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Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Segmental Advisory Council  
**FROM:** Dr. James D. Fielder, Secretary   
**DATE:** December 15, 2018  
**SUBJECT:** Articulation Agreement Template

In an effort to help aid and maximize student transfer opportunities within Maryland, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has drafted a template for articulation (“articulation agreement template”). The articulation agreement template is a resource for institutions and should not be considered legal advice. Institutions should consult their own legal counsel regarding articulation agreements and other agreements, contracts, or institutional policies. All colleges and universities operating in Maryland may use this template.

All articulation agreements should conform and align with Maryland law. Institutions are not required to use the articulation agreement template. Any amendments to the articulation agreement template should conform and align with Maryland law. Regulations for transfer of students at public institutions can be found attached and in COMAR 13B.06.01. Articulation agreements should promote the completion of an Associate degree.

MHEC requests that a copy of all new or revised articulation agreements (as of the date of this memo) related to transfer of academic credit be deposited with the Commission for record keeping purposes. Institutions can submit a final and signed articulation agreement using the non-substantial modification coversheet to the academic program electronic mailbox. Only one institution needs to submit the articulation agreement. There is no fee associated with submitting an articulation agreement to MHEC.

This document was reviewed and approved by the MHEC Student Transfer Advisory Council on November 27, 2018.

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[INSERT NAME OF PROGRAM(S)]

Articulation Agreement  
Page 1 of 4

**ACADEMIC PROGRAM ARTICULATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
[INSERT SENDING SCHOOL]  
AND  
[INSERT RECEIVING SCHOOL] REGARDING TRANSFER FROM [INSERT  
PROGRAM NAME(S) OF THE SENDING SCHOOL] TO [INSERT PROGRAM  
NAME(S) OF THE RECEIVING SCHOOL]**

This Academic Program Articulation Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into by and between [School Name] (the “Sending Institution”) and [School Name] (the “Receiving Institution”) (collectively, the “Institutions”) to facilitate the transfer of academic credits from [Name of Program(s), including degree, HEGIS, and CIP code at Sending Institution] for the completion of [Name of Program(s), including degree, HEGIS, and CIP code at Receiving Institution] (the “Program(s)”).

**A. Qualifying Students**

This Agreement pertains to the transfer of “Qualifying Students”, *i.e.*, those students who:

1. Have successfully completed the program at the Sending Institution;
2. Are enrolled in the Sending Institution, in good standing; and
3. Are accepted for admission to the Receiving Institution
4. [Insert other pertinent qualifications].

**B. Responsibilities of the Institutions**

The Institutions agree to implement the transfer of Qualifying Students in accordance with applicable law and the following requirements and protocols:

1. A Qualifying Student may transfer into from the Transferring Institution into the Receiving Institution for the completion of the Program.
2. Courses that the Receiving School will accept credits for towards completion of the Program include:

Sending Institution Course			Receiving Institution Comparable Course			
Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Applied to*
[Complete Table]						

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[INSERT NAME OF PROGRAM(S)]

Articulation Agreement  
Page 2 of 4

\*Receiving Institution must indicate if course is applied to General Education, Program/Major requirements, or General Elective.

3. [Insert any additional pertinent provisions regarding the transfer of credits, e.g., residency requirements at the Receiving Institution.]
4. The Receiving Institution shall designate, and shall provide to the Sending Institution, the contact information for a staff person at the Receiving Institution who is responsible for the oversight of the transfer of Qualifying Students. The Sending Institution shall designate, and shall provide to the Receiving Institution, the contact information for a staff person at the Sending Institution who is responsible for the oversight of the transfer of Qualifying Students.

	Sending Institution	Receiving Institution
Name of staff person responsible for oversight	[Complete Table]	
Title of staff person		
Email address		
Telephone Number		

Should the staff person or position change, the institution will promptly provide new contact information to the partner institution and inform the Maryland Higher Education Commission of the change.

Additional contact information:

[Role & Responsibilities of persons listed here]	Sending Institution	Receiving Institution
Name of person	[Complete Table]	
Title of person		
Email address		
Telephone Number		

5. If the Qualifying Student is using federal Title 38 VA Education Benefits (GI Bill® Education Benefits), the Institutions shall adhere to all applicable U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' regulations, including the regulations governing the awarding prior credit, as regulated under Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 21.4253(d)(3) and 21.4254(c)(4).

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[INSERT NAME OF PROGRAM(S)]

Articulation Agreement  
Page 3 of 4

6. Each Institution shall adhere to all applicable transfer requirements set forth in the Annotated Code of Maryland and the Code of Maryland Regulations.
7. Each Institution shall advise students regarding transfer opportunities under this Agreement, and shall advise students of financial aid opportunities and implications associated with the transfer.
8. Should either Institution make changes to program requirements, the institution will inform the partner institution immediately. The articulation agreement should be updated to reflect the changes and forwarded to the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

### **C. Term and Termination**

1. This agreement shall be effective on the date that it is signed by the appropriate and authorized representatives of each Institution.
2. Either Institution may, at its sole discretion, terminate this Agreement upon delivering [ ] days written notice to the other Institution and the Maryland Higher Education Commission.
3. Both Institutions agree to meet once every [ ] year(s) to review the terms of this agreement.

### **D. Amendment**

1. This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding and agreement of the Institutions with respect to their rights and obligations in carrying out the terms of the Agreement, and supersedes any prior or contemporaneous agreements or understandings.
2. This Agreement may be modified only by written amendment executed by both Institutions.

### **E. Governing Law**

This Agreement shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Maryland.

### **F. Counterparts**

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same agreement.

### **G. Notice of Agreement**

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[INSERT NAME OF PROGRAM(S)]

Articulation Agreement  
Page 4 of 4

1. The Institutions agree to provide a copy of this Agreement, with any amendments, to the Maryland Higher Education Commission.
2. The Institutions agree to provide copies of this Agreement to all relevant individuals and departments of the Institutions, including but not limited to students, academic department chairs participating in the transfer, offices of the president, registrar's offices, and financial aid offices.

#### H. No Third-Party Beneficiaries

There are no third-party beneficiaries to this Agreement.

#### I. Representations and Warranties of the Parties

Both Institutions represent and warrant that the following shall be true and correct as of the Effective Date of this Agreement, and shall continue to be true and correct during the term of this Agreement:

1. The Institutions are and shall remain in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes, laws, ordinances, and regulations relating to this Agreement, as amended from time to time.
2. Each Institution has taken all action necessary for the approval and execution of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

[Institution Name]

[Institution Name]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name  
President or Chief Academic Officer

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name  
President or Chief Academic Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

[In addition to the President or Chief Academic Officer, other appropriate signatories may be added.]

# **Title 13B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

## **Subtitle 06 GENERAL EDUCATION AND TRANSFER**

### **Chapter 01 Public Institutions of Higher Education**

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), 11-207 and Title 11, Subtitle 2, Annotated Code of Maryland

## 13B.06.01.02

**.02 Definitions.**

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

- (1) "A.A. degree" means the Associate of Arts degree.
- (2) "A.A.S. degree" means the Associate of Applied Sciences degree.
- (3) "A.A.T. degree" means the Associate of Arts in Teaching degree.
- (4) "A.F.A. degree" means the Associate of Fine Arts degree.
- (5) "Arts" means courses that examine aesthetics and the development of the aesthetic form and explore the relationship between theory and practice.
- (6) "A.S. degree" means the Associate of Sciences degree.
- (7) "A.S.E. degree" means the Associate of Science in Engineering degree.
- (8) "Associate's degree" includes an:
  - (a) A.A. degree;
  - (b) A.S. degree;
  - (c) A.A.S. degree;
  - (d) A.A.T. degree;
  - (e) A.F.A. degree; and
  - (f) A.S.E. degree.
- (9) "Biological and physical sciences" means courses that examine living systems and the physical universe. They introduce students to the variety of methods used to collect, interpret, and apply scientific data, and to an understanding of the relationship between scientific theory and application.
- (10) "Cumulative grade point average" means the average of grades received for completed coursework at all institutions attended.
- (11) "English composition courses" means courses that provide students with communication knowledge and skills appropriate to various writing situations, including intellectual inquiry and academic research.
- (12) "General education" means the foundation of the higher education curriculum providing a coherent intellectual experience for all students.
- (13) "General education program" means a program that is designed to:
  - (a) Introduce undergraduates to the fundamental knowledge, skills, and values that are essential to the study of academic disciplines;
  - (b) Encourage the pursuit of life-long learning; and
  - (c) Foster the development of educated members of the community and the world.
- (14) "Humanities" means courses that examine the values and cultural heritage that establish the framework for inquiry into the meaning of life.
- (15) "Mathematics" means courses that provide students with numerical, analytical, statistical, and problem-solving skills.

13B.06.01.02-1

## **.02-1 Admission of Transfer Students to Public Institutions.**

### **A. Admission to Institutions.**

(1) Subject to §B of this regulation, a student attending a public institution who has completed an associate's degree or who has completed 60 or more semester hours of credit, may not be denied direct transfer to another public institution if the student attained a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent at the sending institution, except as provided in §A(4) of this regulation.

(2) Subject to §B of this regulation, a student attending a public institution who has not completed an associate's degree or who has completed fewer than 60 semester hours of credit, is eligible to transfer to a public institution regardless of the number of credit hours earned if the student:

(a) Satisfied the admission criteria of the receiving public institution as a high school senior; and

(b) Attained at least a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent at the sending institution.

(3) Subject to §B of this regulation, a student attending a public institution who did not satisfy the admission criteria of a receiving public institution as a high school senior, but who has earned sufficient credits at a public institution to be classified by the receiving public institution as a sophomore, shall meet the stated admission criteria developed and published by the receiving public institution for transfer.

(4) If the number of students seeking admission exceeds the number that can be accommodated at a receiving public institution, admission decisions shall be:

(a) Based on criteria developed and published by the receiving public institution on the institution's website; and

(b) Made to provide fair and equal treatment for native and transfer students.

### **B. Admission to Programs.**

(1) A receiving public institution may require additional program admission requirements to some programs if the standards and criteria for admission to the program:

(a) Are developed and published by the receiving public institution; and

(b) Maintain fair and equal treatment for native and transfer students.

(2) Courses taken at a public institution as part of a recommended transfer program leading toward a baccalaureate degree shall be applicable to related programs at a receiving public institution granting the baccalaureate degree.

### **C. Receiving Institution Program Responsibility.**

(1) The faculty of a receiving public institution is responsible for development and determination of the program requirements in major fields of study for a baccalaureate degree, including courses in the major field of study taken in the lower division.

(2) A receiving public institution may set program requirements in major fields of study which simultaneously fulfill general education requirements.

(3) A receiving public institution, in developing lower division course work, shall exchange information with other public institutions to facilitate the transfer of credits into its programs.

(4) A receiving public institution shall ensure that any changes to program standards and criteria for admission and the transfer of credits maintain the fair and equal treatment of native and transfer students, and are communicated in a timely manner.



J. General education courses shall reflect current scholarship in the discipline and provide reference to theoretical frameworks and methods of inquiry appropriate to academic disciplines.

K. Courses that are theoretical may include applications, but all applications courses shall include theoretical components if they are to be included as meeting general education requirements.

L. Notwithstanding §A(1) of this regulation, a public 4-year institution may require 48 semester hours of required core courses if courses upon which the institution's curriculum is based carry 4 semester hours.

M. Public institutions shall develop systems to ensure that courses approved for inclusion on the list of general education courses are designed and assessed to comply with the requirements of this chapter.

(5) The receiving baccalaureate degree-granting institution shall use validation procedures when a transferring student successfully completes a course at the lower-division level that the receiving institution offers at the upper-division level. The validated credits earned for the course shall be substituted for the upper-division course.

#### D. Program Articulation.

(1) Recommended transfer programs shall be developed through collaboration between the sending and receiving institutions. A recommended transfer program represents an agreement between the two institutions that allows students aspiring to the baccalaureate degree to plan for seamless transfer. These programs constitute freshman/sophomore level course work to be taken at the community college in fulfillment of the receiving institution's lower division course work requirement.

(2) Recommended transfer programs in effect at the time that this regulation takes effect, which conform to this chapter, may be retained.

#### E. Reverse Transfer of Credit

(1) Subject to §E(2) of this regulation, a community college shall accept for reverse transfer any credits that an individual earned at a public senior institution up to 45 credits. Credits in excess of 45 credits may be accepted in accordance with the community college's policy.

(2) To be eligible for the transfer of credit under §E(1) of this regulation, a student shall have completed at least 15 credits at the community college to which the credits are transferred.

(3) Community colleges and public senior institutions shall develop a process to identify students eligible for reverse transfer at no cost to the student.

#### F. Transfer of General Education Credit

(1) A student transferring to one public institution from another public institution shall receive general education credit for work completed at the student's sending institution as provided by this chapter.

(2) A completed general education program shall transfer without further review or approval by the receiving institution and without the need for a course-by-course match.

(3) Courses that are defined as general education by one institution shall transfer as general education even if the receiving institution does not have that specific course or has not designated that course as general education.

(4) A Maryland community college shall accept 28—36 credits of general education as specified in Regulation .03(C) of this chapter as completion of the general education requirements at the community college, without further review or the need for a course-by-course match.

(5) The receiving institution shall give lower-division general education credits to a transferring student who has taken any part of the lower-division general education credits described in Regulation .03 of this chapter at a public institution for any general education courses successfully completed at the sending institution.

(6) Except as provided in Regulation .03M of this chapter, a receiving institution may not require a transfer student who has completed the requisite number of general education credits at any public college or university to take, as a condition of graduation, more than 10—18 additional semester hours of general education and specific courses required of all students at the receiving institution, with the total number not to exceed 46 semester hours. This provision does not relieve students of the obligation to complete specific academic program requirements or course prerequisites required by a receiving institution.

(7) Each public institution shall designate on or with the student transcript those courses that have met its general education requirements, as well as indicate whether the student has completed the general education program.

#### (8) Associate's Degrees.

(a) While there may be variance in the numbers of hours of general education required for associate's degrees at a given institution, the courses identified as meeting general education requirements for all degrees shall come from the same general education course list and exclude technical or career courses.

(b) A student possessing an associate's degree who transfers into a receiving institution with fewer than the total number of general education credits designated by the receiving institution shall complete the difference in credits according to the distribution as designated by the receiving institution. Except as provided in Regulation .03M of this chapter, the total general education credits for baccalaureate degree-granting public receiving institutions may not exceed 46 credits.

13B.06.01.05

## **.05 Academic Success and General Well-Being of Transfer Students.**

### **A. Sending Institutions.**

(1) Community colleges shall encourage their students to complete the associate degree in a recommended transfer program that includes both general education courses and courses applicable toward the program at the receiving institution.

(2) Community college students are encouraged to choose as early as possible the institution and program into which they expect to transfer.

(3) The sending institution shall:

(a) Provide to community college students information about the specific transferability of courses and programs to 4-year colleges;

(b) Transmit information about transfer students who are capable of honors work or independent study to the receiving institution; and

(c) Promptly supply the receiving institution with all the required documents if the student has met all financial and other obligations of the sending institution for transfer.

### **B. Receiving Institutions.**

(1) Admission requirements and curriculum prerequisites shall be stated explicitly in institutional publications.

(2) A receiving institution shall admit transfer students from newly established public colleges that are functioning with the approval of the Maryland Higher Education Commission on the same basis as applicants from regionally accredited colleges.

(3) A receiving institution shall evaluate the transcript or transcripts of a degree-seeking transfer student as expeditiously as possible, and notify the student of the results within 20 working days of the receipt of all official transcripts. The receiving institution shall inform a student of the courses that are acceptable for transfer credit and the courses that are applicable to the student's intended program of study.

(4) A transfer student shall be provided the same opportunity as a native student to pursue the program and degree requirements that were in effect at the time that the student enrolled at the sending institution provided they have been continuously enrolled and otherwise meet the same requirements of the native student.

*13B.06.01.07***.07 Transfer Mediation Committee.**

A. Sending and receiving institutions that disagree on the transferability of general education courses as defined by this chapter shall submit their disagreements to the Secretary, who shall appoint a Transfer Mediation Committee to adjudicate the disagreement. Members appointed to the Transfer Mediation Committee shall be representative of the public 4-year colleges and universities and the community colleges.

B. The Transfer Mediation Committee shall address general education issues at the course or curricular level, not individual student cases. As appropriate, the Committee shall consult with faculty on curricular issues.

C. The findings of the Transfer Mediation Committee are considered binding on both parties.

13B.06.01.09

## **.09 Periodic Review.**

### **A. Report by Receiving Institution.**

(1) A receiving institution shall report annually the progress of students who transfer from 2-year and 4-year institutions within the State to each community college and to the Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

(2) An annual report shall include ongoing reports on the subsequent academic success of enrolled transfer students, including graduation rates, by major subject areas.

(3) A receiving institution shall include in the reports comparable information on the progress of native students.

**B. Transfer Coordinator.** A public institution of higher education shall designate a transfer coordinator, who serves as a resource person to transfer students at either the sending or receiving campus. The transfer coordinator is responsible for overseeing the application of the policies and procedures outlined in this chapter and interpreting transfer policies to the individual student and to the institution.

**C.** The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall establish a permanent Student Transfer Advisory Committee that meets regularly to review transfer issues and recommend policy changes as needed. The Student Transfer Advisory Committee shall address issues of interpretation and implementation of this chapter.