TRACE ONE ENROLLMENT PROMISE

Companion to The Weekly Bellows: The Promise Has to Travel (11/4/26)

Purpose: Follow one public statement from the place a student sees it to the people, evidence and decisions that make it useful. This is an optional working exercise, not a required government form or a substitute for institution-specific legal review.

Bring: one program page, email or advising statement; the relevant policy; someone who owns the academic decision; someone who owns the financial answer; and someone who owns the student-facing wording. Use a fictional example or a properly de-identified case. Do not put student records into a broadly shared worksheet.

1. Start with the student's question.

What decision is the student trying to make?

What do they need to know before committing time or money?

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2. Copy the exact promise.

Statement:

Where it appears:

Program and audience:

Supporting source or policy:

Date checked:

Status: current / announced / proposed / approved for a future date / individual review pending.

Applicable effective date or review date:

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3. Follow the work.

What must the student submit?

Who checks that it is complete?

Who makes the academic decision?

Who explains how accepted learning applies to the intended program?

Who confirms program and student financial-aid eligibility, where relevant?

How does the answer reach the student in writing?

What happens when an answer is delayed or the student disputes it?

4. Check the language at the joins.

Do the website, counselor and evaluating office mean the same thing?

Have we confused accepted credit with credit that satisfies a particular requirement?

Have we confused a future rule or a pending approval with a benefit available now?

Have we stated a response time that the responsible office can actually meet?

5. Choose one repair.

Problem found:

Smallest useful change:

Owner who agrees to make it:

Target date agreed by that owner:

Evidence we will use to check the repair:

Next review:

Try the revised route with this question: “If I called today, what would you tell me?” Record the answer a student would hear, including what remains uncertain and who will provide the next answer.

CURRENT-SOURCE NOTE

The October 30, 2026 AIM final rule is generally effective July 1, 2027. Optional early implementation begins January 1, 2027, with limits on accreditors imposing new requirements before July 1. Its undergraduate transfer provisions retain academic criteria; they do not promise automatic universal transfer. The 15-calendar-day language concerns appeal opportunity after receipt of a written denial, not a universal transcript-submission deadline. Review §602.24(e), §668.43(a)(11), §668.43(c)(3)–(5), and the implementation section:

https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2026-10-30/html/2026-22174.htm