

## Imagining the Networked University Transcript

Collaborations in higher education are nothing new. But a more dynamic version of partnerships is emerging, The Networked University, brings with it the opportunity to forge deeper alliances among institutions and remake higher education for the demands of the 21st century.

Let's imagine what one version of the networked university might look like through the eyes of a student. We'll call her Olivia.

1. Olivia submits the common application to the University of New York, which belongs to a networked alliance of universities. Collectively, they have committed to providing a better academic experience to students at a more competitive price point.

The network has centralized the admissions process, allowing the institutions to focus on providing prospective students with guidance and information. Olivia quickly learns that she has been admitted to the university, and will have access to resources throughout the network.

2. Before Olivia arrives on campus, she registers for classes using a single shared portal that allows her to access all alliance courses. She doesn't need to transfer credits or pay tuition to other the universities as they are now leveraging shared registrar and financial systems.

The portal offers her a mix of course delivery options. Once Olivia has made her selections, she is able to immediately access her course materials.

3. The process of taking multiple classes on different campuses is seamless for Olivia. Through the same portal she used to register, she is able to track progress across her courses. Olivia particularly enjoys blended courses. The network leveraged their collective buying power to build state-of-the-art virtual classrooms, meaning engaging, real-time, synchronous discussions are now possible.
4. As a sophomore, Olivia undertakes an undergraduate research project in sociology with one of the leading scholars in the field who teaches at another alliance institution. Working with the professor 2,500 miles away is made easier through a shared network and library resources.
5. When Olivia runs into trouble one night with a new concept in her statistics class, she starts a chat with the on-demand virtual tutor built into the class platform. Olivia's professor discovers through her morning digital insights report that half the class struggled with the same key concept. She reaches out to her statistics colleagues across the network for suggestions, and uses a new teaching technique to review the concept in class.

6. In her junior year, Olivia is offered an internship at Ford in Detroit. She jumps at the chance, and because one of the universities in the alliance is located nearby, she can keep up with her course work in person and take a few classes online at the same time.
7. In her final year, Olivia attends a virtual career fair where she is able to access opportunities from thousands of employers. During the fair she learns that the network has negotiated with some employers to create pathways for graduates to continue their education as they begin their professional career. Olivia ultimately lands a job where a portion of her first year will be dedicated to completing an online master's program.
8. Olivia graduates from the University of New York with one of its diplomas, and the support of eight other institutions. As Olivia progresses through her career, she is able to return to the network time and time again to support her lifelong learning.