



PROGRAM-TO-PROGRAM ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following executive summary provides information about articulation agreements to illustrate the possibilities and considerations as SECAC moves forward with recommendations for the development of a state-wide articulation agreement across all 2- and 4-year early childhood programs. Articulation agreements from more than 10 states were reviewed to gather information about common elements, considerations for developing comprehensive agreements, and types of agreements.

Nationwide Review: Types of Agreements, Features and Benefits

Type of Agreement	Features	Benefits	State Example
State-wide Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> written into legislation or statutes specify the transfer policy between some or all of the State's public postsecondary institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> most common form of agreement considered the most efficient for students carried out by representatives from all IHEs in the state 	Colorado has a legislated program-to-program articulation agreement between all Colorado Public Community/Junior Colleges and all Colorado Public Four-Year Institutions of Higher Education.
Institution-to-Institution Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> made on an individual basis between specific 2- and 4-year Colleges within a state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> may be spurred by legislation suggesting an agreement program to be formed, but ultimately the individual institutions that engage in an agreement are responsible for the design, implementation, and interpretation of the agreement terms most popular in States where a clear feeding system into the 4-year University is established may be more conducive to the inclusion of private institutions 	The University of Missouri curated institution-to-institution agreements between several community colleges and each of its three main campuses (Columbia, St. Louis, Kansas City).
Agreements Between Higher Education Unions or Governing Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explicit statements between two or more representative groups on behalf of two or more colleges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> may be spurred by legislation suggesting an agreement program to be formed but ultimately the individual representative bodies that engage in an agreement are responsible for the design, implementation, and interpretation of the agreement terms most popular in States where higher education institutions are organized under such representative groups may be more conducive to the inclusion of private institutions 	A program-to-program articulation agreement was negotiated between the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina and the State Board of The North Carolina Community College System. The Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) applies to all fifty-eight North Carolina community colleges and all sixteen constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina.



Common Elements of Program-to-Program Articulation Agreements, including 2+2 Agreements^{1,2}

- TA common general education curriculum that is consistent throughout all public institutions, which allows “block credit transfer” of general education courses even when credits do not amass to an associate’s degree.
- A common course number system wherein differently named courses may be identified as identical in terms of degree requirements.³
- Guaranteed admissions policies for students who complete the Associate’s degree in good standing or have a minimum GPA in core classes when leaving the 2 year institution.
- Articulation applicable to both academic and technical degrees (Texas and Tennessee offer examples, as do the Forestry and Engineering programs at Mississippi State University).

The Current Status of General and Early Childhood Education Articulation Agreements in Mississippi

Mississippi’s Statewide Articulation Agreement

A state-wide articulation agreement between the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) and the Mississippi Community College Board is currently active and includes all public 2- and 4-year colleges and universities in the state. The agreement plan is comprehensive and is built using a number of best practices, including:

- An aligned curriculum and course offering;
- An aligned course numbering system; and
- Guaranteed transfer of aligned courses.

The state-wide agreement plan is underpinned by an aligned “IHL Board Core Curriculum”⁴ that is commonly offered and listed across all participating 2- and 4-year institutions. If the student earns a grade of “C” or better, these courses are guaranteed to transfer to and from each of the 2- and 4- year institutions these two governing bodies represent. Upon transfer, these courses will satisfy the IHL core curriculum requirement that is currently mandatory at each IHL institution.⁵

The active articulation agreement includes a number of program-to-program agreements, or “2+2” agreement plans. Students should consult these individual plans to verify what non-IHL core curriculum courses are eligible for transfer toward a specific degree program.

¹ Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and Hezel Associates. 2009. “Best Practice in Statewide Articulation and Transfer Systems” and “Promising Practices in Statewide Articulation and Transfer Systems.”

² “2+2” is a colloquial term in Articulation Agreement programs that refers to Agreements underpinned by guaranteed credit transfer. In sum, courses taken toward a 2-year degree (2) are guaranteed to transfer to a 4-year University.

³ Common course numbering may be based on fully identical course content or on similar learning outcomes.

⁴ Specified in Board Policy Section 512

⁵ General education requirements for baccalaureate programs at the receiving institutions may exceed the minimum IHL core curriculum. In such cases, transfer students may need to take additional courses to satisfy these requirements. Certain undergraduate degrees have pre-major course requirements and other pre-requisites that will not necessarily be satisfied by the AA degree. Guaranteed course transfer does not guarantee admission to any degree program. Students should consult program-to-program articulation agreements to ensure they are able to transfer in to the major of their choice. Mississippi public IHLs are Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, and Mississippi University for Women, Mississippi Valley State University, University of Mississippi, and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Current Early Childhood Education (and related fields) Articulation Agreements in Mississippi⁶

Mississippi public universities currently host a number of early childhood-related degree programs. These programs and the status of articulation agreements among them are outlined.

- B.S. Early Childhood Education: Mississippi Valley State University is the only public university in Mississippi offering a degree in Early Childhood Education. MVSU is currently engaged in an agreement with all public 2-year institutions in the state.
- B.S. Child Development: A Bachelor of Science in Child Development is currently offered by Alcorn State and Delta State. Both Universities are currently engaged in an agreement with all public 2-year institutions in the state.
- B.S. Elementary Education, Early Childhood Endorsement/Concentration: Mississippi State University is the only institution with an Early Childhood endorsement or concentration option as part of the Elementary Education degree. MSU is currently engaged in an agreement with all public 2-year institutions in the state.
- B.S. Family Studies: Mississippi University for Women is the only institution currently offering a 4-year degree in Family Studies. MUV is currently engaged in an agreement with all public 2-year institutions in the state.
- B.S. Child and Family Studies/Sciences: Jackson State University and the University of Southern Mississippi both offer degree programs in Child and Family Studies/Sciences. Both Universities are currently engaged in an agreement with all public 2-year institutions in the state.

⁶ Each of these individual program agreements is underpinned by the guaranteed transfer of the IHL core curriculum courses which are commonly named and listed across all public 2- and 4-year institutions. Other idiosyncrasies are listed in the program agreement guide.

For more information, please contact:

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