

# ASSIST Transfer Channel

The Official Newsletter of ASSIST



3<sup>rd</sup> Edition - September 2005

## On Campus

The On Campus feature looks at transfer programs and practices at colleges and universities throughout the state. Each issue of the ASSIST Transfer Channel will focus on a different college or university. In this issue, Stephanie Samuels talks about articulation at San Diego State University and offers suggestions for helping students succeed with ASSIST.

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*Stephanie Samuels has been the articulation officer in the Office of Advising and Evaluations at San Diego State University for seven years. For 10 years before serving as articulation officer at SDSU, she worked in the Office of Advising with freshman and transfer admissions and graduation evaluations. Stephanie is also the current CSU representative on the ASSIST Board of Directors and Region X Representative for SCIAC.*

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Some things in life you can count on, like gas prices increasing and losing your cell phone connection. On the up side, something else you can count on is the accuracy of the information in ASSIST.

San Diego State University (SDSU) and other universities and community colleges in California work diligently on behalf of students to provide official articulation information in ASSIST. Last year alone SDSU had major preparation and course-to-course articulation agreements for 55 colleges. And for each of those colleges, SDSU provides major preparation agreements for 94 majors! For 05/06, SDSU plans on establishing agreements with more colleges as the Lower Division Transfer Patterns (LDTP) project gets underway.

Since SDSU is an impacted campus (a very popular CSU for students), students transferring to SDSU need to complete GE certification and major preparation courses offered at their community colleges. They also need to meet the impaction criteria for admission. All of this information is available to students in ASSIST. In the past, articulation information was only available to students through academic advisors. While students should seek the advice of a counselor, ASSIST gives students the opportunity to review college and university requirements and explore majors. Surprisingly, there are still students who are not using this valuable tool. SDSU encourages students to use ASSIST to learn about the requirements of their chosen educational path.



One of the more common mistakes students make when using ASSIST, however, is that they choose an academic year that does not apply to their coursework. This leads to incorrect assumptions regarding course equivalencies and transferability. Students using ASSIST must choose the semester/year in which they *complete* their coursework. For example, if a student completes a course in the fall 2004 semester, the 2004-2005 articulation agreement should be selected in ASSIST. Since articulated courses often change from year to year as a result of curriculum changes at community colleges or universities, the most current articulation information available, 05-06 for example, may be different from the agreement for 2004. It is important that students choose the correct academic year so they do not mistakenly think courses articulate when they do not.

Colleges, universities, counselors, and students - we all want the same thing. We want students completing courses at community colleges that will fulfill requirements so they are able to transfer in approximately two years. None of us wants students to take courses they *think* are the appropriate courses and then later discover that they don't apply to GE or fulfill their major preparation required at their intended university.

Going through college is difficult enough without having to worry about sitting in the right class. Students can count on ASSIST to help eliminate some of their worries. Well, except for those midterm exams!

Stephanie Samuels  
SDSU Articulation Officer