

ASSIST Board of Directors
Discussion Item
Complete Course Lists Vs. Transferable Course Lists
April, 1997

ISSUE:

ASSIST has always required participating institutions to provide complete course curriculum information for the database. This data is updated each term in which the institution has changes to the course file and thereby reflects an historical listing of curricular changes. There were two primary purposes for this data: 1) ensure the accuracy of transcript and degree requirement data for use in the ASSIST Progress Check and 2) provide accurate information about curricular and course changes for use in entering articulation agreements.

Several colleges have requested that since the course lists are no longer needed for the Progress Check function, that ASSIST now only require information on transferable courses used in articulation. The reason for this request is that many schools still have difficulty in getting accurate course list information from their campus system. There is a belief that if a subset of courses was required, the data could more easily be maintained by hand.

RECOMMENDATION:

The ASSIST Coordination Site is not supportive of the request to change the required course list information. Since the ASSIST Board of Directors has not yet defined the parameters for a future transcript analysis tool to be available through ASSIST, it may be likely that complete course list data will remain beneficial. We would not want to change the requirement for short term benefit and find out that in the long term we did more harm than good. Additionally, many of the participating universities are interested in using the course list data for non-transferable courses in their degree audit programs. Currently, ASSIST is a source for that data.