

Project Proposal
ASSIST Enhancements to Implement
the Model Articulation Format
March 18, 2002

Purpose of the Project:

The purpose of this project is to implement changes to ASSIST products to support the Model Articulation Format.

Background:

In the 98-99 ASSIST Strategic Plan, the ASSIST Board of Directors expressed a desire to improve the quality of articulation reflected in ASSIST in various ways including the development of a "Model Articulation Format" so that students would receive more consistent information as they compare information from different institutions. The ASSIST Board asked the California Intersegmental Articulation Council (CIAC) to propose such a model format. In October 2001 CIAC concluded their development and approval of a Model Articulation Format. This format has been forwarded to the ASSIST Board for adoption.

In order to implement some of the features called for in the model format, the ASSIST software needs to be modified. Other features of the model format must be managed by the universities who enter and update articulation agreements.

Customer/Project Needs to be Addressed:

Web ASSIST is the only product available to students, faculty, counselors and others that provides full access to the extensive database of articulation and transfer information contained in ASSIST. As California's official repository of transfer and articulation information, ASSIST is a key academic planning and evaluation tool for California transfer students. The ASSIST Board of Directors (as the oversight body for ASSIST) wants to help students receive consistent information on articulation agreements so that students can more easily compare the articulation from different universities.

Proposed New/Modified Products:

To support the Model Articulation Format, this proposal calls for the enhancement of 1) the Web ASSIST user interface, 2) the articulation agreement reports accessed via Web ASSIST and the Articulation Maintenance Reports system, and 3) the ASSIST Articulation Maintenance Data Entry system.

Initial analysis by the Coordination Site has concluded that the changes to current ASSIST products will be minimal and will not dramatically change the overall functioning of ASSIST. No new ASSIST products will need to be developed to support the Model Articulation Format.

Affected Customers and Benefits:

All current and future users of Web ASSIST will be affected to some degree by these changes. The enhancements will make articulation agreements presented by Web ASSIST more consistent. It should be noted that many of the changes that may be required to bring a university's articulation into compliance with the Model Articulation Format must be handled by the university staff who enter data into ASSIST. It should also be noted that the Model Articulation Format is a recommended format and that universities are not required to comply.

A few minor enhancements to ASSIST for the Model Articulation Format will affect the ASSIST Articulation Maintenance data entry system. Current and future ASSIST data entry users at universities will need to understand these changes.

Costs:

This enhancement of the Web ASSIST software will be conducted by existing Coordination Site staff under their current duties and workload. No additional staffing, software or hardware resources are anticipated.

Schedule:

The Coordination Site is targeting December 2002 for completing enhancements to support the Model Articulation Format.