



Articulation Agreements and Academic Program Proposals

Public Institutions Only

Transfer: Recent Regulatory Changes

COMAR 13B.02.03.19 was recently changed and is now effective.

Changes were made in response to Transfer with Success Act (Chs. 188 and 189; also known as HB 460 and SB 886, respectively) from the 2021 legislative session.

A workgroup of various stakeholders developed new regulations and revised existing regulations to reflect new statutory requirements.

Statewide Transfer Principles

- Maximizing the Transfer of Courses and Credits
- Difference between “credits” and “courses”
- Difference between transferability and applicability

- Transparency
- Equality
- Collaboration

Articulation Agreements

Program Transfer Agreement

an articulation agreement between a receiving institution and a sending institution that sets forth the course and other degree requirements within a single bachelor's degree program offered by the receiving institution that may be completed at the sending institution.

Articulation Agreement

a written agreement for the awarding of credit by an institution of higher education for the completion of coursework or prior learning at another institution or entity.

Course Transfer Agreement

an articulation agreement regarding the award of credit by a receiving institution for courses completed at the sending institution that are not specific to the completion of an academic program at the receiving institution.

Prior Learning Transfer Agreement

an articulation agreement for a receiving institution toward academic credit for demonstrated proficiency, a satisfactory score on a specific assessment, applied experience, or other learning experience completed at an institution of postsecondary education or other entity.

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Program Transfer Agreements

Program Transfer Agreements are intended to facilitate the transparent, seamless, and equitable transfer of a student from a sending institution into a specific academic program at a receiving institution.

60 credits automatically transfer; program transfer agreements provides the specificity of how they will transfer

Program Transfer Agreements: What *Should* be Included

- ✓ The course(s) at the sending institution, including any minimum grade required in the course(s), that will be accepted for transfer to fulfill each degree requirement within the academic program at the receiving institution
- ✓ Any other degree requirements, including, but not limited to, internships and other experiential learning, that may be completed at the sending institution
- ✓ If the receiving institution will accept for transfer any credit for prior learning awarded by the sending institution

Program Transfer Agreements: What *May* be Included

- ✓ Procedures for admissions, registration, and advising
- ✓ Access to student services, including financial aid
- ✓ Cost of tuition
- ✓ Any other information that may facilitate the transfer of academic credit from the sending institution to the receiving institution

Program Transfer Agreements: Specialized Degree Pathway

A Program Transfer Agreement is...
a specialized degree pathway for
students completing an associate's degree and
transferring courses and credits to complete a bachelor's degree,
and doing this all seamlessly with clear expectations regarding curricular
requirements

— the same way a non-transfer student has a clear set of required courses to
earn a certain degree.

Requirements for Proposals: New Bachelor's Degree

- A proposal for a new bachelor's degree program at a public senior higher education institution shall include:
 - (a) A proposed articulation agreement with at least one community college; or
 - (b) Justification for why an articulation agreement is not feasible or applicable.

Requirements for Proposals: Sub Mod to Existing Bachelor's Degree

For a program that has an existing articulation agreement with at least one community college:

- Proposed modifications to all existing articulation agreements; or
- Justification for why revising existing articulation agreements is not feasible or applicable.

For a program without any existing articulation agreement:

- A proposed articulation agreement with at least one community college; or
- Justification for why an articulation agreement is not feasible or applicable.

Requirements for Proposals: Sub Mod to Existing Associate's Degree

For a program that has an existing articulation agreement with at least one public senior higher education institution:

- Proposed modifications to all existing articulation agreements; or
- Justification for why revising existing articulation agreements is not feasible or applicable.

For a program without any existing articulation agreement:

- A proposed articulation agreement with at least one public senior higher education institution; or
- Justification for why an articulation agreement is not feasible or applicable.

Proposed Articulation Agreement: Provisional Signature

All proposed new and modified articulation agreements shall be provisionally signed by the president, executive director, chief academic officer, or equivalent designee prior to submission of a proposal to MHEC.

Proposed Articulation Agreement: Final Agreement

- A final, signed copy of a Program Transfer Agreement shall be deposited with the Commission no more than 30 days after all institutions have signed the agreement.
- Each institution that is a party to a Program Transfer Agreement shall include the full agreement on their website and in other publicly accessible sources.
- A public institution of higher education may not deny the transfer of any course that is set forth in a publicly available version of a Program Transfer Agreement.

Next Steps

- Proposal submitted on or after December 15, 2022 with a Fall 2023 or beyond implementation date must include provisionally signed articulation agreements (or justification for why an articulation agreement is not feasible or applicable)