THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

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How We Got Here

Why a Common Numbering System?

- The number of students enrolling at a UNC institution with transfer credit will continue to increase, and their success is critical to the overall success of the system

- Transfer comes in many forms; existing statewide policies, particularly the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA), focus on transfers between NCCCS and UNC

- Credit loss is more prevalent for students who transfer between UNC institutions, since there are fewer rules governing transferability.

- Prior NC Transfer Policies were primarily focused on NCCCS to UNC for students who have earned the AA/AS

Credit loss can lead to stop-out or extended time to degree

Policy Recommendation from TAC

- The UNC-NCCCS Transfer Advisory Committee (TAC), which is charged with oversight of the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) and making recommendations leading to optimal transfer, included the following in their 2020 annual report:

- "TAC continues to promote ongoing support of the following efforts:
   Technological and operational solutions that create greater continuity, clarity, accessibility, and transparency for advising and the processing of transfer students and informing course, program, and institution selection (e.g., **a common course-numbering or common course equivalency system**, the electronic transfer of transcripts, etc.) among the NCCCS and UNC System institutions."
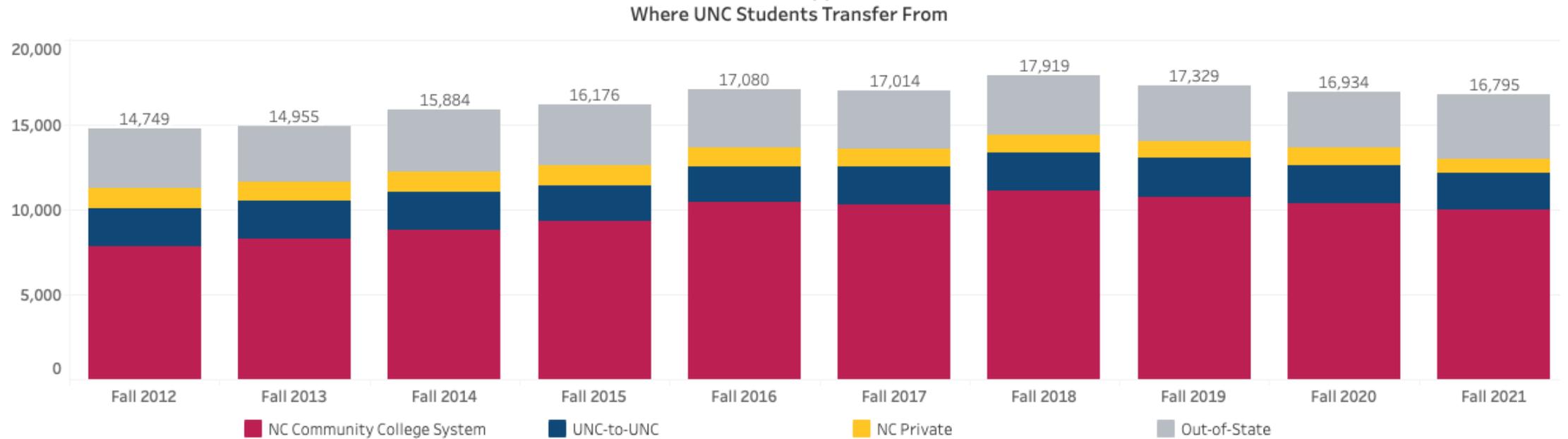
National Policy Recommendations

Education Commission of the States (ECS) identified four statewide policies intended to enhance the seamless transfer of college credits:

Policies		North Carolina
Transferable Core of Lower-Division Courses	🟩	Universal General Education Transfer Component (UGETC): a set of general education courses that are transferable for lower-division credit at UNC universities with a grade of C or higher.
Guaranteed Transfer of Associate Degree	🟩	Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) guarantees transfer of AA/AS earned at NCCCS to UNC (and junior standing).
Reverse Transfer	🟨	Transfer students who do not complete an AA/AS *prior* to transferring but earn sufficient credit to qualify for an AA/AS *after* transferring receive an award.
Common Course Numbering/Coding	🟥	A uniform numbering convention used at all public postsecondary institutions for lower-division courses.

17 states have adopted some form of common numbering

Information on UNC Transfer Students

Where UNC Students Transfer From

Transferred From	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
NC Community College System	7,847	8,321	8,835	9,338	10,426	10,336	11,159	10,765	10,409	10,000
UNC-to-UNC	2,252	2,232	2,220	2,122	2,112	2,177	2,203	2,269	2,227	2,163
NC Private	1,173	1,130	1,215	1,180	1,117	1,089	1,048	995	1,003	856
Out-of-State	3,477	3,272	3,614	3,536	3,425	3,412	3,509	3,300	3,295	3,776
Total	**14,749**	**14,955**	**15,884**	**16,176**	**17,080**	**17,014**	**17,919**	**17,329**	**16,934**	**16,795**

UNC Board of Governors Action

- UNC Policy 400.1.5, Policy on Fostering Undergraduate Student Success, amended 12/17/2020

The UNC System Office shall, in consultation with faculty and staff from the constituent institutions, establish and maintain a common course numbering system for undergraduate lower division courses, which shall be mapped to the unique course numbers used at each respective institution of higher education. The president shall approve regulations to describe and implement this common undergraduate course numbering system, which shall be established and operational by the 2022-23 academic year.

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UNC CNS Overview

What is the UNC CNS?

1600 Courses

A unique number at the UNC System level...

UNC System institutions have aligned over 1600 course descriptions and syllabi across 34 disciplines and almost 160 unique CNS course titles to a number that maps to the equivalent courses at all UNC System institutions who offer the course.

Over 500 faculty and staff

Months of deliberation, discussion, and collaboration...

Anthropology, Arabic, Graphic Art, Art History, American Sign Language, Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Chinese, Computer Science, Communication, Dance, Economics, English, Film, French, Geology, Geography, German, History, Japanese, Italian, Latin, Math, Physics, Philosophy, Portuguese, Political Science, Psychology, Religious Studies, Russian, Sociology, Spanish, Theatre
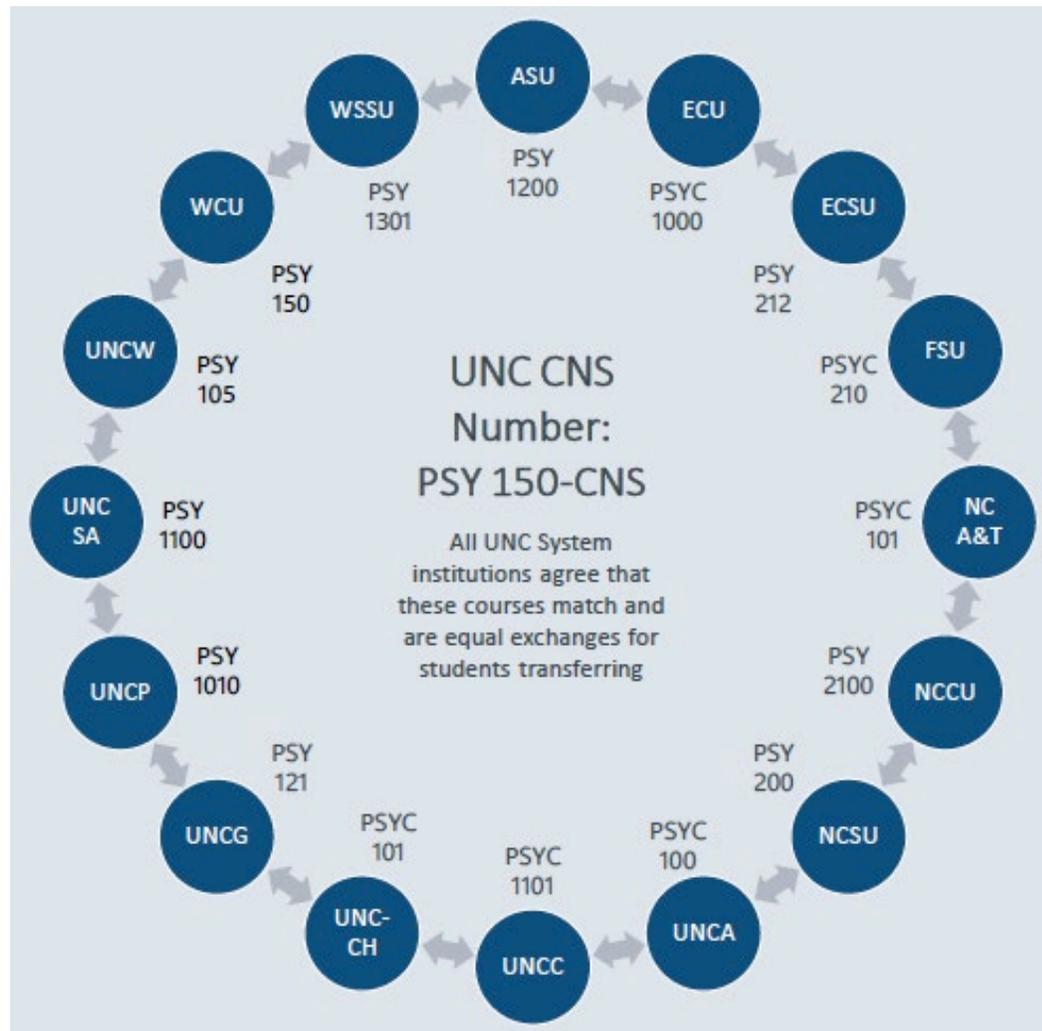
EASY TO FIND & USE

Students, faculty, and advisors will easily search course equivalencies between UNC System institutions...

The UNC CNS is a planned, deliberately-aligned, searchable database through which students, advisors, registrars, and others can identify transferable courses to support degree and graduation planning for student transfers between UNC System institutions.

How does the UNC CNS Work?

UNC CNS courses have a unique three-letter prefix and three-digit course number that represents the direct course equivalency at any UNC institution that offers the course.

Each UNC institution retains its original course catalog, but uses the UNC CNS to indicate system-wide commonality

What are the benefits for transfer students?

Helps students, faculty, and advisors **plan a course of study**

Makes the transfer process more seamless

Saves students money by reducing **the number of excess credits**

How were Courses Selected?

- Looked first at the most often transferred courses between the North Carolina Community Colleges and UNC System institutions

- Began with courses in the NCCCS Common Catalog that the TAC has identified as Universal General Education Transfer Courses (UGETC) and other General Education Courses – ultimately identified roughly 150 courses from this set as the initial list

- Brought faculty and academic leadership from the 16 UNC System institutions together to determine course equivalencies and identify additional UNC CNS Courses

UNC CNS Course Equivalencies by Institution

Number of Possible UNC CNS Courses	**189**
Average Number of Course Equivalencies	**114**

Over 1,800 course equivalencies are represented across the 189 UNC CNS Courses

These were identified through intense review and analysis by faculty and staff at the individual institutions and UNC System Office

Institution	Number of Course Equivalencies
Appalachian State University	148
East Carolina University	142
Elizabeth City State University	87
Fayetteville State University	104
North Carolina A&T State University	123
North Carolina Central University	89
North Carolina State University	113
UNC Asheville	101
UNC-Chapel Hill	159
UNC Charlotte	151
UNC Greensboro	118
UNC Pembroke	119
UNC School of the Arts	31
UNC Wilmington	136
Western Carolina University	105
Winston-Salem State University	106

UNC CNS Walkthrough

Transfer Student Resources

THE UNC SYSTEM — Transfer Student Resources

Home   Course Transfer Search   Common Numbering System ▾   Student Resources   Contact Us

This site will help you determine what credit you can get at UNC System universities for courses you have already taken or help you decide which classes to take if you are planning to transfer to another UNC System university.

Common Numbering System

The Common Numbering System is a college course numbering system designed to help undergraduate students attending public universities to plan their education and ensure successful transfer of course credits.

Discover More

Course Transfer Search

A database that shows how courses transfer between UNC System Universities and also how courses transfer from the North Carolina Community Colleges to the UNC System universities.

Search Courses

NC School of Science and Mathematics

NCSSM

You may go the NCSSM site to see a list of courses that transfer from the NCSSM to the UNC System institutions

Transfer Agreements

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coursetransfer.northcarolina.edu

- The Transfer Student Resources page provides:
  - UNC CNS Information
  - Dynamic Course Transfer Search
  - NCSSM Course Equivalency Information

- The UNC CNS Panels provide:
  - Regulations and manuals for advisors and administrators
  - Links and contact info for each institutions transfer student services team
  - FAQ
  - Credit Appeal Procedure

Course Transfer Search

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Transfer Student Resources

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Course Transfer Search

There are several ways to explore how courses transfer across the North Carolina Community Colleges and UNC System institutions. The "Search by Course" and "Compare Schools" tabs provide an explanation of the search tool. The search by Common Numbering System (CNS) checkbox is only available on the "Search by Course" tab.

Search by: **Course**   Compare Schools   ⓘ **Disclaimer**

"Search by Course" allows you to view how courses taken at your institution will be accepted across the UNC System. You can browse all courses or enter an area of study and/or specific course number/name. Click drop-down arrows to show how a course may transfer.

* Credit From
Appalachian State University ⌄

Area of Study
BROWSE ⌄ | Psychology

▶ **Course Number/Name**

☐ Common Numbering System Only   🔍 Search   ✎ Clear

✔ Is CNS Course   🗎 Export

Subject	CNS Number	Institution	CNS	Course	Course Name	Credit Hours	
Psychology		ASU		PSY 1100	PSYCHOLOGY OF PARENTING	3	⌄
Psychology	PSY 150-CNS	ASU	✔	PSY 1200	PSYCHOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS	3	⌄
Psychology		ASU		PSY 1530	SELECTED TOPICS	1-4	⌄

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Course Transfer Search

Transfer Student Resources

Home   Course Transfer Search   Common Numbering System ▾   Student Resources   Contact Us

| Psychology | PSY 150-CNS | ASU | ✓ | PSY 1200 | PSYCHOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS | 3 | ^ |

Course Equivalencies

Institution	CNS	Course	Course Name	Credit Hours
ECSU	✓	PSY 212	General Psychology	3
ECU	✓	PSYC 1000	Introductory Psychology	3
FSU	✓	PSYC 210	General Psychology	3
NCA&T	✓	PSYC 101	General Psychology	3
NCCU	✓	PSY 2100	General Psychology	3
NCSU	✓	PSY 200	Introduction to Psychology	3
UNC-CH	✓	PSYC 101	General Psychology	3
UNCA	✓	PSYC 100	Introductory Psychology	0-4
UNCC	✓	PSYC 1101	General Psychology	3
UNCG	✓	PSY 121	General Psychology	3
UNCP	✓	PSY 1010	Introduction To Psychology	3
UNCSA	✓	PSY 1100	General Psychology	3
UNCW	✓	PSY 105	General Psychology	3
WCU	✓	PSY 150	General Psychology	3
WSSU	✓	PSY 1301	Intro to Psychological Science	3

Course Transfer Comparison

Course Transfer Comparison

Next Steps

Emerging Opportunities

- Review course content and structure between the UNC CNS and the NCCCS Common Course Catalog

- More granular alignment of course content should lead to transfer students better prepared for the next level of coursework

- Identify structure for ongoing review and coordination between different educational systems

- Need significant investment in data system technologies – seamless electronic movement of student transcripts and course history

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QUESTIONS?