

Nebraska Transfer Initiative

*Adopted
November 2, 1995
Revised
November 1, 2013*

...Nebraska's colleges and universities should collaborate in the development of a statewide agreement and policy on (a) the transfer of college-level credit, and (b) the transfer of the Associate of Arts degree as fulfilling both the general education requirements of the receiving institution, and the requirements for entrance to the junior class.

Challenges and Opportunities for Nebraska Higher Education ... A Call To Action, Final Report to the LB 247 Postsecondary Education Study Committee, November 1990.

It is appropriate that, five years after this report was presented, twenty-five public and private colleges and universities in the State of Nebraska are joining together on the second day of November, 1995, to sign the Nebraska Transfer Initiative.

After 18 years of implementation and recognizing the benefits for students, the agreement was reviewed in 2013 with minor changes to the document and has been endorsed by six community college presidents, fourteen four-year college presidents and the state colleges chancellor, and four university chief academic officers.

The Nebraska Transfer Initiative

The General Education Core Curriculum

I. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this initiative is to improve access and opportunities for students who wish to pursue baccalaureate degrees after completing Associate of Arts degrees at community colleges. The common core curriculum in general education for the Associate of Arts, Academic Transfer degree has been developed and adopted by the six Nebraska Community Colleges. The core curriculum is composed of courses in the arts and sciences which partially fulfill the Associate of Arts degree requirements (Attachment 1). The remainder of credit hours required for the degree should be selected by the student in consultation with the receiving institution.

The Nebraska common core curriculum in general education, while not duplicating any single institution's requirements, closely mirrors the typical general education requirements of the Nebraska baccalaureate degree-granting institutions, parallels the national profile of general education curricula prepared by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, and is similar to the transfer and articulation agreements of such other states as Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Missouri, and Virginia.

The common core has been designed to provide smooth transition with a minimum loss of time and credit when it is accepted by baccalaureate degree-granting institutions as the basis of a statewide transfer agreement. Associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions are equal partners in providing the first two years of baccalaureate degree programs in Nebraska. While each institution is ultimately responsible for the quality of the programs it provides, both associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions continue to work together to assure that their lower-division general education courses are comparable in scope, quality, and intellectual rigor.

II. Background

During the 1993-94 academic year, the Council of Instructional Officers of the Community Colleges developed a common curricular core in the Associate of Arts, Academic Transfer degree. Their intention was to ensure consistency, continuity, and quality in the academic transfer program. The core curriculum is based on:

- 1) A philosophical rationale for the common curriculum;*
- 2) Education categories for the common core curriculum; and*
- 3) Credit hour requirements for each category.*

Prior to this articulation initiative, there were individual agreements between institutions which varied widely and did not provide certainty to students that the classes would transfer. The disadvantage of this kind of arrangement is that it is based on the assumption that students know either what baccalaureate institution they intend to transfer to or what baccalaureate major they wish to pursue, or both. In fact, a large number of students enter community colleges without clear educational or career goals, and others find their goals unrealistic. The common core curriculum provides a good way for students, particularly undecided students, to begin their undergraduate experience.

The Council of Instructional Officers of the Community Colleges presented a draft of the common core curriculum in general education to the deans of the Nebraska colleges and universities at the Fall 1994 Deans' Meeting. The deans discussed and solidified a transferable common core of general education classes for the benefit of students in Nebraska. Altogether, representatives of 30 colleges and universities worked together on this project during the 1994-95 academic year.

Surveys were distributed to all public and private colleges in the state and were used to identify the core curriculum.

The results were shared with all deans and discussed extensively during the fall and spring meetings. Several assumptions guided the deans in their efforts:

- 1) Articulation is a voluntary process to facilitate educational progress for students.*
- 2) Trust, respect, and continued participation of all institutions are integral parts of the articulation process.*
- 3) Individuals who are pursuing further education should be treated as mature adult learners.*
- 4) Articulation allows flexibility, choice, and diversity.*
- 5) Each educational institution's mission, goals, and standards for admission, progression, and graduation are preserved.*
- 6) Each institution has met the accreditation standards of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and is recognized as an equal partner in the transfer initiative.*
- 7) Each degree-granting institution has developed its own general education program as a part of its degree requirement; many general education objectives are similar from one institution to another.*

A 30 semester-hour core has been established as the basis for the common core of general education by the participating institutions. Additional courses may be added to the common core in the future.

III. Procedures/Structure

Any student who has successfully completed courses – the equivalent of grade “C” or above – identified in the articulated associate of arts general education core curriculum and who is admitted in transfer to a signatory institution:

- will be granted standing comparable to current students who have completed the same number of equivalent credit courses toward an associate/baccalaureate-level degree, and*
- will be able to progress toward associate/baccalaureate degree completion at a rate comparable to that of students who entered the associate/baccalaureate institution as first time freshman.*

To assure students of comparable treatment, signatory institutions agree to the following standards and procedures:

- Signatory institutions will accept the common core of general education for direct application to their degree or major requirements;*
- Signatory institutions may require admitted transfer students to complete institution-wide general education requirements not included in the transferable core.*
- Signatory institutions will grant equivalent general education credit for satisfactorily completed courses identified in the general education core to students admitted in transfer who began but did not complete the Associate of Arts Degree at an accredited signatory institution.*

The official signed agreement will be recorded in the appropriate sector representative offices and in the respective institutions.

IV. Future Efforts

Chancellors, presidents, and chief academic officers of associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions should provide leadership in developing and implementing state policies on transfer and articulation and in resolving issues of mutual concern. To this end, the Nebraska deans will regularly assess the status of policies on statewide transfer and articulation to resolve any issues that arise.

Program faculties from both associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions should take primary responsibility for developing and maintaining course and program articulation agreements and for promoting compatibility between associate and baccalaureate curricula.

Associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions should work together to expand opportunities for students to complete baccalaureate degrees. Through formal partnerships, associate and baccalaureate institutions should jointly encourage baccalaureate degree completion and provide information on the transfer process, guidance in program and course selection, and orientation to the academic environment to prospective transfer students. Dual admission, "2 + 2", and similar articulation and transfer agreements should be developed to facilitate the transfer of students.

Colleges and universities should assure that transfer students have the same opportunities as other students to participate in the social, cultural, and academic support services necessary for their integration into the campus community.

It has been recommended that a statewide system for monitoring the academic progress of cohorts of students who transfer between institutions would facilitate cooperation and transfer opportunities among Nebraska higher education institutions. This information could serve as the basis for regular review and improvement of undergraduate curricula, support services, and articulation and transfer agreements of associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions.

**Agreement to Accept the Common Core of General Education Courses
in the
Associate of Arts, Academic Transfer Degree**

Associate of Arts Curriculum

<i>Core Areas</i>	<i>Semester Hours</i>
<i>English Composition (Exposition, Literature-based, Rhetoric)</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Oral Communication (Interpersonal, Public Speaking)</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Fine/Performing Arts (Music, Art (visual), Theater, Dance, Film)</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>History (U.S. History, Western Civilization, Non-Western History)</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Race/Ethnicity/Gender</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Humanities (Literature, Philosophy, Religious Studies)</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Economics/Political Science</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Social/Behavioral Science (Sociology, Psychology, Geography)</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Science (including one lab course – Physical Science, Biological Science)</i>	<i>7.0</i>
<i>Mathematics (must be at college level or above)</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Credits to Fulfill Associate Degree Requirements (as agreed upon by receiving institutions)</i>	<i>26.0 – 30.0</i>
<i>Total Credits for Associate of Arts</i>	<i>60.0 – 64.0</i>

Signatory Institutions

*Bellevue University
1000 Galvin Road South
Bellevue, NE 68005*

*Central Community College
3134 W. Highway 34
P.O. Box 4903
Grand Island, NE 68802-4903*

*College of Saint Mary
7000 Mercy Road
Omaha, NE 68106*

*Creighton University
2500 California Plaza
Omaha, NE 68102*

*Grace University
1311 S. 9th Street
Omaha, NE 68108*

*Metropolitan Community College
30th & Fort Streets
P.O. Box 3777
Omaha, NE 68103-0777*

*Mid-Plains Community College
601 W. State Farm Road
North Platte, NE 69101-3938*

*Nebraska State College System
1327 H Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68508*

*Bryan College of Health Sciences
5035 Everett Street
Lincoln, NE 68506*

*Clarkson College
101 S. 42nd Street
Omaha, NE 68131*

*Concordia University
800 N. Columbia Avenue
Seward, NE 68434*

*Doane College
1014 Boswell Avenue
Crete, NE 68333*

*Hastings College
710 N. Turner Avenue
P.O. Box 269
Hastings, NE 68902-0269*

*Midland University
900 N. Clarkson
Fremont, NE 68025*

*Nebraska Methodist College
720 N. 87th Street
Omaha, NE 68114*

*Nebraska Wesleyan University
5000 Saint Paul Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68504*

*Northeast Community College
801 E. Benjamin Avenue
P.O. Box 469
Norfolk, NE 68702-0469*

*Union College
3800 S. 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68506*

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln
208 Canfield Administration Building
Lincoln, NE 68588-0420*

*University of Nebraska at Omaha
202 Eppley Administration Building
Omaha, NE 68182*

*York College
1125 E. 8th Street
York, NE 68467*

*Southeast Community College
8800 "O" Street
Lincoln, NE 68510*

*University of Nebraska at Kearney
1000 Founders Hall
905 W. 25th Street
Kearney, NE 68849*

*University of Nebraska Medical Center
2022 Academic Research Services
987810 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-7810*

*Western Nebraska Community College
1601 E. 27th Street, NE
Scottsbluff, NE 69361*

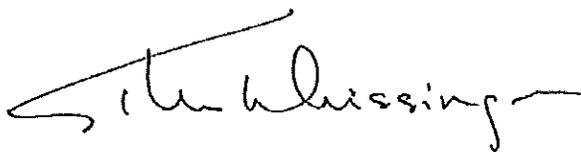
Nebraska Transfer Initiative

The Nebraska Transfer Initiative is a cooperative effort by Nebraska's public and private higher education institutions to facilitate the transfer of students who have earned an Associate of Arts degree into baccalaureate-level programs. Unique institutional requirements are noted on the individual signatory documents.

The following representatives of the signatory institutions are declaring their participation in the Nebraska Transfer Initiative as of November 1, 2013:



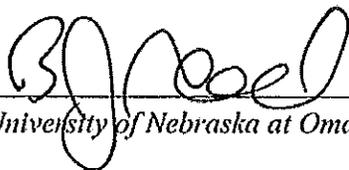
University of Nebraska at Kearney



University of Nebraska-Lincoln



University of Nebraska Medical Center

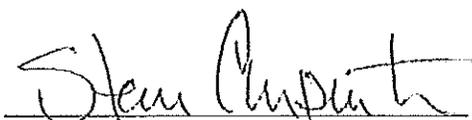


University of Nebraska at Omaha

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stan Carpenter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

*Stan Carpenter, Chancellor
Nebraska State College System*

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*President,
Central Community College*



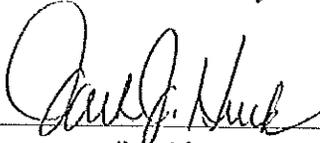
*President,
Metropolitan Community College*



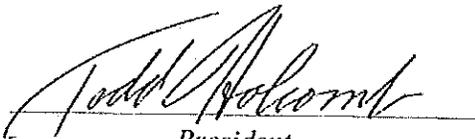
*President,
Mid-Plains Community College*



*President,
Northeast Community College*



*President,
Southeast Community College*

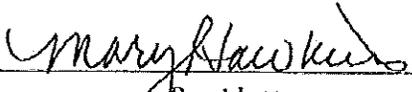


*President,
Western Nebraska Community College*

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President,
Bellevue University



President,
Clarkson College



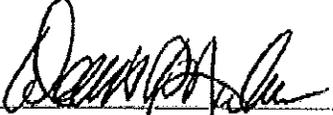
President,
Concordia University



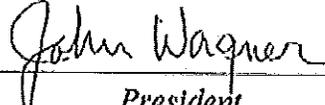
President,
Doane College



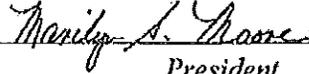
President,
Hastings College



President,
Nebraska Methodist College



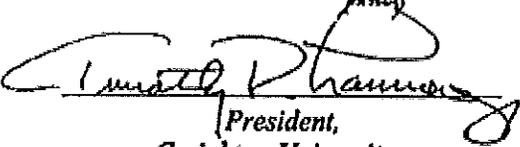
President,
Union College



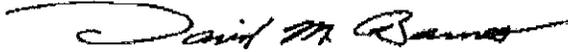
President,
Bryan College of Health Sciences



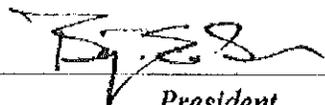
President,
College of Saint Mary



President,
Creighton University



President,
Grace University



President,
Midland University



President,
Nebraska Wesleyan University



President,
York College