



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TAB B

January 14, 2022

Board Transfer Council Updates

The Transfer Council was organized by the Board of Higher Education in 2019 and started meeting in 2020. Over the past two years, it has looked at Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) quantitative data, information from focus groups with students at all of the degree-granting institutions, research done on transfer by Salt Lake Community College and Snow College, and other data to identify its top priorities and actions for streamlining transfer within the system. Its efforts to date have included:

- The electronic Utah Transfer Guide. The Council's first action was to prioritize an upgrade of the electronic Utah Transfer Guide. The improved Transfer Guide now allows students to better explore their transfer options between institutions and has advanced search functions demonstrating how their credits will apply within the most highly enrolled majors and bachelor's degree programs across the system.
- Direct Transfer Pathways. Next, the Council began addressing the structural mis-match between associate degrees and bachelor's degrees. After several detailed discussions, the Council opted to copy what had been done effectively in other state systems—New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Washington, for example—to design Direct Transfer Pathways within top enrolling majors. Direct Transfer Pathways will be stackable majors with an associate degree in the major positioning students to complete a bachelor's degree in only two additional years (or no more than 62 additional credits) at USHE universities offering the major. The Council asked Psychology to serve as the pilot major for a pathway design. The Psychology Faculty Major Committee has begun identifying a core of required lower division courses and is examining the possibility of renumbering some upper division courses to make their pathway work. Discussions are also underway in History, English, Sociology, and Nursing. In the meantime, several additional majors have already completed the design of their Direct Transfer Pathways. These include: American Sign Language, Arabic, Mandarin, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Political Science.
- Improvements to transferability of General Education (Policy R470). USHE is one of the leaders in the nation in terms of standardizing general education categories/attributes and common course numbering to ensure transferability of general education requirements between institutions. The Council did notice a few problem areas, though, and has asked the General

Education Task Force to identify how to address them. A subcommittee of the General Education Task Force has been drafting suggested changes to Policy R470. These changes include updating the learning outcomes within general education categories, ways to ensure that general education attributes are transcribed and accepted by receiving institutions, and creating a mechanism within the General Education Task Force to resolve discrepancies between institutions on the assignment of general education attributes.

With these priorities well under way, the Council is now turning its attention to a new set of issues. After reviewing a list of suggested system-level transfer priorities from the National Association of System Heads and other national organizations, the Council noted that USHE had already addressed many of the key recommendations. There were four critical areas where the Council will focus its next efforts: financial aid for transfer students, reverse credit transfer, creating a transfer appeals process, and exploring co-enrollment of community college students at their intended transfer institutions.

Council's Recommendation

The Council encourages the Board to consider transfer students in its discussions about scholarships and financial aid programs and ensure that funding opportunities are not focused exclusively on first time students.