

Project Proposal

UC Dual Admissions Program – ASSIST DAP Compendium

January 27, 2003 - DRAFT

Purpose of the Project:

The purpose of this project is to design, develop, and implement a web-based system for students and counselors to 1) explore which colleges, universities, majors, and courses are available to students interested in the UC Dual Admissions Program (DAP), and 2) identify courses for student DAP Contracts which specify the Community College courses individual students are to take prior to transfer to their selected UC campus and major. These new features will be integrated into the UC DAP web site and the public ASSIST web site as appropriate.

Background:

The University of California recently adopted a dual admissions program (DAP) that will allow top-performing California high school students to become eligible to attend a UC campus. DAP will grant UC admission to students in the top 4% to 12.5% of the class in their own high school who are not initially eligible for UC admission, provided they first complete a transfer program at a California Community College in their freshman and sophomore years of college.

Students identified in the top 4% to 12.5% of their high school class will receive both an admissions offer from a California Community College and a UC campus during their senior year of high school. After successfully fulfilling their freshman and sophomore requirements at the community college, these students will transfer to a UC campus to complete their upper-division studies and earn a UC degree. Students who agree to participate in DAP will have up to four years to complete their freshman and sophomore requirements at a Community College before transferring to a UC campus.

One component of DAP will be a web site where students can learn about and apply for the program and where DAP students can go to get specific information about their participation. DAP students will need to know what Community College courses they must take to meet admissions and lower division major requirements for their approved UC campus and major. This information is included in articulation agreements that are established between individual pairs of colleges and universities by their respective faculty. Students also need to know which Community College courses meet the UC transfer admissions requirements. This information is included in UC Transferable Course Agreements established by the UC Office of the President (UCOP).

The Articulation System Stimulating Interinstitutional Student Transfer (ASSIST) is California's official repository for course articulation information. All universities maintain in ASSIST the most current official articulation agreements established with

California Community Colleges. ASSIST also includes other important course articulation information such as the official lists of which Community College courses are transferable to UC campuses, which UC transferable Community College courses meet UC transfer admissions requirements, and which Community College courses are approved for the IGETC program.

Customer/Project Needs to be Addressed:

Since all current articulation is maintained in ASSIST, and UC does not want to duplicate the work of ASSIST for DAP, UC seeks to leverage their investment in ASSIST and integrate aspects of ASSIST into the DAP web site so that students and counselors can research and build their DAP Contract using information from ASSIST. However, while ASSIST includes all of the information UC requires for DAP, the ASSIST web site is not currently designed for navigating the data in a manner that would meet the needs of DAP students.

The current ASSIST web site provides only a single path to an articulation agreement. For example, ASSIST users must choose an institution and academic year first, then the other institution involved in the agreement, and then a major before seeing the desired articulation. This design makes it difficult for students and counselors to browse across articulation from different perspectives such as major, university, or colleges in a region.

It should be noted that while UC has placed a priority on articulating the top 20 majors at each UC campus with all California Community Colleges, individual colleges do not necessarily have sufficient resources or demand to offer all of the lower division courses that every UC campus requires for all of their majors. This situation results in articulation gaps where a student may have to attend multiple Community Colleges in their region in order to complete all of the lower division requirements for a university major. Students and counselors need an easier way to identify these gaps and determine a combination of courses from one or more colleges that will comprise their DAP Contract.

For the purpose of researching possibilities for DAP students, users would like to be able to start from one of several perspectives such as a standard set of majors, a region of Community Colleges, or a specific UC campus. Users would like to be able to see an overview of which colleges offer courses for a certain university or major. Users would also like to see the final articulation for a specific UC campus and major with a number of Community Colleges presented in a matrix form for easy comparison.

UC seeks to have ASSIST staff develop a more robust web interface for ASSIST which meets these various needs. Such a new web interface for accessing existing ASSIST information must be able to be seamlessly integrated with the DAP web site so that students and counselors are able to move easily among DAP and ASSIST features without perceiving any difference.

UC and ASSIST staff also seek to have these new ASSIST capabilities integrated with the current ASSIST web site so that all ASSIST users can benefit from these new ways of navigating across articulation.

Just as these new ASSIST capabilities will be integrated into the UCOP DAP web site, they should be able to be integrated into CSUCO and CCCCCO web sites that may require such features in the future.

Proposed New/Modified Products:

This proposal recommends that new capabilities be added to ASSIST which will provide the following features:

- 1) Allow users to easily navigate across articulation information from various perspectives such as major, university, college, and college region.
- 2) Present users with a summary of which colleges in a region offer complete or partial lower division major preparation for university majors. This may require enhancements to the ASSIST Articulation Maintenance System for university articulation staff to specify on a per college/major basis whether lower division articulation is complete, partial, or empty.
- 3) Present users with a matrix of articulation for a specified university and major across multiple colleges which allows users to compare courses and requirements.
- 4) Provide a way for users to select individual college courses that will comprise their DAP Contract.
- 5) Integrate any new features with the existing public ASSIST web site and the ASSIST Articulation Maintenance System Reports web site as appropriate.
- 6) Allow UCOP to integrate ASSIST features with the DAP web site using UC graphics and color schemes.
- 7) Allow other authorized agencies to integrate ASSIST features with their web sites using their own graphics and color schemes.
- 8) Other features that the UC DAP Advisory Committee deems essential.

UCOP is currently forming the UC DAP Advisory Committee to help guide the full implementation of DAP. It is proposed that ASSIST staff work collaboratively with this advisory committee to develop proposed functional requirements for specific ASSIST DAP Compendium features. These proposed requirements would be sent to the ASSIST Board of Directors for formal review and approval prior to any work commencing on the programming of new ASSIST DAP Compendium features by ASSIST Coordination Site staff.

Affected Customers and Benefits:

There are two primary customer groups who will benefit from these new features.

1) Prospective DAP Students and DAP Counselors

Prospective DAP students and counselors will be able to use these new features in order to research and establish student DAP Contracts. With these new features they will be able to more easily navigate the complex and numerous articulation agreements established by universities to determine which Community College courses can be taken to fully meet lower division university major requirements prior to transfer. They will also be able to know which colleges offer some or all of the courses to meet lower division requirements for university majors.

2) General ASSIST Student, Faculty, and Staff Users

All current and future students, faculty and staff who use ASSIST will benefit as the new features described above are integrated into the existing ASSIST web site to provide enhanced site navigation and comparing of articulation across multiple colleges.

A study conducted by ASSIST in 2000 showed that students, especially those without any exposure to articulation and transfer policies, have a hard time navigating ASSIST and making sense of the various articulation information. By providing these new feature, students will be able to more easily navigate and understand articulation information which is key to their success in a smooth transfer process. This will help to partially address one of the current goals in the ASSIST Strategic Plan which is aimed at making ASSIST easier for students to use.

Costs:

The ASSIST DAP Compendium is proposed under the University of California's Dual Admissions Program implementation which has a corresponding budget allocation within UCOP. Initially \$100,000 has been budgeted for ASSIST in order to develop the DAP Compendium and to support the increased web site activity and data maintenance related to DAP.

Upon approval of this initial proposal by the ASSIST Board of Directors, the ASSIST Coordination Site will begin working with UCOP staff and the UC DAP Advisory Committee to develop ideas for ASSIST DAP Compendium features. ASSIST staff will then draft proposed functional requirements for these features, obtain approval from UCOP and the UC DAP Advisory Committee, and submit them to the ASSIST Board for review and adoption. No new ASSIST Coordination Site staff are proposed under this first phase of this proposal.

After ASSIST Board adoption of the functional requirements for any approved new features, the ASSIST Coordination Site will provide UCOP with a proposed budget for development, implementation, data maintenance, and operation costs. Upon UCOP approval and funding, the ASSIST Coordination Site will commence with the development of the DAP Compendium and provide regular updates to the ASSIST Board as required in the ASSIST Software Development Framework process.

Schedule:

UC is targeting November 2003 for activating the DAP web site along with the ASSIST DAP Compendium features. In order to meet this target, it is suggested that the ASSIST Board approve this proposal, with any needed modifications, by February 7, 2003 so that work can begin as soon as possible.

The ASSIST Coordination Site would target proposing specific ASSIST DAP Compendium Functional Requirements to the ASSIST Board for approval at their May 19, 2003 meeting.

The amount of time required for programming, testing, and implementation cannot be estimated at this time because the functional requirements have not been defined.