

**REVIEW OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ARTICULATION AGREEMENT  
THAT EXISTS BETWEEN CONSITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM  
AND CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

A Report to the:

Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

Submitted By

The State Board of Community Colleges, and  
The University of North Carolina Board of Governors

November 1, 2015

As Required by

Session Law 2013-72 (HB 903)

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

**NOVEMBER 1, 2015**

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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 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. To date there have been no reports of noncompliance by any institution.

The UNC System (UNC) and the NC Community College System (NCCCS) continue to work collaboratively on enhancing educational opportunities for NCCCS students by improving transfer administration via electronic tools and up-to-date course and degree information. The UNC Transfer Student Success Website, the Transfer Navigator (on-line advising tool), and published Baccalaureate Degree Plans provide students with access to current information that permits them to make the best choice possible in selecting institutions and degree programs. To be sure, additional resources will be needed to support and continue to develop various online degree mapping tools.

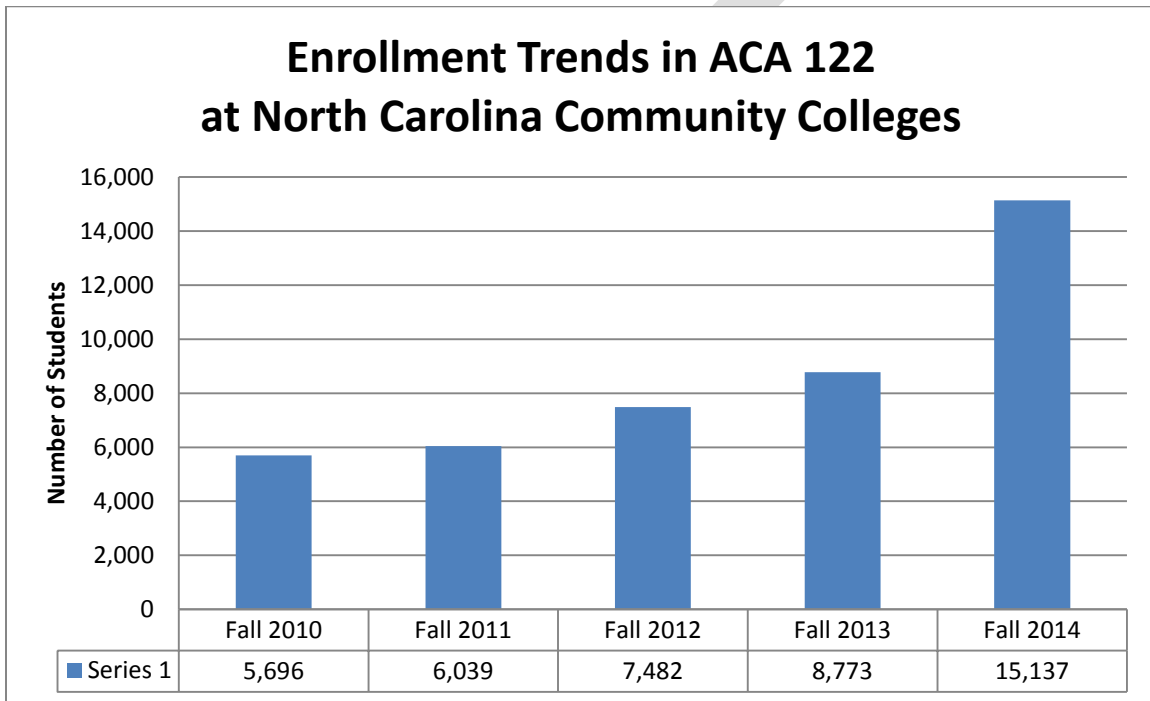
This report provides an update on efforts to fully implement the CAA through addressing the current needs of NCCCS students and the growth of UNC academic programs. The Transfer Advisory Committee (TAC) is committed to providing students with the pathway that will best benefit their earning of a baccalaureate degree.

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

[http://www.northcarolina.edu/sites/default/files/caa-feb\\_21\\_2014-board\\_approved.pdf](http://www.northcarolina.edu/sites/default/files/caa-feb_21_2014-board_approved.pdf)

## 2015 CAA PROGRESS

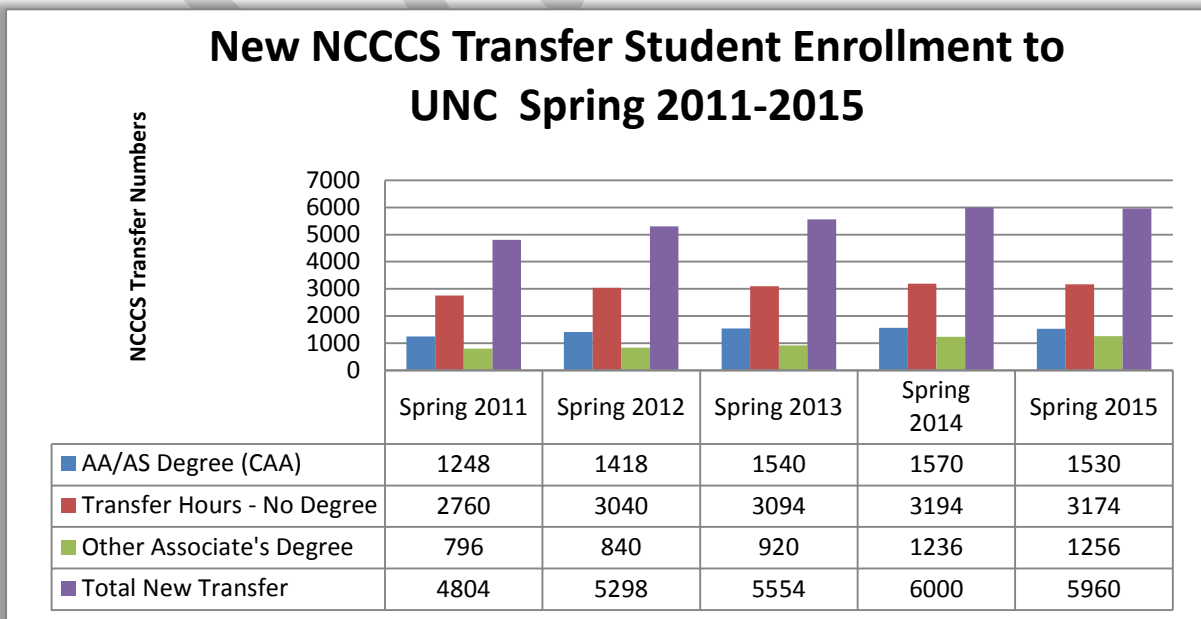
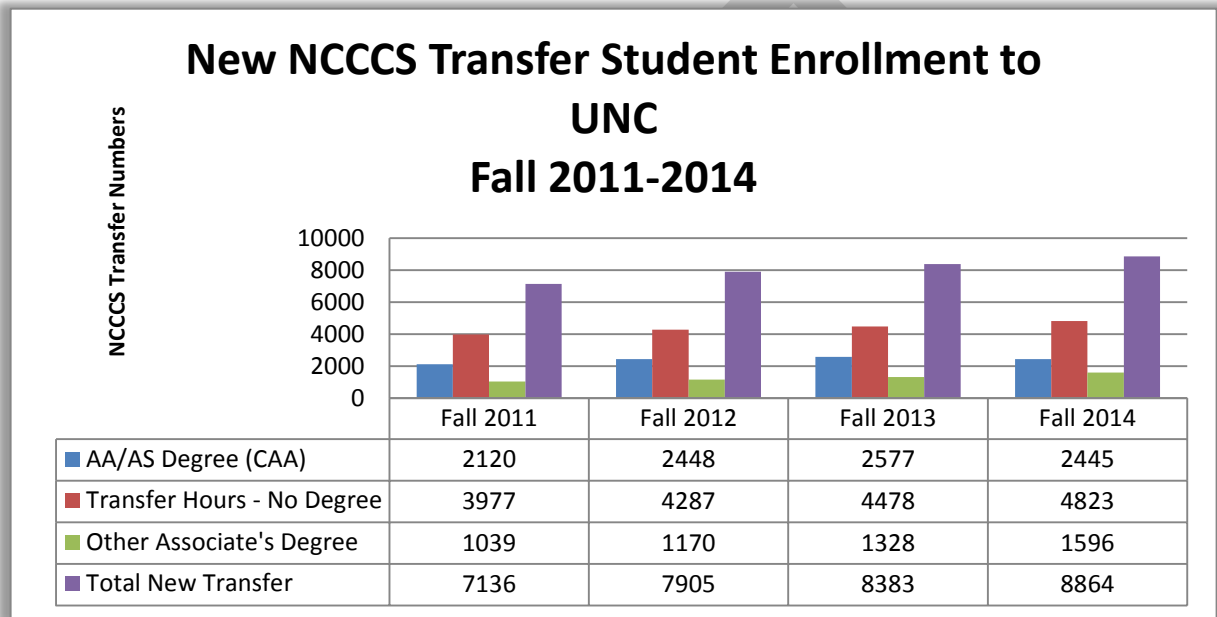
- **Increase in Student Enrollment in ACA 122** - ACA 122, College Transfer Success, is a required course in the A.A. and A.S. curriculum standards. This course helps students develop clear academic and professional goals beyond the community college experience. Topics in this course include the CAA, 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.



166% increase in Student Enrollment in ACA 122 from fall 2010 to fall 2014.

**Transfer Student Enrollment** – There has been a steady increase in the enrollment of new NCCCS transfer students into UNC institutions. The increase is a clear result of the CAA, proper advising and the general collaboration between UNC and NCCCS. The majority of transfers come to UNC campuses from NCCCS institutions, with these students representing the fastest growing segment of the transfer population.

In fall 2013, 56% (8,383) of all new transfer students from a NCCCS campus enrolled at a UNC campus. Although the CAA encourages NCCCS students to earn the Associate Degree before transfer, a number of students are choosing to do otherwise. The Transfer Advisory Council (TAC) is reviewing procedures that will ensure the proper transfer of credits.



**UNC Transfer Student Success Website** – The UNC Transfer Student Success website was launched on April 15, 2015, and is now fully operational. The website provides students and other stakeholders with current information and data related to all aspects of the transfer experience, i.e., minimum admission requirements, programs, degrees, course equivalencies, scholarships, financial aid, campus contacts, and general resources. A feature that is tailored to guide specific categories of students, such as traditional, non-traditional, or military, through the transfer process is especially useful. Detailed transfer student data are available via a link to the **UNC Data Dashboard**. The Dashboard is an interactive online database that presents students, policy makers, and the general public extensive access to UNC System data on core measures. The Transfer Student database provides a wealth of information and comparative data on enrollment trends, student progress, and graduation rates. During the period April 1, 2015, to August 12, 2015, the website experienced 22,478 visitors. The UNC Transfer Student Success website is available at <http://www.northcarolina.edu/?q=transfer>.

**Baccalaureate Degree Plans (BDPs)** – The Baccalaureate Degree Plan is a critical component of the transfer student process. The plans create a clear transfer pathway by identifying and outlining courses that will lead to timely baccalaureate degree completion. The BDPs encourage transfer students to select and follow a degree plan developed by a specific UNC institution. Students who follow the selected plan are guaranteed to transfer all credit hours toward baccalaureate degree completion. Upon completion of the associate degree, students will have fulfilled the lower-division general education requirements of the receiving institution. In March 2015, UNC institutions had published 840 BDPs. The schedule targets completion of all UNC BDPs by December 2015. A review of BDPs will be a part of the CAA compliance review that will begin in January 2016.

**Review of 2014 CAA** – The Transfer Advisory Committee (TAC) is an eight-member committee appointed by the Senior Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs of the North Carolina Community College System and the University of North Carolina. The TAC has the authority to interpret CAA policies and answer questions about the transferability of course work under the CAA or any proposed changes to the policies, general education courses, or pre-majors. To determine the level of compliance with CAA, beginning in January 2016 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. The TAC will report the findings to the UNC General Administration and the North Carolina Community College System Office.

### **CAA Updates and Revisions**

In July 2015, the UNC Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs issued a memo to UNC campuses instructing them to decide whether or not to establish a policy that enables students in the Reverse Transfer program to receive the full benefits of the CAA. This action prompted a revision to the CAA that speaks to this option for campuses (see below). The TAC will monitor

the implementation of this program on campuses who establish policies for Reverse Transfer students.

- Section V. Regulations, A.3 - Each UNC campus will establish and publish a campus policy/guideline outlining the campus decision whether a student who receives an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree through reverse transfer will have fulfilled the UNC institution's lower-division general education requirements.

In fall 2016 a joint team of TAC and College Transfer Program Association (CTPA) members will begin reviewing baccalaureate degree plans (BDPs) for accuracy to ensure they are compliant with the 2014 CAA.

UNC GA and NCCCS expect steady progress as current baccalaureate plans are refined and more plans are developed to accommodate additional majors at the senior institutions. In order to sustain this forward progression there will be discussions about additional resources to support the work of the TAC. Continued emphasis will be placed on structured programs and informed decisions through strengthened and more effective academic advising.

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 draft