HIGHER ED IN 2021:
TOP 5 IDENTITY CHALLENGES &
SOLUTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Position Paper

Fischer Identity is defining Identity Governance & Administration for Higher Education.
The Top 5 Identity Challenges in Higher Ed, 2021:

Higher Education is, in our estimation, the most challenged vertical with regard to Identity Management and Governance (“Identity”). In 2020, the pandemic transformed our lives, our communities, and our learning institutions, among many others. Colleges & Universities were forced to quickly and securely “eliminate the campus” and facilitate the new and unexpected mission of Higher Education that transition students, faculty, and staff to remote learning systems.

With resources under quarantine, budgets uncertain, and the new and shifting security threats that distance learning has exposed all of us to, the entire approach to Higher Education has been altered.

Fischer Identity has spent the past two decades learning and serving Higher Education, and the purpose of this document is to help Higher Education IT Executives understand the unique value that Fischer can bring to their campuses in these ever-evolving times.

“Fischer is priceless. I sleep better at night.”
– Naresh Samlal, Director of Mobility and Process Automation, VITAS Healthcare
Finding Vendors that Understand Higher Education

Many Identity vendor’s lack an understanding of Higher Education business processes, systems, constituents, culture and challenges, and how those dynamics are impacted in a remote environment.

As the inventors of Identity as a Service™ and Managed Identity Services™, Fischer has been doing the heavy lifting for our customers for years.

Whether it is near-line support and training for your in-house Identity resources, remote administration of on-premise Identity solutions, or complete Managed Identity Services™ that eliminate the need for your organization to worry about Identity security altogether, Fischer Identity has your back.

All of our support services, updates, connectors, and version upgrades are included in our contracts, regardless of your platform selection (In-House, Fischer IaaS™, AWS®, Azure®, or hybrid) and remote administration options are available to all customers.

“Fischer ‘gets’ the higher education enterprise. Institutions need to understand that Fischer isn’t just a commercial IAM vendor claiming they can do higher ed.”

— Jon Allen, AVP & Chief Information Security Officer, Baylor University
Doing More With Less

Right now, your already limited resources are faced with a monumental shift in mission. Whatever other projects and initiatives you had in the queue have been supplanted by the necessity to convert your entire student population to distance learners.

Employees forced to work from home, limiting the ability to manage and sustain your technology systems, are now also unwitting risk vectors as bad actors seek to capitalize on weak remote access technologies.

No matter what your resource or financial constraints may be, Fischer’s functional modularity, low TCO, and rapid Time to Value have been purpose built to minimize the cost and time required to manage every Identity in Higher Education. Fischer’s no-programming approach, built-in business processes and out-of-the-box integrations translate to you gaining back IT staff to work on more meaningful projects, such as rolling-out more remote services or extending the ones you already have.

“We would not be nearly as far along in our program had we chosen another IAM Product.”

– IAM Program Director, University of Virginia
Let’s face it. You have bigger issues to contend with in this unprecedented pandemic. The rapid transition to digital learning and remote workforce enablement may have you up and running today, but if those solutions become the new normal in the long term, your security requirements will need to adapt.

From secure Federated services, robust Multi Factor Authentication with Geo-fencing, and reliable remote Identity Proofing solutions that can protect your organization and your users, Fischer Identity’s mission is “Your Success”. With our full stack Identity and Governance products, complemented by our robust technical partner eco-system, Fischer is truly “One Vendor, Every Solution©”.

Fischer integrates out-of-the-box with all popular Systems of Authority (e.g., Ethos® by Ellucian, Banner® by Ellucian, Colleague® by Ellucian, Oracle-PeopleSoft, Oracle E-Business Suite, Workday, SAP, etc.) and target systems. Fischer continues to build out partnerships and integrations with the most widely used Education technology and Learning Management Systems in order to ensure our customers have seamless integration with the systems they use today and the ones they will need tomorrow.

“Collaborating with Fischer Identity was an opportunity to work with an industry leader who understands the higher education enterprise and helped us realize our goals rapidly and effectively.”

– Jon Allen, AVP & Chief Information Security Officer, Baylor University
Deployment Model Flexibility

Fischer is unique in the Identity industry as one of the few products with a true multi-tenant architecture. This allows our product to be deployed in the model most advantageous to your institution—on-campus software, fully managed cloud service, and hosted cloud. For example:

- **Move Fischer Solutions from On-Campus to Cloud (& Vice Versa).** Fischer Identity™ is a holistic suite of identity modules that can be deployed in any model. Migrating from cloud to on-campus, or on-campus to cloud is simple and generally performed over a weekend. This flexibility provides campuses with a “safety net” should deployment policies and preferences change.

- **Private Cloud.** State systems, consortia and large universities can consolidate their identity management infrastructure using a Private Cloud model. Each tenant (e.g., campus, department, school, hospital) can gain cost, efficiency and SLA advantages not obtainable when implementing Identity as a stand-alone solution.

- **Complete Managed Identity from the Cloud.** Web-centric Identity products (IDaaS) do not provide the robust capabilities of an enterprise-grade Identity solution. Fischer’s cloud customers have the identical capabilities that on-premise customers have, without any sacrifices or added complexity.

- **Platform Agnostic with No Sacrifices.** However you choose to deploy Fischer Identity, your functionality remains consistent. On-Campus, IaaS®, SaaS, or Hybrid – Fischer Identity offers the same capabilities regardless of platform. There is no ‘Identity Lite’ or limited functionality.
Getting Out of the “Identity Business”

Now is the time to focus on the bigger picture – keeping your campus in the business of providing quality education to your students regardless of their location.

That means facilitating new and emerging technologies that will transform your campus forever while managing and sustaining a workforce and user population that must adapt to new tools, processes, and strategies. Let your resources work on the real challenges of this new world of Higher Education and let Fischer Identity help you get out of the Identity business. After all, it's the only thing we do.
Fischer Identity

Fischer Identity empowers organizations to build effective, predictable and secure Identity Governance & Administration for the Enterprise with full-suite IGA and IAM solutions.

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