



Recommendations from the Board Transfer Council

February 2021



UTAH
SYSTEM OF
HIGHER
EDUCATION

Streamlining transfer to address completion and affordability

When transfer is not efficient, it

- Increases time to completion through repeated courses, accumulation of excess credits that don't count toward a degree;
- Increases cost to students to pay for those extra credits;
- Increases student frustration; pushes some students out.

Streamlining transfer to address equity and inclusion

- Community colleges are cheaper and more accessible than four-year institutions
- Life circumstance cause students to stop out of school or move
- Making transfer efficient = better accessibility, retention, and completion

Two Transfer Initiatives

- Aim 1: Provide students with accurate information on their transfer options:
 - Electronic Utah Transfer Guide
- Aim 2: Address policy gaps, define standards, and facilitate transfer across USHE institutions:
 - Board Transfer Council, Feb 2020

Board Transfer Council Membership

- 2 Board members:
 - Chair: Nina Barnes
 - Student Regent: Candyce Damron
- 3 Presidents:
 - Regional Universities: Scott Wyatt
 - Research Universities: Noelle Cockett
 - 2-Year Colleges: Deneece Huftalin
- 2 Faculty:
 - Utah Council of Faculty Leadership: Jessi Hill, UVU
 - General Education Task Force Chair: Ann Darling, U of U
- 8 Institutional Representatives:
 - USU: Paul Barr
 - Weber: Casey Bullock
 - U of U: Marty Bradley
 - SLCC: Jeff Aird
 - UVU: David Connelly
 - SUU: Jon Anderson
 - Snow: Melanie Jenkins
 - Dixie: Sarah Vandermark

Council Responsibilities from Board Resolution

- Review and analyze System transfer data
- Identify transfer and articulation obstacles
- Develop policies and practices
- Require regular follow-up from institutions on implementing transfer/articulation policies
- Establish an appeals process and serve as the final level of appeal from students or institutions
- Annually report to the Board the Council's activities, priorities, recommendations and institutional progress on implementing recommendations

Work over the last year: Associate to Bachelor's Pathways

- Addressing structural misalignments between associate and bachelor's degrees
- Defining systemwide expectations for major program alignment and lower-division pathways
- Scaling up articulations between technical programs and Applied Associate degrees will come after the Technical Education Committee makes decisions on clock hours vs. credit hours

General Education

- General education (education in addition to the focus within a major) is a critical element of associate and bachelor's degrees
- Policy R470 outlines GE requirements across the System
 - Shared core and breadth requirements
 - Some institutions have additional requirements
- Common course numbering misalignments
- Courses with more than 1 GE designation
- USHE General Education Task Force

BTC recommendations on AA/AS degrees

Direct Transfer AA/AS

- Credits: min 60/max 63
 - Must include all pre-requisites
 - Excess credits must have Board approval
- General Education
 - May be split over 4 years to parallel the bachelor's pathway, with articulation agreement and Board approval
 - Should include specific Gen Ed courses if required by the major
- Only lower division coursework
- Within a major
 - Completes all requirements for the first two years of a bachelor's degree in a specific major
 - Guarantees ability to complete the bachelor's degree in the same major in two additional years of full-time study
 - Must use the same CIP code as the 4-year program to which students transfer

General Transfer AA/AS

- Credits: min 60/ max 63
 - Must include all pre-requisites
 - Excess credits must have Board approval
- General Education
 - Entire Gen Ed package completed
 - Should specify Gen Ed courses appropriate to meta-major (i.e., QL)
- Only lower division coursework
- Within a meta-major
 - Could transfer to certain types of majors (i.e., those without excessive major requirements that would have to be completed in the first two years)
 - General Studies CIP code/meta-major

Motion

- I move that we approve the recommendations from the Board Transfer Council and authorize the Commissioner's office and the institutions to work on piloting direct transfer pathways in selected majors and to redefine the expectations for associate of arts and associate of science degrees in policy.