

**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 Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina

May 1, 2015

As Required by

Session Law 2013-72 (HB 903)

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

**April 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 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, Transfer Navigator, has been updated to reflect course transfer equivalencies. The UNC System (UNC) and the NC Community College System (NCCCS) 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. The UNC Transfer Student Success Website is also a tool that will serve as a one-stop shop for students to learn how to transfer to UNC campuses.

This report provides an update on progress being made to fully implement the revised the 2014 *Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA)*.

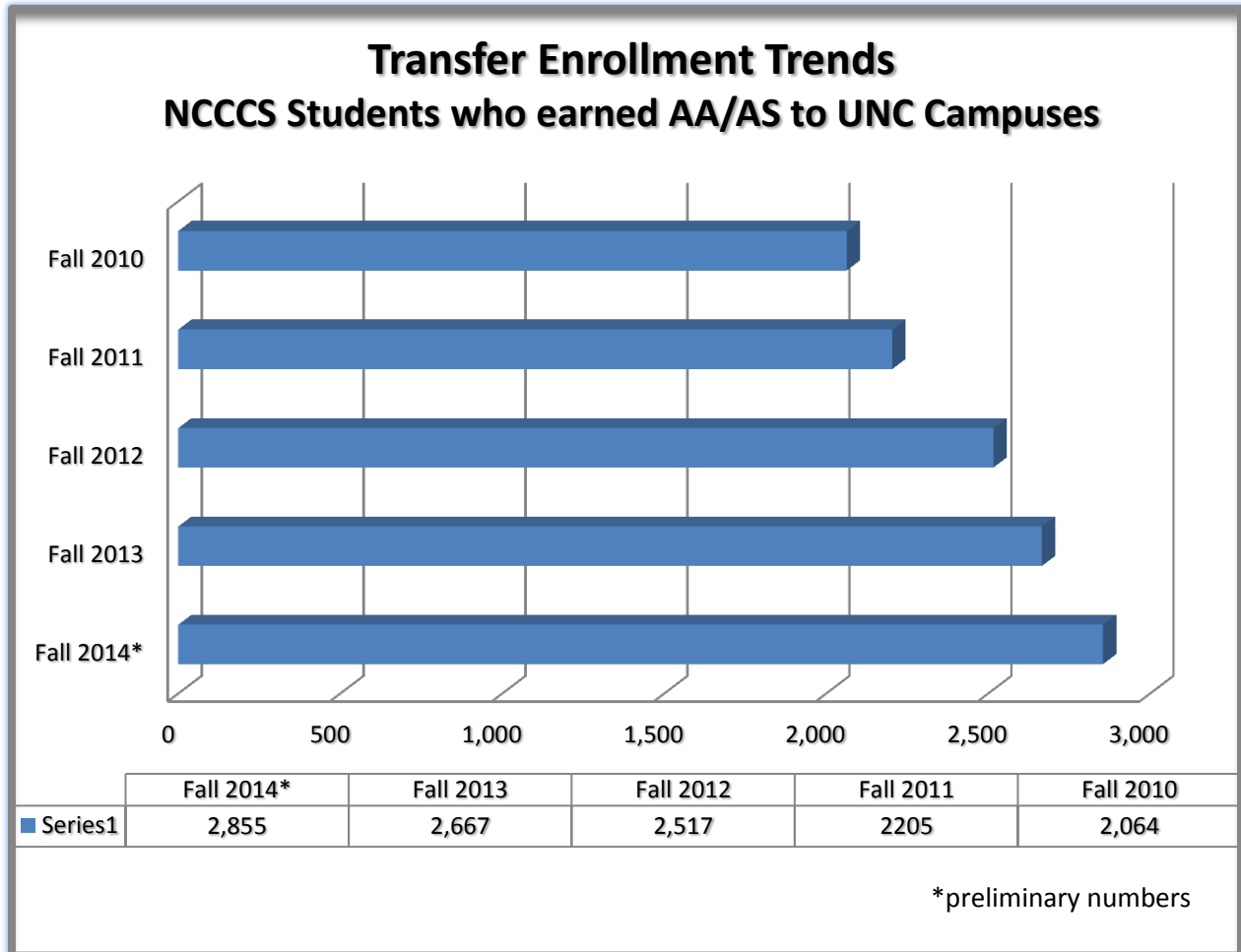
Though we are making significant progress with implementation of the 2014 CAA, students currently in the pipeline to earn an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree have the option to continue to follow the 1997 CAA or 2014 CAA. The pathway that will best benefit the student is determined in collaboration with the academic advisor at the community college. We will see a greater impact of the success of the 2014 CAA policy in Fall 2016.

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)

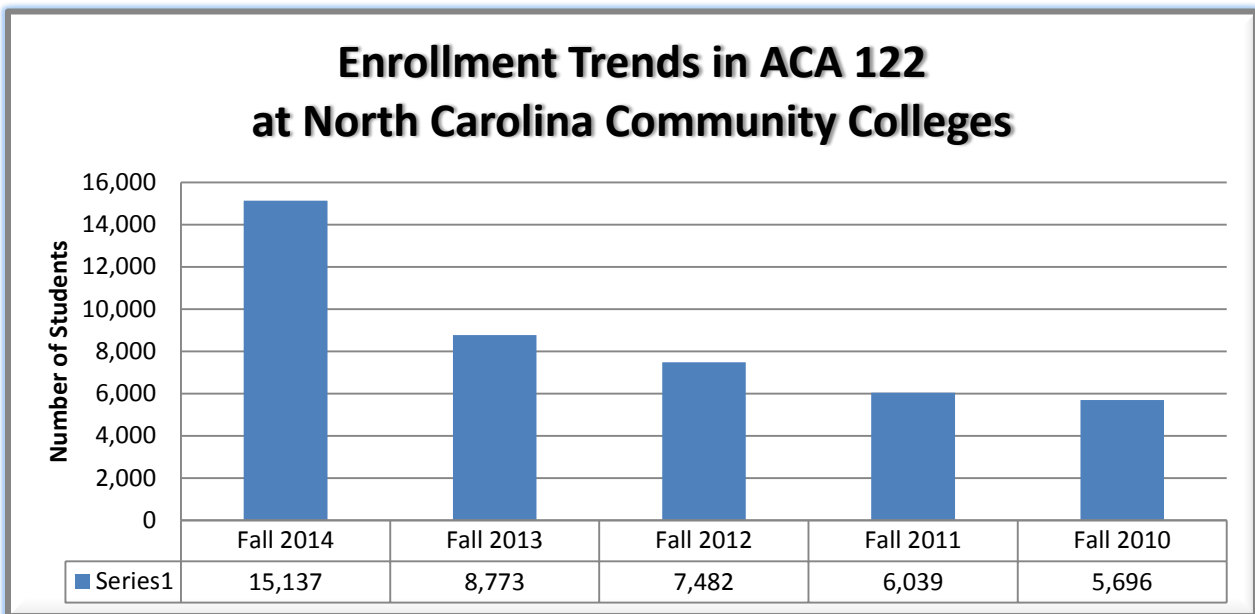
## 2014 CAA PROGRESS

- Increase in Transfer Student Enrollment** – The majority of UNC transfer students matriculate from the North Carolina Community College System, exhibiting the success of the long-standing and nationally recognized Comprehensive Articulation Agreement. In Fall 2014, NCCCS to UNC transfers increased slightly over 7%, a trend that has continued over the past 5 years. With the revision of the 2014 CAA, we anticipate continued increase in transfer numbers.



- Bilateral Agreement and Partnerships between UNC and NCCCS Report** – This study was submitted to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on February 1, 2015 to illustrate the number of agreements and partnerships that exist between UNC and NCCCS. The successful structure of the statewide CAA created the framework for approximately 652 additional extension, lateral, and consortium type agreements to be formed with 198 UNC programs. This study also revealed that 10 UNC campuses offer 40 program services for transfer students. The Associate in Engineering and RN to BSN articulation agreements were created and approved in February 2015 and modeled after the CAA.

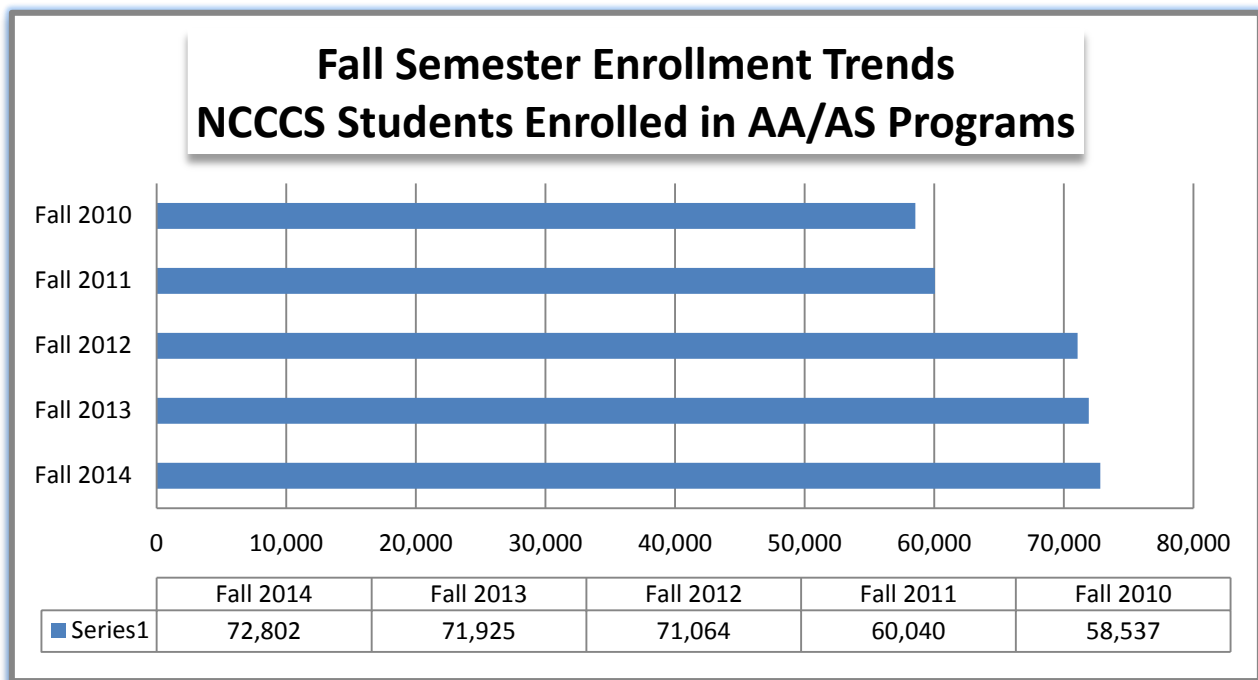
- Increase in Student Enrollment in ACA 122** - ACA 122, College Transfer Success, is a required course in the A.A. and A.S. curriculum standards. This course helps students develop clear academic and professional goals beyond the community college experience. Topics in this course include the CAA, college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



- UNC Transfer Student Success Website** – 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. Students can use the website to select a transfer major and preferred transfer university before completing 30 semester hours of credit. Technical work is nearly completed; testing on the website is being conducted. The launch date is April 15, 2015. Additionally, NCCCS has added a designation for Universal General Education Transfer Courses (UGETC) on student transcripts. As of March 24, 2015, five community colleges are beta testing the transcript process with the new designation for user approval; the designation is scheduled to be available to all community colleges by April 9, 2015. This designation will help students and institutions use the Transfer Student Success website more efficiently.
- Increased number of Baccalaureate Degree Plans (BDP)** – As of March 23, 2015, UNC institutions have developed and published 840 BDPs on the UNC Transfer Student Success Website, and campuses will continue to add BDPs as they are developed through December 2015. UNC institutions will also maintain the plans identifying community college courses that provide pathways to associate degree completion, admission into the major, and baccalaureate completion. Students who complete the AA or AS degree and the degree plan

tracks published by a UNC institution, and who are accepted into that institution and into that major within four years of initial enrollment at the community college, will continue in that major at the UNC institution with all courses fulfilling lower division general education and other degree requirements. All UNC BDPs are scheduled to be completed by December 2015.

- **Community college students enrolled in AA/AS Programs** – All NC community colleges are approved to offer the Associate in Arts (AA) and Associate in Science degrees (AS). Since Fall 2010 the number of community college students enrolled in these programs increased 24.4%.



- **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. 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. These reviews will start during the 2015-2016 academic year. To assist universities in developing four- year degree plans as required by the CAA, the TAC in conjunction with the College Transfer Program Association, held a work session in October 2014 to review the initial four-year plans submitted for the eleven most popular majors at the

universities. Feedback from the work session was provided to the universities so they could make necessary changes to the plans that had been developed and as a guide to assist the development of future four-year degree plans.

Authority to interpret the CAA policy rests with the TAC. Questions about the transferability of the course work under the CAA or any proposed changes to the policies, general education courses, or pre-majors must be addressed by the TAC.

- **Reverse Transfer Program** – “Credit When It’s Due”, also known as the Reverse Transfer Program was funded by USA Fund. The purpose of the program is to award associate degrees to students utilizing both community college and university credits. The NC Community College and UNC systems have worked together for the past 2 years implementing the program statewide, and by the end of 2015 all 58 community colleges and 16 universities will be participating. As of March 23, 2015, this program has awarded 665 additional community college credentials.
- **Credit for Prior Learning/Military Credit** – The division of Academic Planning & Quality at UNC General Administration has hired a Director of Prior Learning Assessment and Military Credit. The director serves as the primary contact for UNC campuses regarding establishing, implementing, and maintaining the system’s approach to assessing credit for prior learning, which includes military and other workplace training. This position will carry out the directives outlined in Senate Bill 761, which requires both the community college and UNC systems to implement a uniform system of granting course credit to students based on their military training experience, as well as a process to transfer military course credits between institutions.
- **2014 Revisions & Reports of Noncompliance** – Both UNC and NCCCS are in compliance at this point in implementation.

### **ARTICULATION AGREEMENT ADVISING TOOL**

- **Background** - Transfer Navigator, located on CFNC.org, is an online articulation advising tool that provides community colleges students with a course equivalence report, offers academic preparation and planning; as well as information about how their courses will transfer to the public colleges and universities across North Carolina. Transfer Navigator has been updated to reflect both UNC and some North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities transfer course equivalencies. This tool will be updated annually.
- **Additional Resources Needed** - It is the desire of both the UNC System and NC Community College System to enhance and expand to a more 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. A team of UNC and community colleges are investigating tools that will meet our long term goals. Additional resources will be needed to support the development and ongoing maintenance of the online degree mapping tools.