

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA & THE NC COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
COMPREHENSIVE ARTICULATION AGREEMENT REPORT TO
THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

November 1, 2014

S.L. 2013-72 (HB 903) North Carolina General Statute 116-11(10c) requires The University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Community College System to conduct biannual joint reviews of the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement to ensure that the agreement is fair, current, and relevant for all students and institutions and to report their findings to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, including all revisions to the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement and reports of noncompliance by November 1 of each year. The statute also requires The University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Community College System to also jointly develop an articulation agreement advising tool for students, parents, and faculty to simplify the course transfer and admissions process.

SUMMARY

The revised *Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA)* was signed by the UNC Board of Governors and the State Board of Community Colleges on February 21, 2014. The *CAA* was implemented for Fall 2014, and six regional information sessions were held around the State. To date, there have been no revisions to the 2014 *CAA* and no reports of noncompliance.

The articulation agreement advising tool has been updated to reflect course transfer equivalencies. The UNC System and the NC Community College System are committed to enhancing and expanding the online degree mapping tool to assist students and advisors in selecting appropriate courses. Additional resources will be needed to support the development and ongoing maintenance of the online degree mapping tools.

This report includes information on all activities associated with the 2014 *Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA)* and additional information on the articulation agreement advising tool.

The 2014 *CAA*, complete with appendices, is available at

http://www.northcarolina.edu/sites/default/files/caa-feb_21_2014-board_approved.pdf

2014 CAA ACTIVITIES

- **Final Approval of Revised CAA.** On February 21, 2014, the UNC Board of Governors and State Board of Community Colleges simultaneously approved the 2014 Comprehensive Articulation Agreement. The table below outlines the differences between the 1997 *CAA* and the 2014 *CAA*:

1997 CAA	2014 CAA
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

Old CAA

New CAA

In summary, the 2014 *CAA* includes the following components and guarantees:

- A 30-hour Universal General Education Transfer Component of courses guaranteed to transfer for general education equivalency credit to any of the state's 16 public universities.
 - Guaranteed completion of the lower-division general education requirements for students who complete the A.A. or A.S. degree prior to transfer.
 - A guarantee that all courses approved for transfer in the *CAA* will fulfill general education or pre-major/elective requirements.
 - Assurance that a student who completes the A.A. or A.S. degree will satisfy UNC's minimum admission requirements and minimum course requirements.
 - A Transfer Assured Admissions Policy that assures admission to one of the 16 institutions, under certain conditions as stated in the *CAA*.
 - An appeals procedure.
- **Implementation of Revised *CAA*.** The 2014 *CAA* was implemented this Fall 2014. To inform stakeholders of the new policy, six regional informational sessions were conducted on UNC and community college campuses in the Western, Central, and Eastern regions. In all, over 800 faculty, staff, and administrators from both systems registered for the information sessions. Members of the Transfer Advisory Committee (TAC), and representatives for the system offices presented at the sessions.

Western Region	280 campus representatives registered
	Appalachian State University
	Western Piedmont Community College
Eastern Region	221 campus representatives registered
	UNC at Wilmington
	Beaufort Community College
Eastern Region	309 campus representatives registered
	NC Agricultural and Technical University
	Central Carolina Community College

An overarching goal of the revision of the transfer process is to encourage students to complete their associate degrees prior to transfer, while being flexible enough to meet the needs of students who transfer before completing an associate's degree. As required by the 2014 CAA, each UNC institution has developed and published CAA Baccalaureate Degree Plans, which identify community college courses that provide pathways leading to associate degree completion, and baccalaureate completion.

- **Review of 2014 CAA**

The Transfer Advisory Committee (TAC) is an eight-member committee appointed by the Presidents of the North Carolina Community College System and the University of North Carolina. This committee will continue to answer questions concerning CAA interpretations, review and process Transfer Credit Appeals, and will ensure compliance of institutional policies and practices regarding the CAA. To ensure a seamless process, a TAC review team, comprised of one UNC representative and one community college representative, will survey and review the institutional transfer credit policies and procedures of two UNC institutions per quarter and report the findings to the UNC-General Administration and the NC Community College System .

On October 15, 2014 a joint team of TAC and College Transfer Program Association (CTPA) members reviewed eleven baccalaureate degree plans (BDPs) for accuracy to ensure they are compliant with the 2014 CAA. Each UNC campus will add a minimum of 25 additional BDPs at the end of each semester until all plans are established. The TAC/CTPA

review team will review plans after campus plans are submitted at the beginning for the following semester until all have been established. TAC will review the BDPs as part of UNC campus review.

Building on the communication strategies developed through the CAA review process and the faculty discipline conversations, UNCGA and NCCCS expect steady progress as current baccalaureate plans are refined and more plans are developed to accommodate additional majors at the senior institutions. Continued emphasis will be placed on structured programs and informed decisions through strengthened and more effective academic advising.

- **2014 Revisions & Reports of Noncompliance.** None.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT ADVISING TOOL

- **Background.** The articulation advising tool that is used to provide students with a course equivalence report is Transfer Navigator. Transfer Navigator, is the online advising tool located on CFNC.org. This tool assists students, via the website, with academic preparation and planning for community college students interested in learning more about how their courses will transfer to the public colleges and universities across North Carolina. It provides guidance for students to review course-by-course equivalences. Transfer Navigator has been updated to reflect both UNC and some North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities transfer course equivalencies.

The Transfer Student Success website, created by the Office of Transfer Articulation at UNC-GA, will provide students interested in transferring to UNC campuses all necessary transfer information for each of the UNC campuses. All community colleges will provide a link to this site on their college transfer webpages. ACA 122, College Transfer Success, is a required course in the A.A. and A.S. Curriculum Standards. This course provides information and strategies necessary to develop clear academic and professional goals beyond the community college experience. To ensure maximum transferability of credit, students will be advised to select a transfer major and preferred transfer university, before completing 30 semester hours of credit. Topics in this course include the CAA, college policies and culture, career exploration, gathering information on senior institutions, strategic planning, critical thinking, and communications skills for a successful academic transition. Upon completion, students should be able to develop an academic plan to transition successfully to senior institutions.

- **Additional Resources Needed**

It is the desire of both the UNC System and NC Community College System to enhance and expand to a robust online degree mapping tool to assist students and advisors in selecting appropriate courses for the baccalaureate plan, based on the student's intended transfer major and university. Additional resources will be needed to support the development and ongoing maintenance of the online degree mapping tools.