
Chapter III: Classification of Course Articulation Agreements

Course articulation is developed between "sending" and "receiving" institutions. In California this occurs mainly between the two-year independent and community colleges, and the three segments of higher education that grant the baccalaureate degree: the California State University (CSU) campuses, the University of California (UC) campuses, and the independent colleges and universities. In addition, a significant number of intrasegmental transfers occur. Therefore, articulation may also be developed between two-year institutions, and between four-year institutions.

Course articulation agreements are classified into several discrete areas:

- A. Courses Accepted For Baccalaureate Credit
- B. Transferable Credit Agreement (TCA)
- C. General Education-Breadth Agreements
- D. Course-to-Course Agreements
- E. Lower-Division Major Preparation Agreements

A. Courses Accepted for Baccalaureate Credit:

This articulation agreement identifies courses that are baccalaureate level and therefore acceptable by a receiving institution (or system) to fulfill both unit requirements for admission and baccalaureate elective credit. These agreements do not indicate which of these courses are acceptable for satisfying General Education-Breadth requirements or Major Preparation requirements at a receiving four-year institution.

In the UC System, the Office of the President (UCOP) initiates this agreement. This is referred to as the Transferable Course Agreement (TCA) for community colleges for all UC campuses (see Appendix A).

For the campuses in the CSU System, Executive Order 167 authorizes California Community Colleges to identify courses that are baccalaureate level and appropriate for transfer to the CSU. This articulation agreement is commonly known as the Baccalaureate List or the "Bacc" List (see Appendix E).

There are no system-wide transferable course agreements or baccalaureate lists within the independent segment, although some individual college agreements do exist. Some may use or honor the CSU Bacc List or the UCOP TCA list as a guideline for determining transfer credit.

Courses accepted for baccalaureate credit are the first level of articulation and comprise the basic "pool" of transferable courses from which subsequent articulation agreements are developed.

Occasionally, courses for technical majors; i.e., Architecture, Engineering, may include non-transferable courses if the course content, rigor, and level are determined to be sufficient to articulate for major requirements.

B. General Education-Breadth Agreements:

General Education-Breadth agreements consist of those courses that a student can complete at a sending institution to satisfy General Education-Breadth requirements at a receiving institution. Courses used in General Education-Breadth agreements are courses that are drawn from, and are a subset of, the basic "pool" of transferable courses accepted for baccalaureate credit (described in Section A).

C. Course-To-Course Agreements:

Course-to-Course agreements identify a particular course at a sending institution that is comparable to, or "acceptable in lieu of," a corresponding course at a receiving institution. It is also common to articulate "clusters" or "blocks" of courses. As with General Education-Breadth agreements, Course-to-Course agreements are developed from the basic pool of transferable courses accepted for baccalaureate credit (see Appendix K).

D. Lower-Division Major Preparation Agreements:

Lower-Division Major Preparation Agreements specify those courses at a sending institution that fulfill lower-division requirements for a specific major at a receiving institution. Catalog descriptions, course outlines, and baccalaureate lists are used in the development of these articulation agreements. In addition, special requirements relating to major preparation may be included, such as: pre-major requirements, supplementary admission requirements for selected majors, and information pertinent to impacted or over-subscribed majors. As with G.E.-Breadth and Course-to-Course Agreements, Lower-Division Major Preparation Agreements are usually developed from the list of courses accepted for baccalaureate credit (see Appendix L).

Table 1: Matrix of Articulation Chart

R E C E I V I N G I N S T I T U T I O N S			
Type of Agreements	California State University	University of California	Independent Colleges & Universities
Transferable Course Agreements	Developed by institutions in compliance with the CSU Executive Order 167. (Baccalaureate List)	Developed by the UC Office of the President for each community college. (Transferable Course Agreement)	Developed by some independent colleges and universities with community colleges
General Education Breadth Agreements	Developed by institutions in compliance with CSU Executive orders 405 & 595	Campus/College Specific Developed between institutions by each UC campus	Developed by some independent colleges and universities with community colleges
	I G E T C Developed by the Academic Senates for the UC, CSU, and CCC		
Course-to-Course Agreements	Developed between institutions through the CSU campus Articulation Officer	Developed between institutions by each UC campus through the Articulation Officer	Developed by some independent colleges and universities
Major Preparation Agreements	Developed between institutions through the CSU campus Articulation Officer	Developed between institutions by each UC campus through the Articulation Officer	Developed by some independent colleges and universities