



Technology Innovation Showcase 2012



Intra-Georgia Registration Sharing System (INGRESS) University System of Georgia

The University System of Georgia (USG) needed a scalable solution that would allow students to enroll in online courses across multiple institutions while leveraging existing Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) resources. The solution had to comply with USG information security policies to ensure the privacy of confidential student information.

USG licensed a commercial product in 2007 to provide multi-institution registration; however, the system proved to be cost-prohibitive and difficult to use for students, faculty and administrative personnel.

INGRESS is the only application of its kind that integrates both Banner systems and a learning management system (LMS) to enable multi-institution registration. In addition, it leverages existing functionality within the institutions' Banner systems and takes advantage of current campus business processes to the greatest extent possible. By facilitating the sharing of seats in courses among multiple institutions, INGRESS enables USG institutions to build capacity while enhancing the delivery of services to students.

INGRESS is hosted the USG Information Technology Services, and the application is written in PHP development language. With four main features, INGRESS:

- Enables students to register, drop, withdraw and pay within their home institution Banner systems for classes offered at other USG institutions
- Facilitates centralized management of course seats in shared course sections
- Provides secure collection and distribution of attendance verification and final grade data
- Automatically creates enrollments in USG's learning management system for students registered in shared course sections and for faculty teaching these sections

The key to the multi-institution functionality of INGRESS is the centralized course seat management mechanism. As students register in Banner for collaborative online courses, INGRESS dynamically balances the available course seats across multiple institutions and allocates additional seats to each participating school based on a predefined formula. INGRESS automatically creates the online course section in the LMS and enrolls students and faculty in these sections based on registrations. As student register, drop and withdraw from the collaborative course sections, INGRESS processes these transactions to update seat availability across multiple collaborating institutions. In addition to registration services, INGRESS security collects and distributes attendance verification, midterm and final grade data to each student's home institution.

INGRESS has resulted in an estimated annual cost savings of \$1.3 million to the state. More than 5,000 course enrollments were processed by INGRESS for fall 2011. Survey results from campus support staff indicate a greater satisfaction with multi-institution registration since migrating to INGRESS, and the workload associated with supporting students and faculty in INGRESS-processed courses has decreased in comparison to the commercial multi-institution registration product.

The total number of USG institutions using INGRESS has increased from eight to 15 as of spring 2012; three additional institutions have submitted requests to implement INGRESS in fall 2012. The number of online collaborative programs using INGRESS now stands at 15, including nursing, teacher education, business and information technology.