Models and Best Practices for Curriculum Alignment

Different Institutions – Common Goals

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The Panelists

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About our Institutions

Fall 2016 UG Enrollment: **21,000**
# Undergraduate Programs: **76**

Fall 2016 UG Enrollment: **12,000**
# Undergraduate Programs: **55**

Fall 2016 UG Enrollment: **56,000**
# Undergraduate Programs: **110+**
Why is Curriculum Alignment Important?

- Articulation agreements increase, improve and streamline access to education.
  - Offer “guaranteed transferability”
  - Assumes learning outcomes and topics are aligned.

- **Curriculum Alignment** works to ensure core content and competencies are sufficient for successful inter-institution progression.
Illinois State University operates within the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI), a state legislated articulation agreement between state colleges and universities for the general education program that has been in place since 1998.

http://www.itransfer.org
All colleges and universities participating in the IAI agree to accept a “package” of IAI general education courses in lieu of their own comparable lower-division general education requirements.

- There are 48 two-year public institutions, 12 four-year public institutions, and 34 independent/private institutions that participate.

IAI also includes major recommendations for the first two years of college in several popular majors.

- Faculty panels, which have expertise in the major field of study, created these recommendations.

- IAI major recommendations work best for students who have chosen their majors, are going to eventually transfer, but are undecided on the college or university that will grant their baccalaureate degree.
Statewide panels for each category with representation from 2 & 4-year institutions

- **Communication (C)**
  - 1 oral course and 2 written communication courses

- **Mathematics (M)**
  - 1 course

- **Humanities and Fine Arts**
  - 3 courses required, including one from each category

- **Life Sciences and Physical Sciences**
  - 1 course from each area required
  - one of the two courses must have a lab

- **Social and Behavioral Sciences**
  - 3 courses required
  - no more than two from the same discipline
Arkansas Tech University operates within a legislated statewide articulation agreement as part of the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS).
Act 672 of the Regular Session

As Engrossed: 5/2/17/05

A Bill

SENATE BILL 247

State of Arkansas

85th General Assembly

Regular Session, 2005

Curriculum Alignment at Arkansas Tech University


By: Representatives George, Burris, Anderson, Berry, Borhauer, Dickinson, Dunn, Everett, J. Hutchinson, T. Hutchinson, Kidd, Lamoureux, M. Martin, Malayo, Overbey, Rainey, Saunders, Wells, Wills

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND TRANSFER AGREEMENTS AMONG COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND TRANSFER AGREEMENTS AMONG COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN ARKANSAS.
Act 672 of 2005 specified that the criteria for course transferability would be determined by faculty transfer teams according to discipline.

Twenty-two faculty teams composed of two-year college and four-year university faculty who taught the courses met by disciplines to determine course transferability criteria. These faculty transfer teams established course descriptions and learning outcomes for their disciplines, specifically for those courses considered the general education core.

http://acts.adhe.edu/studenttransfer.aspx
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<tr>
<th>ACTS Course Index Number</th>
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<th>Black River Technical College Course Number</th>
<th>Black River Technical College Course Name</th>
<th>Arkansas Tech University Course Number</th>
<th>Arkansas Tech University Course Name</th>
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<td>BIOL 1003/1001</td>
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The University of Central Florida operates within a state legislated articulation agreement, a Statewide Common Numbering System (SCNS), and a separate articulation agreement between UCF and six state college partners.
Curriculum Alignment at University of Central Florida

SCNS Florida Department of Education Statewide Course Numbering System
http://scns.fldoe.org/

FloridaShines Distance Learning and Student Services Staff Resources: Common Prerequisites Manual
https://dlss.flvc.org/manuals/common-prerequisite-manuals

http://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/general-edu-core-course-options.stml
Curriculum Alignment at University of Central Florida

2+2 Pathways to Success
Informational Handout: http://tinyurl.com/jvdrv6s

DIRECTCONNECT TO UCF
http://directconnecttoucf.com/
Questions and Answers
Challenges & Opportunities

- Creating comparable articulations for transfer students from other states or schools not participating in IAI.
- Maintaining membership from both two-year and four-year schools for the articulation panels.
- Encouraging colleges and universities to keep submitting syllabi for new courses.
- Setting periodic reviews of institutional offerings to evaluate alignment of current courses with the descriptions that were previously approved by IAI panels.
Institutional Challenge

- A need for true alignment of course learning outcomes and the topics covered since 70% of FTIC (54% juniors) are transfer students who need to start “major ready” at UCF.

Opportunities

- In 2006, established a Curriculum Alignment working group to engage faculty from across UCF and the six partner college – by discipline – to ensure specific course learning outcomes and topics were in alignment.
  - The goals of curriculum alignment are to synchronize core content and the competencies gained by students taking courses that are transferrable within the partner colleges and UCF; and to ensure that the competencies gained by students taking these courses are sufficient for successful progression to a requisite/next level course at any institution, with the ultimate goal of a UCF bachelor’s degree.
  - http://curriculumalignment.ucf.edu

- Since 2014 (just started year 3), participating in the J.N. Gardner Institute’s Foundation’s of Excellence (FoE) Initiative to address and ensure transfer student success.
  - https://provost.ucf.edu/foe/
  - Developed Curriculum Alignment Handbook* (a “how to” guide)

*available upon request
Arkansas Tech University