



End the Transcript Trap in Connecticut

Across the country, many institutions of higher education withhold transcripts for students who have any amount of unpaid balance.

100% of Connecticut institutions of higher education explicitly use this practice in 2022.¹

This punitive approach to debt collections, even for low dollar amounts, unfairly prevents students from being able to claim the credits they have already earned on the way to a degree—impeding their ability to get jobs or transfer to other academic programs. The practice also disproportionately harms low-income students and perpetuates a cycle of poverty.

It's time to end the Transcript Trap in Connecticut.

The Serious Implications to Withholding Students' Transcripts:

- Impedes students' ability to get jobs and pay off their debts, ironically.
- Prevents students from transferring credits they have earned so that they can pursue a different career path.

Disproportionate Impact on Low-Income Students:

- The Transcript Trap perpetuates the cycle of poverty by targeting the credentials of students with debt.
- Even Connecticut's community colleges—which are specifically advertised as being both affordable and transfer-friendly—use this practice.

National Trends to End the Transcript Trap:

- In 2019, [California](#) banned the practice in public and private colleges.
- In 2020, [Washington](#) made releasing transcripts a requirement when students are applying for jobs.
- [Massachusetts](#), [Minnesota](#), and [New York](#) all saw legislation pushing to ban the practice in 2021.
- **The City University of New York ([CUNY](#))** announced that it would suspend the practice for Fall 2021.

¹ We researched this practice at 34 institutions of higher education, including all in-state, regionally accredited, non-profit institutions; state-supported institutions; and community colleges. 30 of the 34 either explicitly confirmed that they engage this practice or printed information about it on their website or catalogues. The remaining four have not yet responded to requests for information. Our research does not include out-of-state institutions that are licensed in Connecticut, St. Thomas Seminary, or the US Coast Guard.

CT Institutions of Higher Ed	Type	Withholds Transcripts for Students with Debt?
Albertus Magnus College	Private, 4-Year College	Yes Confirmed via email.
Asnuntuck Community College	Public, Community College	Yes "Students must be in good financial standing with the college to obtain a transcript." (Source: Student Handbook)
Capital Community College	Public, Community College	Yes "Official Transcripts are provided at no charge but students must meet all financial obligations to the College before they will be issued." (Source: Student Handbook)
Central Connecticut State University	Public, 4-Year College	Yes "Students who do not pay their bills by the due date may be subject to penalties and loss of University privileges/services including: Withholding of University services, course registration, transcripts of grades or other official papers..." (Source: Student Handbook)
Charter Oak State College	Public, Online	Yes "Charter Oak Official Transcripts will not be released if there is a hold on a student's record." (Source: Academic Transcripts)
Connecticut College	Private, 4-Year College	Yes "Students with unpaid bills are not eligible to participate in the housing lottery or pre-registration/registration for the subsequent semester, nor will the College issue diplomas or official transcripts for students whose accounts remain outstanding." (Source: Delinquent Accounts)
Eastern Connecticut State University	Public, 4-Year College	Yes Confirmed via email.
Fairfield University	Private, 4-Year College	Yes "... the University reserves the right to refuse to provide transcripts of academic records for reasons such as nonpayment of financial obligations." (Source: Student Handbook)
Gateway Community College	Public, Community College	Yes "Transcripts will NOT be issued for any students with a financial hold on their account." (Source: Request GateWay Transcripts)
Goodwin University	Private, 4-Year College	Yes "Official transcripts are released by the Registrar's Office only after all other offices have issued clearances for the student." (Source: Transcripts)
Hartford International University for Religion and Peace	Theological College	Yes "It is the policy of HIU not to release a transcript to individuals who are indebted to the university." (Source: Transcript Request)
Holy Apostles College and Seminary	Theological College	Yes "Any student who fails to make payment in the specified timeframe will be ineligible to receive grades, register for classes, or have transcripts released." (Source: Academic Catalogue)
Housatonic Community College	Public, Community College	Information requested.

CT Institutions of Higher Ed	Type	Withholds Transcripts for Students with Debt?
Manchester Community College	Public, Community College	Information requested.
Middlesex Community College	Public, Community College	Information requested.
Mitchell College	Private, 4-Year College	Yes "Students with a past due balance may not register for classes for a future term until all current term charges have been paid in full. In addition, students will also be prevented from receiving transcripts and/or a diploma until the account has been satisfied." (Source: Bursar Holds)
Naugatuck Valley Community College	Public, Community College	Yes Confirmed via email.
Northwestern Connecticut Community College	Public, Community College	Information requested.
Norwalk Community College	Public, Community College	Yes "All financial obligations and record restrictions must be reconciled before transcripts will be released." (Source: Norwalk Community College Transcript Request Form)
Quinebaug Valley Community College	Public, Community College	Yes Confirmed via email.
Quinnipiac University	Private, 4-Year College	Yes "We cannot fulfill transcript requests for current or former students with outstanding financial obligations owed to the University." (Source: Transcript FAQs)
Sacred Heart University	Private, 4-Year College	Yes "Transcripts will be withheld if the student has a financial obligation to the University." (Source: Transcripts)
Southern Connecticut State University	Public, 4-Year College	Yes "If a student does not pay the amount due by the due date, a hold may be placed on the student's account restricting course registration, access to grades, and transcript requests" (Source: Past Due Accounts)
Three Rivers Community College	Public, Community College	Yes "Transcripts will not be issued if a student has outstanding library or financial obligations to the College." (Source: Transcript Request)
Trinity College	Private, 4-Year College	Yes "Transcripts will not be processed if you have any outstanding financial obligations to Trinity College." (Source: Transcripts)
Tunxis Community College	Public, Community College	Yes Confirmed via email.

CT Institutions of Higher Ed	Type	Withholds Transcripts for Students with Debt?
University of Bridgeport	Private, 4-Year College	Yes "Holds on accounts may delay or prevent your ability to order transcripts." (Source: Ordering Transcripts In-Person)
University of Connecticut	Public, 4-Year College	Yes "Official transcripts may be withheld if some financial or other obligation to the University remains unmet." (Source: Request a Transcript)
University of Hartford	Private, 4-Year College	Yes "If there is a Bursar Hold on your account, your order will not be processed." (Source: Requesting a Transcript)
University of New Haven	Private, 4-Year College	Yes "If your bill remains unpaid for one month or more, a financial hold will be placed on your account. This financial hold will prevent you from registering for future semesters, requesting your academic transcript, viewing grades..." (Source: Student Handbook)
University of Saint Joseph	Private, 4-Year College	Yes "Official transcripts will be processed only if all university financial obligations have been met." (Source: University of Saint Joseph Transcript Request Form)
Wesleyan University	Private, 4-Year College	Yes "Transcript requests will not be processed, if you have an outstanding financial obligation." (Source: Transcripts)
Western Connecticut State University	Public, 4-Year College	Yes "Transcripts will not be issued if you have any outstanding financial obligations (e.g. parking tickets, library late fees) or if you have a cashier's hold on your account." (Source: Transcript)
Yale University	Private, 4-Year College	Yes "Transcript orders from current or former students with unmet obligations to the University will be cancelled." (Source: Can I order a transcript if I have a hold on my account?)

For more information, contact: Amy@edreformnow.org



About Education Reform Now CT

The state chapter of a national organization and affiliate of DFER CT, Education Reform Now CT is a 501(c)(3) that operates as a think tank and policy advocate, promoting great educational opportunities and achievement for all by increasing equity, protecting civil rights, and strengthening the social safety net.