New Transfer Explorer Maps Transfer Courses to Degree Requirements](#). (Insidehighered.com)
5. Gray, Kyle, Betsy Mueller, Emily Tichenor, and Madeline Trimble. (February 27, 2025). [Credit Mobility Strategies in Action: A Case Study Report on State, System, and Institutional Efforts to Smooth the Path to a College Degree for Mobile Students](#). Ithaka S+R Report.
6. Patel, P., Trimble, M., Tichenor, E., & Logue, A. (2024, December 11). [Building a Successful Credit Mobility Platform: Lessons from CUNY Transfer Explorer](#). Ithaka S+R Research Brief.
7. Patel, P. & Trimble, M. (2024, Sept. 10) [Transfer Credit Information at Your Fingertips: Preliminary Findings on Use and Implementation of CUNY Transfer Explorer](#). Ithaka S+R Research Brief.
8. Pingel, Sarah, Chau-Fang Lin, and Martin Kurzweil. (November 16, 2022). [Holistic Credit Mobility: Centering Learning in Credential Completion](#). Ithaka S+R Report.
9. Brooks, K. & Tichenor, E. (2024, Nov. 7) [Improving the Transfer Process: South Carolina's Efforts to Help Transfer Students Thrive](#) (Insidehighered.com)

