

# ASSIST Transfer Channel

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## ASSIST in the Classroom

ASSIST is an important tool for students who are planning to transfer from a California community college to a California university. It's only useful, however, if students are aware of ASSIST, recognize the significance of the information it provides, and can make sense of that information. It turns out that many California community colleges agree and are helping out.

We recently asked community colleges if they teach a course in college success that includes information about ASSIST and transferring to a university. A number of colleges responded. Most colleges discuss transfer in several class periods. All of the classes include instruction, demonstration, and hands-on practice using ASSIST to research majors and transfer requirements. This turns out to be extremely important for students because all of those who responded to our casual survey said that most students have little to no knowledge of, or experience with, ASSIST at the beginning of the class.

An important activity in these classes is hands-on experience with ASSIST. After explaining the kinds of information that are available in ASSIST and then demonstrating how to find information about majors and transfer, students are asked to look up articulation agreements and identify how specific courses transfer. "Students find ASSIST to be very accessible," according to Rick Ramirez at American River College. Brian Jensen of Columbia College agrees, "Usually, they find the information relatively easily, once they get to the Web site." So, once they know what to look for and where to find it, it appears that students are able to get the transfer information they need.

Introducing students to ASSIST early in their college careers gives them a very practical tool that is one step in successfully navigating their way down the college path. For students who are undecided about their majors, ASSIST's Exploring Majors feature helps them learn about university majors, find specific majors in disciplines in which they are interested, and learn about transferring from a community college to a university to achieve their goal. Students who have already chosen a major can go directly to Explore Transfer Information in ASSIST to see how courses from their community college can be used when they transfer to a university.

Thanks to the community colleges who are introducing students to this valuable resource and taking every opportunity to help students succeed. As Glyn Bongolan of Palomar College said, "They love ASSIST, and so do I. It makes their lives easier and gives them assurance that they are taking the correct courses and are on the right path."