

## Articulation Update - October 18, 2006

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### **Lower-Division Transfer Patterns (LDTP)**

As you may know, the CSU system is working on finalizing the LDTP program. As a brief review, the program has identified the “top” majors that are common across the CSU campuses and created LDTPs that are comprised of approximately 45 units of a statewide component and 15 units of campus-specific components. The 45 units are primarily GE courses (CSU GE or IGETC pattern) and then a couple courses (sometimes more) within the major. It’s those lower-division major preparatory courses that need to be re-articulated for this new program.

For example, for the Business LDTP, ECON 1, ECON 2, BUSN 1A and BUSN 1B are included as part of the lower-division major prep courses. Therefore, these courses need to be re-articulated to CSU’s new “course descriptors” that are labeled with “TCSU” numbers (this is ultimately replacing the CAN numbering system).

Although we are re-articulating courses for LDTP, current articulation will remain the same. This means it is possible for a course not to be approved for LDTP (I don’t anticipate this happening) yet still remain articulated as it has been in ASSIST. Intuitively, this does not make sense to me, but that is how it has been explained.

The CSU system has been assuring the Community Colleges that these LDTPs are merely an alternative path/choice for students and that current articulation (as you see on ASSIST) will remain an option. For many CSUs, this won’t be a problem because they maintain and update current articulation. However, for some CSUs, maintaining current articulation has been a problem. Several CCCs have noted (including LPC) attempting to update articulation and have received responses denying our requests citing a lack of resources and focus on LDTP as their reasons. Therefore, if you see a CSU on ASSIST that has old articulation dates, this may be one of the reasons (it’s not a lack of trying on our part).

The course submission cycle for LDTP is currently three times per year, with October 16<sup>th</sup> having been the first deadline. I worked with faculty in reviewing course outlines and we submitted 9 courses out of the 22 course descriptors posted. Some faculty have decided to revise their outlines and we’ll submit during the next two submission periods (February & April).

At this point, there is no definitive date on when LDTP will begin. When there is, information will be available to students on CSU Mentor and ASSIST. I will keep you posted as I get new information.

### **CSU Transfer Unit Limitations**

The CSU gives Community Colleges the decision-making power in determining when to limit transfer units to the CSU system (whereas the UC makes these decisions for the UC system). On the CSU transfer list (flyer 2T), we indicate these transfer unit limitations. For example, we limit 4 units for transfer for Colloquia courses (numbered 9). In another example, we impose limits on some courses within the Music and Theater Arts disciplines, yet the UC system has removed those limits over 10 years ago.

Recently, Jane Church from Chabot and I met to discuss these because we realized some don't make sense and LPC and Chabot have inconsistencies making it confusing for students. In doing some research, we discovered one rationale for these limitations was out of concern that students would fill up their 60 units for transfer with units from Colloquia, Independent Study, Work Experience, etc. However, we noted that this same rationale was not extended to our own AA and AS degrees.

We decided to recommend to our respective curriculum committees to consider removing all of these limitations. To begin with, it is rare to see students filling up their units with these courses, and many students don't even realize there is a limit. And, if students do all their GE and lower-division major prep courses, they often don't have much room for many of these other units. Even if this did occur, and they were accepted into a CSU, they would simply make up major prep courses there.

Chabot's curriculum committee immediately voted to remove all the unit limitations. However, our committee would like to spend more time analyzing these. I will be researching other community colleges as part of this analysis.

If you have feedback, please let me know.

### **AP Credit**

Currently, both LPC and Chabot award AA/AS GE credit for passing AP scores in subjects for which we offer comparable courses. If a student passes an AP for a subject we do not offer, they do not get credit. However, they may possibly earn credit at a transfer institution.

Jane Church is proposing to Chabot's curriculum committee that they allow AP exams (with passing scores) for which they do not have a comparable course to: (1) be used as elective units for the AA/AS degree and (2) where appropriate be used to satisfy AA/AS GE area requirements. For example, the Environmental Science AP could be used to satisfy the AA/AS Natural Science GE requirement.

I would like to get feedback on how this division feels about this recommendation.

In addition, LPC currently posts the comparable LPC course for the AP exam onto the LPC transcript as if they took the course here. I have been advised that this is not good practice by the UC system and they recommend we stop doing this. At a recent conference, I learned we were the only college (at that meeting) that does this (I didn't reveal this, of course). I will be looking into how we can change this process and treat AP exam reports as we do transcripts from other colleges.

### **UC Transfer Preparation Paths**

The UC system has posted "transfer preparation paths" on their web site [www.uctransfer.org](http://www.uctransfer.org). The UC is also working on "Streamlining UC Articulation" that is to establish an annual process to ensure the articulation of CCC courses for common UC major requirements. More information to follow.