

**Summary of User Needs
From Breakout Session at ASSIST Conference
December 2004**

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Two of the breakout sessions at the 2004 ASSIST Conference were dedicated to discussions of additions or modifications to ASSIST that would help to better meet the needs of users. The following is a summary of the items discussed. The listing does not represent any order of priority by users:

- Put Exploring Majors function first on opening page –
 - Users seemed to think that putting this item first might help students see important information more easily
- Integration of ASSIST and Exploring Majors so they are not seen as two distinct paths –
 - Something that would better integrate the information so users would not choose between two paths. Implementation of this idea would negate the need for the suggestion above
- Indicate what ASSIST stands for –
 - The opening page of ASSIST never says what ASSIST stands for
- Go to format of multiple windows for reports, not have it come up in the center of the page –
 - Currently, when users request a report from ASSIST, the system works in two different ways. If the user is in the Exploring Majors component, the system opens the report in a separate window. In this way, multiple reports can be brought up and the information easily compared. In the articulation component the report request appears in the center frame of ASSIST. Only one report can be shown at a time. Users like the idea of multiple windows better so articulation can be easily compared.
- Order campus names by type or cross-reference –
 - Users indicated that it was often difficult to find campus names, especially for campuses in ASSIST lists and that organizing them by type of institution rather than alphabetically might help
- Add community college to community college articulation –
 - This has been an ongoing topic for ASSIST since its inception. The Articulation Maintenance System of ASSIST is set up for community college to community college articulation. The issue involves resources at community colleges since they would need to do the work.

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- Add summary information about all known articulation for a course –
 - There was a discussion of the benefits of a maintenance report which would show a summary of all information contained in ASSIST about a specific course: IGETC, CSU GE/Breadth, American Ideals, UC Transferability, and all articulation for the course. This is similar to a feature in the Revelation version of ASSIST called the Single Course Query
- Advanced search ability –
 - The ability for users to do custom searches on the ASSIST database for various purposes
- Add UC/CSU GE/Breadth patterns
- If college has no articulation with university, note that there is no articulation, don't leave off list
- Ability to change fonts and colors
- To and From before campuses in list
- Matrix of Articulation
- Advance User Interface – set of utilities for counselors, evaluators that are not available to students
- Community College a-g Course Lists
- Integration of the CSU LDTP project course articulation
- Hyperlinks in text so can go directly to campus web sites
- Display of CAN catalog information
- Better Error Correction/Late Additions form to help us understand what user wants