
Chapter V: University of California

A. Introduction

The University of California and the California Community Colleges work together to establish course articulation agreements that enable transfer students to maintain continuity in their academic programs.

Several kinds of articulation agreements exist, each having a specific function:

Transferable Course Agreements

These agreements identify the general transferability of community college courses to the University of California. Courses approved for transfer unit credit count as advanced standing elective credit toward a university degree on any of the campuses. The UC Office of the President is responsible for producing this list called the "Transferable Course Agreement (TCA)."

General Education-Breadth Agreements

These agreements specify how transferable courses will be used to satisfy the General Education-Breadth requirements of a particular school or college on each campus. Responsibility for producing the campus-specific General Education-Breadth agreements rests with the individual UC campuses.

Course-to-Course Agreements

The purpose of these agreements is to determine if a particular course at a sending institution is comparable to or "acceptable in lieu of" a corresponding course at a particular campus of the University. Responsibility for producing Course-to-Course agreements rests with the individual UC campus Articulation Officer.

Lower-Division Major Preparation Agreements

These agreements indicate how lower-division courses satisfy specific requirements for various majors or academic programs on a campus. Responsibility for producing the Lower-Division Major Preparation Agreements rests with the individual UC campus Articulation Officer.

B. Systemwide Articulation - Transferable Course Agreements

The UC Transferable Course Agreements (TCAs) are developed in the Office of the President in accordance with policies established by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), a committee of the UC Academic Senate charged with developing undergraduate admissions requirements. BOARS policies determine which courses can be accepted upon transfer for advanced standing elective credit toward a University degree. The basic principles used in determining the transferability of California community college courses are:

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1. The course should be comparable to one offered at the lower-division level on any of the UC campuses in scope, level, and prerequisite.
 2. If the course is not comparable to any offered at UC, it must be appropriate for a university degree in terms of its purpose, scope and depth.

Courses listed as transferable are accepted at the point of admission by all UC campuses for unit credit in partial satisfaction of the degree requirements of the University.

Since the determination of transferability is subject to constant review and revision in line with current offerings on all campuses of the University, the goal of the Office of the President is to revise each TCA every year.

UC TCAs are updated on an annual basis. Each community college will receive general information regarding the UC/community college articulation process, a copy of their most recent TCA, and specific instructions for reviewing and updating the agreement including guidelines on the articulation of courses.

The University Office of the President (UCOP) Articulation Analyst updates each TCA, and during the review process uses UC and community college catalogs, expanded course outlines from both the community college and UC, regulations established by BOARS governing the maximum amount of credit allowed in certain subject areas (e.g. Physical Education or English as a Second Language), and recommendations developed by UC faculty and deans in special areas such as Agriculture and Environmental Design. The review is also governed by the "Guidelines for Transfer Credit" used on every UC campus as part of the admission process.

If a community college wishes to appeal the denial of transfer credit for certain courses, the Articulation Analyst will ask the community college Articulation Officer to send expanded course outlines indicating such key items as: prerequisites, purpose of the course and detailed descriptions of the course content, method of evaluation, and reading lists. The Articulation Analyst is usually able to resolve routine appeals. Occasionally, however, course outlines are forwarded to appropriate University faculty to solicit an opinion as to the transferability of a given course. The final TCA is sent to the community college, as well as to both the Office of Admissions and the Office of Relations with Schools on all UC campuses.

C. Campus Articulation

Policies and procedures for developing and maintaining campus-specific General Education/Breadth, Course-to-Course, and Lower-Division Major Preparation agreements vary at each UC Campus. A listing of the name of each campus Articulation Officer/Coordinator is available in the CIAC Directory, at: <http://enrollment.csusb.edu/articulation/ciac>. Contact these individuals directly regarding articulation questions, proposals, and procedures.

General Model of UC Articulation Process

