

ASSIST Transfer Channel

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Reading an ASSIST Articulation Agreement

Hundreds of thousands of students use the articulation agreements in ASSIST every year. This article will help you understand the agreements and be better prepared to meet with your advisors.

When a course or sequence from one campus is accepted in place of a course or sequence at another campus, they are said to be articulated. An articulation agreement is a document that specifies these articulated courses. Articulation agreements are official documents that are created and maintained by each university campus. These documents are made available at <http://www.assist.org>, a site that allows access to all of the articulation agreements at one location.

Never assume that two courses are articulated based on their course number or their course title. Always refer to an official, published articulation agreement.

(There is a small amount of university-to-university articulation in ASSIST, but the main intent of ASSIST is to support transfer from a California Community College to a UC or CSU campus, so this article will generally refer to transfer from a community college to a university campus.)

Choosing an Agreement

You can choose either the community college or the university campus first when you're looking for an articulation agreement. You also should pay attention to the academic year of the agreement. In most cases, you can use the most current agreement.

By Major or By Department

Each university campus enters and maintains its own articulation in ASSIST. Universities can publish articulation by major and/or by department.

By Major

If you are researching the courses needed to complete the lower-division requirements for your major before you transfer, you should choose articulation by major when it's available.

Articulation by major usually lists the lower-division courses required by the major and the community college courses that can be used in place of those university courses. Many majors require courses from different departments; for example, articulation for the Biological Sciences major will probably include chemistry and mathematics requirements. Selecting articulation by major lets you see all of the requirements, even courses from other departments.

By Department

If you are looking for articulation for a specific course, it may be best to look at articulation by department. Articulation by department lists all courses in a single department and the community college courses that are accepted in their place. For example, articulation for the Biological Sciences department would list a number of biology courses, but would not include any chemistry or mathematics courses.

Header Information

Make sure that you're looking at the right agreement. You can see the kind of agreement you chose (major or department), the two schools, and the year of the agreement (some agreements are good for two years). You should choose either the current year or the year you took your courses.

Articulation Agreement by Major			
Effective During the 06-07 Academic Year			
To: CSU San Bernardino	From: Crafton Hills College		
06-07 General Catalog	Quarter 06-07 General Catalog		Semester

Left Side/Right Side

The major or department you chose is shown just below the header. Then, on most articulation agreements, you'll see courses listed in two columns. The left column lists university courses, and the right column lists community college courses. These are the community college courses that are accepted in place of (articulated with) the university courses.

====Anthropology - B.A.====			
Required lower-division course(s):			
ANTH 100	Introduction to Anthropology: Human Evolution	(4)	ANTHRO 106 Physical Anthropology (3)
ANTH 102	Introduction to Anthropology: Culture and Society	(4)	ANTHRO 102 Cultural Anthropology (3)

ANDs, &s, and ORs

It's important to pay careful attention to how courses are grouped on both sides of the agreement. Many courses are part of sequences, and it may be that all of the courses in a sequence need to be completed to receive major preparation credit. The combinations of "ands" and "ors" can be a little confusing, so be sure you take the time to work out what is really meant.

<u>Biology - B.S.</u>								
Required lower-division course(s):								
BIOL 200	&	Biology of the Cell	(5)		BIOL 130	&	Cell and Molecular	(4)
BIOL 201	&	Biology of Organisms	(5)				Biology	
BIOL 202		Biology of Populations	(5)		BIOL 131		Populations and	(4)
							Organisms	

In the example above, one of the requirements for CSUSB's BS in Biology is the BIOL 200-201-202 sequence. This requirement can be completed by taking the articulated sequence at Crafton Hills (BIOL 130 & 131). This does not say that BIOL 130 is a substitute for BIOL 200, & BIOL 131 is a substitute for BIOL 202. It's clear from the &s and the dotted lines that separate this "instance" of articulation that the sequences are articulated, not the individual courses.

In this example from the Communication major...

Mass Communication Concentration								
COMM 240		Writing for Media	(4)		ENGL 120		Fundamentals of News	(3)
							Writing	
						Same as:	JOUR 120	
						<u>OR</u>		
					JOUR 120		Fundamentals of News	(3)
							Writing	
						Same as:	ENGL 120	

...you see that either ENGL 120 OR JOUR 120 at Crafton would be accepted in place of COMM 240.

Here's another OR example that shows two possible ways to complete a Physics requirement at UCR. Notice that there's articulation at Crafton Hills for only one of the possibilities.

PHYS 2A	&	General Physics	(4)		No Course Articulated			
PHYS 2B	&	General Physics	(4)					
PHYS 2C	&	General Physics	(4)					
PHYS 2LA	&	General Physics	(1)					
		Laboratory						
PHYS 2LB	&	General Physics	(1)					
		Laboratory						
PHYS 2LC		General Physics	(1)					
		Laboratory						
(This is a calculus-based sequence.)								
OR					OR			
PHYS 40A	&	General Physics	(5)		PHYSIC 200	&	Physics I	(6)
PHYS 40B	&	General Physics	(5)		PHYSIC 201		Physics II	(6)
PHYS 40C		General Physics	(5)					
(Includes labs, calculus-based.)								

The combinations of ANDs and ORs can get complicated. Be sure to look at them carefully and talk to your counselor or a departmental advisor at the university if you have questions.

Footnotes

Here's an example with an OR that also includes a footnote.

** MATH 110	College Algebra	(4)		MATH 102	College Algebra	(4)
				<u>OR</u>		
				MATH 103	Plane Trigonometry	(4)
MATH 103 is an acceptable substitute.						
END OF MAJOR						
** Must be completed with a grade of C or better.						

Footnotes appear at the bottom of a major or department agreement, and contain critical information. In this case, the footnote indicates that the community college course must be completed with a grade of C or better.

Read EVERYTHING

It's tempting to skip over any text and only focus on the side-by-side comparison of the courses. Don't do it! Read every word on the articulation agreement. There are often critical details about selection, eligibility, general education or admission in the text. Many universities also provide additional contact information, like phone numbers or Web site addresses, so you have someone to contact if you have questions. This example from UC Riverside's agreement with Crafton Hills College contains vital information.

Biological Sciences, B.S.

Special Advising Note:

In addition to meeting published UC admission criteria, (described on the UCR transfer web site below) students must also **complete community college courses comparable to at least three of the following year-long sequences** in order to meet selection criteria into this major:

Chemistry 1A-B-C (**mandatory**)
Math 9A-9B
Biology 5A-5B (and Biology 5C, if available)
Physics 2A-2B-2C/2LA-2LB-2LC or 40A-40B-40C
One year of organic chemistry

This major also requires a grade point average of at least 2.70 in all UC transferable course work.

Courses must be completed with a letter grade, with no grade lower than a "C-"

To be best prepared for upper division course work at UCR, students are advised to complete as many as possible of the lower division major requirements listed below prior to transfer, and to prioritize this course work above completion of breadth/general education courses.

The IGETC (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum) is not accepted for majors housed in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. Courses taken for IGETC will be applied to the College's breadth pattern as appropriate. Transfer students who wish to supplement their math and science preparation with humanities or social science courses are encouraged to follow the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences breadth pattern as outlined under ASSIST major titled "GE/Breadth: College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences".

Transfer information, including Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) Program:
www.futurestudents.ucr.edu

Major information: www.biology.ucr.edu

Here's another example of critical text in the articulation. This comment about a grade requirement is in the CSUSB/Crafton Hills articulation for the Music major.

MUS 222	Class Piano III	(1)	MUSIC 135X4	Piano	(2)
Music majors must complete with a grade of "B" or better.					

Not Every Course is Articulated

Not every university course is articulated. In this example, you can see several CSUSB courses that do not have comparable courses at Crafton Hills.

Articulation Agreement by Major					
Effective During the 06-07 Academic Year					
To: CSU San Bernardino			From: Crafton Hills College		
06-07 General Catalog		Quarter	06-07 General Catalog		Semester
MATH 251	Multivariable Calculus I	(4)	MATH 250	Linear Algebra	(5)
MATH 252	Multivariable Calculus II	(4)	MATH 252	Multivariable Calculus	(5)
MATH 262	Applied Statistics	(4)	No Comparable Course		
MATH 272	Discrete Mathematics	(4)	No Comparable Course		
PHYS 150	Introductory Electronics	(5)	No Comparable Course		
PHYS 152	Introduction to Engineering Design	(2)	No Comparable Course		
PHYS 221	General Physics I	(5)	PHYSIC 200	Physics I	(6)
PHYS 222 &	General Physics II	(5)	PHYSIC 201	Physics II	(6)
PHYS 223	General Physics III	(5)			

Since the CSUSB courses are lower-division requirements for the Computer Engineering major, you would need to either complete the courses after you transfer, or find articulated courses at a different community college. There are a number of reasons that a university course may not be articulated at a particular community college: the college may not have a similar program or offer a comparable course, the college may not have submitted a course for consideration, or the university course may be so specific in its nature that students are expected to take it at the university.

University-to-University Articulation Is Not Reciprocal

It's important to know that articulation between universities is not automatically two way. A n example is the articulation between CSU San Bernardino and UC Riverside. If we look at the articulation To: CSUSB and From: UCR for the Art major, you'll see that CSUSB accepts UCR's ART 7 (Intro to Digital Photography) in place of CSUSB's ART 123 (Introduction to Art and Technology).

Articulation Agreement by Major					
Effective During the 05-06 Academic Year					
To: CSU San Bernardino			From: UC Riverside		
05-06 General Catalog		Quarter	05-06 General Catalog		Quarter
ART 123	Introduction to Art and Technology	(4)	ART 7	Intro to Digital Photography	(4)

If you look at the articulation below From: CSUSB and To: UCR, you see that UCR does not accept CSUSB's ART 123 in place of ART 7.

Articulation Agreement by Major					
Effective During the 06-07 Academic Year					
To: UC Riverside			From: CSU San Bernardino		
06-07 General Catalog		Quarter	06-07 General Catalog		Quarter
FVC 7	Intro to Digital Photography	(4)			
	Same as: ART 7				
<u>OR</u>					
ART 7	Intro to Digital Photography	(4)			
	Same as: FVC 7				

Although this overview will help you to better read and understand articulation agreements, you should always get the help of your community college counselor when you are planning courses. They have a wealth of experience and training and access to the details of your individual situation that will help you develop a successful education plan. You should also talk to other academic advisors, especially admissions and departmental advisors at the university, when choosing your courses.