

At their June 6, 2005 meeting, the ASSIST Board directed the ASSIST Board Workgroup to plan and conduct a series of expanded Workgroup meetings (with representative CCC, CSU, and UC articulation officers) in the Fall to discuss related issues and develop a “Matrix of Articulation Project Proposal” by December 2005 (so that it can be reviewed at the January 2006 ASSIST Board Strategic Planning Retreat). The Board asked for an update on the status of this activity at their next full meeting in October 2005.

On September 19, 2005 the expanded workgroup met and included the following representatives:

CCC

Deanna Abma – Articulation Officer (City College of San Francisco)  
Heidi Lockhart – CCC Transfer Center Directors Association (Fullerton College)  
Phil Smith – Academic Senate CCC (American River College)  
Jeff Spano – CCCCCO

CSU

Barbara Hooper – Articulation Officer (CSU Fullerton)  
Barbara Pereida – Articulation Officer (CSU LA)  
Judy Osman – CSUCO

UC

Barbara Hoblitzell – UCOP  
The LaBrenz – Articulation Officer (UC Riverside)  
Barbara Love – Articulation Officer (UC Santa Cruz)

ASSIST

Larry Coon  
Dale Leaman  
Cathy Robin  
Eric Taggart

The group began by reviewing and discussing a proposal from the CCC regional articulation representatives to develop a matrix of articulation in ASSIST (this proposal was referenced at the ASSIST Board meeting in June). The proposal aimed to address a variety of needs related to articulation development/management, transfer student advising, and curriculum development. Reviewing the proposed samples raised numerous issues. Many issues were related to the fact that official articulation can be complex and multi-faceted, offering information on all possible uses of courses to satisfy university requirements. When this information is distilled to facilitate advising or to present in a matrix format, important information can often be lost that results in an unintentional effect of providing students with inaccurate information.

The group then discussed past efforts to develop a matrix of articulation, noting that ASSIST originally included a Matrix of Articulation feature and a Single Course Query feature. Both of these features were eventually removed from ASSIST because of the problems associated with distilling comprehensive articulation into other formats. The group also discussed advising sheets that many colleges prepare and noted many of the

same problems. However, the group agreed that there is a clear desire to communicate articulation in more concise ways, and while advising sheets and articulation matrices do not reflect official university articulation, most colleges are reluctant to stop producing them. In the long run, it would be beneficial to many constituents if ASSIST could provide a feature that helped students and counselors compare articulation and requirements across institutions.

After further discussion of the specific proposal, the group agreed that what was being requested was more of a comprehensive single course articulation report, rather than an actual matrix of articulation.

The group then began discussing what needs the following customer groups might have related to a matrix of articulation:

- Articulation Officers
- College instructional faculty
- University instructional faculty
- College students
- University students
- Counseling/advising personnel

In discussing customer needs, the following five tools were suggested:

- Course search across colleges and universities
  - (title keywords, units, transferability, IGETC/CSU-GE, etc.)
- Single Course Articulation Lookup
  - Show all statewide and campus-specific articulation for a given college or university course (including all instances of college-to-university articulation across the State where the course is referenced)
  - For each instance of articulation, include a link to the complete, official articulation agreement to facilitate better understanding of the full context of the information
- College-to-University Articulation Matrix
  - Comparing courses from one college across multiple universities for a specified major, department, or other set of courses
- University-to-College Articulation Matrix
  - Comparing courses from one university across multiple colleges for a specified major, department, or other set of courses
- Articulation Gap Report
  - Show where course and/or major articulation does not exist between colleges and universities

The group then focused on describing how the first two tools might work – a course search and a single course articulation lookup. The group agreed that these two tools should only be accessible to articulation officers and college/university faculty because the results could be too easily misconstrued to imply incorrect articulation to someone who is not familiar with how articulation actually works. Both tools would be extremely useful to faculty and articulation officers to facilitate the development of new

articulation, program reviews, and other curricular/articulation processes. Since the single course articulation lookup tool would only be showing information for one course at one college or university, it would be able to present the information in a more acceptable format than a true matrix of articulation (where multiple courses/institutions are being compared). However, the group agreed that the reports from this tool should include sufficient caveats on each page to communicate that the information is not the complete, official articulation. Many additional details were suggested and Coordination Site staff took comprehensive notes.

In discussing details of the various articulation matrix tools, the group uncovered many further issues and agreed that there was not a simple solution. Articulation agreements include too much information that when presented in a matrix format must either be distilled down or presented in a way that takes up too much space and makes it unusable. Other ideas will need to be developed to support students and counselors in comparing multiple colleges, universities, and majors. It was noted that once the CSU LDTP course articulation is fully established there may be an opportunity to design a matrix tool to present that specific articulation in a useful and acceptable manner. And, the Streamlining UC Articulation project may result in information that can be presented in a matrix format. These ideas may lead to a more general purpose tool, but the group suggested an incremental approach in pursuing such capabilities.

Since the group agreed that:

- the first two tools (a course search and a single course articulation lookup) would be very beneficial,
- the Coordination Site noted that their development would be fairly straight forward, and
- there were significant issues to work out with actual matrix of articulation tools

it was agreed to put the matrix of articulation tools on hold and propose the first two tools to the ASSIST Board.

The Coordination Site will begin work on developing a project proposal for the course search and single course articulation lookup features. A draft will be shared with the group and then forwarded to the full Board for review and approval.