



Directive 2010-XXX
_____, 2010

Re: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OHIO ARTICULATION AND TRANSFER NETWORK

On March 31, 2008, pursuant to Sec. 4 of Sub. H.B. 2 of the 127th General Assembly as amended by Am. Sub. H.B. 119 for the 127th General Assembly, the chancellor delivered to the General Assembly and the governor a set of recommendations titled ***The Strategic Plan for Higher Education***.

In the Strategic Plan the Chancellor called for a guaranteed credit transfer system that provides all citizens with a clear pathway for gaining the skills and knowledge necessary for productive and satisfying performance in the knowledge economy. The key strategy to achieve this goal is to create a system where students will know in advance the courses and programs guaranteed to transfer and apply to their degree program. This includes the general education component and the pre-requisite and beginning major courses. The Strategic Plan builds upon already established statewide credit transfer guarantees called Ohio Transfer Module (OTM), Transfer Assurance Guides (TAGs), and Career-Technical Assurance Guides (CTAGs).

Ohio's transfer and articulation efforts formally started in 1990 in response to the Am. Sub. Senate Bill 268 of the 118th General Assembly directive that the Ohio Board of Regents form a study commission to make formal recommendations to the Governor and the 118th General Assembly regarding implementation of a statewide student credit-hour transfer agreement to address the articulation problems associated with students transferring from state-assisted technical and community colleges to state-assisted universities. The Commission's recommendations contained "The Ohio Articulation and Transfer Policy", which the Ohio Board of Regents adopted in November 1990. The policy outlines the role and responsibilities of the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council, with an Oversight Committee, which functions as an executive committee. The Council has been a powerful force throughout the years in advocating transfer across all campuses and in carrying out state policy. Initially, the Council was composed of representatives from all of the state's public colleges and universities. Today, its membership includes the state association of independent colleges and universities, K-12 school districts and adult career programs. It is co-chaired by the presidents of a public university and a community college.

In 2003, pursuant to section 3333.16 of the Revised Code, the Ohio Board of Regents began establishing policies and procedures applicable to all state institutions of higher education that ensure that students can begin higher education at any state institution of higher education and transfer coursework and degrees to any other state institution of higher education without unnecessary duplication or institutional barriers. When Transfer Assurance Guides (TAGs) were created through the implementation of section 3333.16 of the Revised Code, the concept of student learning outcomes, rather than the course level, was emphasized and developed by faculty representatives from both two- and four-year public institutions. When two courses are considered equivalent in the TAG process, the course at the sending institution is awarded a course equivalent at the receiving institution, and the equivalent transfer course is to be treated the same as the course taken at the receiving institution by its native students. The initial implementation of TAGs was in the fall of 2005.

Credit Transfer initiatives are the cornerstone of The University System of Ohio. In recent years, transfer work has expanded to include the creation of electronic tools that facilitate the exchange of transcripts among the University System of Ohio institutions of higher education with the Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse and that allow the faculty review panels to work on-line with the Course Equivalency Management System. Work is being done to expand and enhance the awarding of college credit for military training and experience. Statewide apprenticeship agreements are being developed. Better alignment with national credit-by-exam programs are scheduled to be developed. In addition, extensive work in developing articulation with Ohio's statewide Tech Prep pathways is underway. With seventeen of Ohio's public institutions of higher education going through calendar conversion, articulation and transfer initiatives are being strengthened. Articulation and Transfer also is part of the creation of the University System of Ohio Student Portal. The statewide course equivalency system is expanding with more statewide transfer guarantees.

To formalize the work of colleges and universities in the development and operation of statewide collaborative efforts, I hereby create, as a consortium in accordance with section 3333.04(U) of the Revised Code, the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network, with Wright State University serving as fiscal agent for the Network.

The Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network will effectuate the transfer of students within the University System of Ohio, maintain quality assurance of courses, continue to expand the number of courses guaranteed to transfer, continue to develop transfer electronic tools, and continue to expand the transfer initiatives in support of the Strategic Plan. The Oversight Committee shall become the Oversight Board of the Network and serve in an advisory capacity to the Chancellor. The Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council will continue its work and make recommendations to the Oversight Board.

The Oversight Board will be chaired by the Chancellor, or the Chancellor's designee. It is intended that membership of the Oversight Board include college presidents, provosts, and chief academic officers, or representatives from college or university offices with responsibility relating to articulation and transfer, from career centers (2 members), community colleges (2 members), technical colleges (2 members), and four-year universities (6 members). The members of this Oversight Board will be selected by the Chancellor and will serve at the Chancellor's pleasure. The initial members of the Oversight Board shall be the current members of the Articulation and Transfer Oversight Committee. Supplemental members may be added to the Oversight Board at the Chancellor's discretion and will serve at the pleasure of the Chancellor. The Oversight Board shall meet at least semiannually.

The Network may establish fees to be assessed to conduct its business, including, but not limited to, a fee assessed on members of the Network. All revenues derived from the assessment of fees shall be expended on the operations of the Network. The fee structure will support the benefits of transfer activity toward student success and enable the transfer credits initiatives to expand.

The Oversight Board shall advise the Chancellor on setting of fees, including the amount assessed to a receiving institution and recommend additional fees to be assessed, advise on the expenditure of revenues derived from the fees, make recommendations on broad policies relating to articulation and transfer with the goal of identifying issues and recommending strategies to correct them, respond to the recommendations of the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council, and advise the Chancellor on the hiring of an executive director of the Network. The executive director of the Network shall serve at the pleasure of the Chancellor.

The Oversight Board may create subcommittees and shall serve as the Steering Committee to the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council. The Oversight Board may direct the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council

to assist the Oversight Board with its duties, but shall do so with specific charges on topics and desired compositions for working groups.

The current Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council shall continue and be co-chaired by the presidents of a public university and a community college. These two co-chairs will be members of the Oversight Board. The Chancellor shall select Advisory Council members from representatives nominated by college and university presidents or provosts and chief academic officers. The Chancellor may select supplemental members to serve on the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council. It is intended that members of the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council be the institutions' top level administrators responsible for articulation and transfer on their campuses. The members of the Articulation and Transfer Council will be current members of the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council and may organize itself, including electing officers. Ohio's public institutions of higher education are encouraged to participate on the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council to ensure that their institutions have a voice in the direction of Articulation and Transfer.

The Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council shall have the responsibility to advise the Oversight Board and the Chancellor as follows:

- Conduct a continuing review of the provisions of the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Policy and recommend such revisions as needed to meet the intent of the policy while maintaining program and degree integrity;
- Review and make recommendations concerning articulation and transfer issues brought before it by institutions of higher education;
- Respond to requests and charges given by the Oversight Board;
- Recommend modifications in institutional policies and procedures which, in the Advisory Council's judgment, would enhance and facilitate the transfer of students while maintaining the academic integrity of curricula;
- Charge a Faculty Committee and its subcommittees with the responsibility to review and recommend adjustments as needed to guidelines of the Transfer Module, Transfer Assurance Guides, Career-Technical Assurance Guides, and future initiatives;
- Charge standing Faculty Committee(s) to review each institution's Transfer Module and Transfer Assurance Guide and Career-Technical Assurance Guide course submissions to assure they meet the guidelines for the Transfer Module, Transfer Assurance Guides, Career-Technical Assurance Guides, and future initiatives;
- Establish committees with defined charges, representative membership and lengths of terms that will provide review and recommendations to the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council on specific aspects of the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Policy related to the interpretation and implementation of said policy;
- Recommend strategies and initiatives to ensure that credit transfer is a strong cornerstone of The University System of Ohio.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff worked closely with representatives of various institutions and the current Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council and Oversight Committee. Staff recommends the creation of the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network.