

# Proposed Revisions to the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement between UNC and NCCCS

Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

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- Dr. Lisa Chapman, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, Central Carolina Community College
- Dr. Marilyn Sheerer, Provost & Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, East Carolina University
- Dr. Sharon Morrissey, Executive Vice President for Programs & Chief Academic Officer, North Carolina Community College System
- Dr. Suzanne Ortega, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, The University of North Carolina General Administration

# Historical Context

- SL 1995, HB 739 and SB 1161
  - Required NCCCS to develop policies and rules for common course numbering and system wide conversion to a semester-based academic calendar
  - Required a plan for the transfer of credits between NCCCS and UNC

# Historical Context

- Comprehensive Articulation Agreement approved by Boards of Governors and Community Colleges and implemented Fall Semester 1997
- Contained transfer guarantees for students who completed general education core (44 hours) or associate's degree (64 hours)

# Recent Legislation

- SL 2013, HB 903
  - Requires constituent UNC institutions to adhere fully to the CAA
  - Requires joint biannual reviews of CAA to ensure that the agreement is fair, current, and relevant for all students and institutions
  - Requires development of an articulation agreement advising tool for students, parents, and faculty to simplify the course transfer and admissions process

# CAA Revision Drivers

- Over the last five years, there has been a 20.6% increase in community college transfers to UNC
- Specific general education pre-major requirements for upper division courses have changed over time
  - These prerequisites often differ from university to university.
- Anecdotal reports of students who lose credits in the transfer process

# Study of 2004 Transfer Cohort (n=15,734)

- 8,590 students in the cohort study transferred to a UNC institution within seven years.
  - Only 14.5% of students completed associate in arts degree before transferring.
  - ***Of those students who completed an associate in arts degree before transferring, 60% went on to complete a baccalaureate degree.***
- 75.6% of students in study transferred before completing an associate's degree
  - Only 48% of students who transferred before completing an associate's degree went on to complete a baccalaureate degree.

(Community College Research Center, 2013)

# Southern Region Education Board

- *For students and states, the cost of a degree is too high when students accrue excess credits. The objective should be for state and postsecondary education systems to create clearer, more efficient paths to degree completion for more students. The result should be more students graduating with fewer credits and in less time.*



# CAA Revision Process & Timeline

- In April 2012, UNC General Administration and NC Community College System Office initiated a Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) revision process.
- A Steering Committee of university and community college chief academic officers was appointed to direct the process.

# CAA Review Steering Committee

Member	Institution
Joan Lorden	UNC Charlotte
Marilyn Sheerer (Co-Chair)	East Carolina University
Jon Young	Fayetteville State University
Beth Lofquist-Tyson	Western Carolina University
James Kelly	Randolph Community College
Keith Mackie	Catawba Valley Community College
Lisa Chapman (Co-Chair)	Central Carolina Community College
Kristi Snuggs	Edgecombe Community College
Staff	
Wesley Beddard	NCCCS
Karrie Dixon	UNC-GA

# CAA Revision Timeline

- April 2012: Joint CAA Review Steering Committee Appointed
  - Developed Proposed Transfer Policies and Timeline
- January – July 2013: UNC and NCCCS Faculty Discipline Teams Convened
- October – November 2013: Proposed CAA Revisions Reviewed by Colleges and Universities
- January/February 2014: Proposed Revisions Presented to UNC Board of Governors and State Board of Community Colleges for Action

# CAA Revision— Summary of Changes


Current CAA (1997)	Proposed Revisions (2014)
64-65 Semester Hours of Credit for Transfer Degree	60 – 61 Semester Hours of Credit for Transfer Degree
44 Semester Hour General Education Core	30 Semester Hours of Universal General Education Transfer Courses (UGETC), plus 15 additional Semester Hours of General Education courses selected from the Transfer Course List
20 Semester Hours of additional general education, pre-major and elective courses	15 Semester Hours of pre-major courses

# CAA Revision— Summary of Changes


Current CAA (1997)	Proposed Revisions (2014)
No Transfer Guarantees unless General Education Core is completed	Each Universal General Education Course transfers, regardless of completion of degree
Lots of elective choices in general education	Highly structured Universal General Education Component, with limited elective choices
Students often making uninformed choices resulting in repetition of courses or loss of credits	Universities' published 4-year degree plans identify community college courses that provide pathways to majors

# Key Policy Changes

Completion of AA/AS continues to guarantee completion of undergraduate general education and transfer of 60 semester hours of college credit, and



Completion of AA/AS guarantees transfer of pre-major courses, if the student completes a university's published pre-major path and is admitted into the selected university and major.




Universities are required to publish four-year degree plans identifying community college courses that provide pathways leading to completion of the associate's degree, admission to the major, and completion of the baccalaureate degree.

# Key Policy Changes, Cont'd.

Students who transfer before completion of AA/AS have not completed undergraduate general education requirements and must meet the requirements of the receiving institution.



However, a student who completes a UGETC course with a grade of “C” or better will receive credit toward the university’s lower-division general education course requirements, subject to a distribution limit: 6 hours Eng; 9 hours Hum/FA/Com; 9 hours Soc/Beh Sci; 4 hours Mat; and 8 hours Sci.



Universities are required to publish course equivalency crosswalks to ensure transfer of credit uniformity and transparency.

# Ongoing Evaluation

- NCCCS & UNC have signed an MOU to share transfer student data to better analyze students' transfer outcomes.
- The Transfer Advisory Committee will survey and review the institutional transfer credit policies and procedures of two UNC institutions per quarter and report the findings to UNC General Administration and NC Community College System Office.
- Transfer Credit Appeals Procedures will be posted on university and community college web sites.
  - Appeals to the Transfer Advisory Committee will be reported to General Administration and System Office.



# Next Steps

- January – February: Boards review and take action
- March – April:
  - Regional professional development for college and university transfer advisors and counselors
  - Meetings with Chief Academic Officers and general education academic deans
- Fall 2014: If approved, CAA is effective for new college transfer students. Students enrolled in an AA or AS program prior to Fall Semester are subject to the conditions and protections contained in the CAA in place at the time of their initial enrollment as long as they remain continuously enrolled.

# Next Steps

- Refine existing advising tool (Transfer Navigator) to assist students in locating course equivalencies
- Develop new transfer advising tool that provides information on courses, course equivalencies, and program requirements between the community colleges and UNC institutions to help students plan their education and ensure successful transfer of course credits

# Questions?