

# Review of ASSIST Links on California Community College Web Sites - 2004

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## Background

In January, 2003, the ASSIST Coordination Site evaluated California Community College web sites to see how many included a link to ASSIST. Colleges with a link to ASSIST were evaluated to see how easy the link was to find and whether contextual information was provided so students would understand the data they found in ASSIST.

The results of the 2003 review of community college web sites showed that 31 web sites did not have a link to ASSIST. Some sites that had a link did not explain what ASSIST is. In addition, many sites used transfer terminology familiar to articulation officers and counselors without explaining it to students. Of the 108 sites reviewed last year, only 8 sites had an easy to find link that was appropriately placed and that explained the transfer process, articulation, and how ASSIST is useful to transfer students.

## 2004 Project Update

It's been over a year since the ASSIST Coordination Site evaluated community college web sites and contacted community colleges about adding a link to ASSIST and/or language about articulation.

Recently, the ASSIST Coordination Site again reviewed the California Community College web sites (May 2004) to find out the following information about the sites:

1. How many schools that previously did not have links to ASSIST have added links to their web pages?
2. How many sites with links to ASSIST use the language provided last year describing ASSIST?
3. How many sites include an explanation of articulation?
4. How many sites include links to ASSIST on their Transfer Center or other transfer-related pages?
5. How many related web sites (i.e. CSU Mentor, UC Pathways, etc.) include links to ASSIST with appropriate explanations of ASSIST and articulation for students?

## Findings

A breakdown of the colleges that do and don't have links to ASSIST is provided below. A list of the college names in each category is provided at the end of this report. On many sites, there are several ASSIST links. In most cases, only the path to the link through the Transfer Center or transfer-related pages is provided.

**CCC** sites with a link and good information about ASSIST and articulation: 18

**CCC** sites with a link and acceptable information about ASSIST and articulation: 23  
Acceptable information means there is text providing at least some information about ASSIST and articulation.

**CCC** sites with a link but no information or minimal information: 53

**CCC** sites with no link to ASSIST: 15

### ***How many schools that previously did not have links to ASSIST have added links to their web pages?***

In 2003, 31 sites had no link to ASSIST. In 2004, all but 8 of those sites now have links. In many cases, however, the link is all there is; no language is provided explaining ASSIST or articulation. So 23 schools that previously did not have a link to ASSIST now include a link to ASSIST on their web site. (Unfortunately, some schools with links last year don't have them this year, which is why the number of schools without links is 15 instead of 8.)

### ***How many sites with links to ASSIST use the language provided or other adequate language describing ASSIST?***

18 sites include language that adequately describes ASSIST. Seven sites use the language provided by the ASSIST Coordination Site last year. Most of the other sites use the language from the ASSIST Information Center (included on the following pages). Other sites use their own language or some blending of language from ASSIST Web sites.

Last year's study showed that many sites had a link to ASSIST but did not help students understand the purpose of ASSIST. As a result, the ASSIST Coordination Site provided language to community colleges describing ASSIST and articulation and requested that the colleges include a link to ASSIST with this information on the transfer pages of their web sites. The wording provided is shown below:

#### **ASSIST**

As a prospective transfer student, it is important to make sure that the community college courses you take are acceptable to the university for transfer credit. ASSIST is California's official statewide repository of transfer information for the California State University and University of California university systems. ASSIST offers easy access to a single articulation database. ASSIST will help you determine if you will receive credit for courses you've already taken or plan to take and how those courses apply to a specific academic major or general education requirement.

### **Articulation Agreements**

Articulation agreements identify coursework completed at one institution that meets the requirements of another institution for major preparation, general education, or transferable units. Most articulation agreements are between a community college and a university, but there can be agreements between two community colleges or two universities.

Interestingly, the majority of the sites that include language describing ASSIST use other language found on the *About ASSIST* page of the *ASSIST Information Center*. By far, the most commonly used language to describe ASSIST on community college web sites is the following paragraph:

ASSIST is a computerized student-transfer information system that can be accessed over the World Wide Web. It displays reports of how course credits earned at one California college or university can be applied when transferred to another. ASSIST is the official repository of articulation for California's colleges and universities and therefore provides the most accurate and up-to-date information available about student transfer in California.

### ***How many sites include an explanation of articulation?***

41 community colleges have some kind of description of articulation, although the descriptions vary quite a bit in detail and clarity.

### ***How many sites include links to ASSIST on Transfer Center or other transfer-related pages?***

A total of 94 community college web sites have links to ASSIST. 86 of these sites include links to ASSIST on transfer-related web pages. The remaining 8 colleges have placed links on counseling pages.

### ***How many related web sites include links to ASSIST with appropriate explanations of ASSIST and articulation for students?***

There is literally no change from last year with regards to links on these sites. The web sites reviewed include:

- CPEC      Includes a link but no description
- CSU Mentor      Includes a link to ASSIST with some discussion of articulation and a recommendation to use ASSIST to look up articulation agreements.
- UC Pathways      Two links to ASSIST. Articulation language not geared for students.
- CCCApply.org      No link to ASSIST.
- CaliforniaColleges.edu      No link to ASSIST.
- California Virtual Campus      Includes ASSIST Information Center description of ASSIST.

CCCapply and CaliforniaColleges.edu do not have links to ASSIST. The other sites, CSU Mentor, UC Pathways, CPEC, and California Virtual Campus have links with mediocre information.

## **Conclusion**

Overall, there is a great improvement in the number of sites that now have links to ASSIST. A total of 94 of the 109 California Community Colleges currently have links to ASSIST. Also, many of the web sites have added the language the ASSIST Coordination Site sent out last year or other appropriate language describing ASSIST and articulation. However, there is still room for improvement:

- Many sites have a link to ASSIST but nothing more. There is no information to help students understand the information that ASSIST provides and how it can help them with transfer planning.
- Although a link to ASSIST may be present with all of the information provided, it may be difficult to find. In several cases, the ASSIST link could only be found by using the search feature included on the site. Even though a link was found using the search feature, no path was found leading to the link. It's possible that the ASSIST link found by the search was on a page in the directory to which there was no current link on the site.
- Some sites have transfer documents in PDF form and the ASSIST web address is only mentioned in those documents. That is, there is not a clickable link to ASSIST so that it would be unlikely that a student would find the reference and then type it into a browser to go to the site.

The ASSIST Coordination Site staff will continue to work with the community colleges to make information about ASSIST on their web sites understandable and easy to find. Colleges without links to ASSIST will be asked to include a link to ASSIST on their web sites. The ACS will again provide language describing ASSIST and articulation to help these schools comply. Schools with incorrect links or links to outdated ASSIST pages will also be contacted.

## Community College Breakdown List

### CCC sites with a link and good information about ASSIST and articulation: 18

Butte  
Cabrillo  
Chaffey  
Citrus  
Cosumnes  
El Camino  
Fresno City  
Grossmont  
Imperial Valley  
Irvine Valley  
Lake Tahoe  
Modesto  
Monterey Peninsula  
Moorpark  
Palomar  
San Francisco City  
Santa Barbara  
Santa Rosa

### CCC sites with a link and acceptable information about ASSIST and articulation: 23

Cañada  
Crafton Hills  
Evergreen  
Feather River  
Foothill  
Fullerton  
Long Beach City  
Los Angeles Mission  
Mira Costa  
Napa Valley  
Palo Verde  
Pasadena City  
Reedley  
Riverside  
Saddleback  
San Diego Mesa  
San Diego Miramar  
Santa Monica  
Santiago Canyon  
Shasta  
Ventura  
Victor Valley  
Vista

CCC sites with a link but no information or minimal information: 53

Allan Hancock  
American River  
Bakersfield  
Barstow  
Cerritos  
Cerro Coso  
Chabot  
Coastline  
College of the Desert  
College of the Redwoods  
College of the Sequoias  
College of the Siskiyous  
Columbia  
Contra Costa  
Copper Mountain  
Cuesta  
Cuyamaca  
Cypress  
De Anza  
Diablo Valley  
Folsom Lake  
Gavilan  
Glendale  
Golden West  
Hartnell  
Laney  
Las Positas  
Los Angeles City  
Los Angeles Harbor  
Los Angeles Pierce  
Los Angeles Valley  
Los Medanos  
Marin  
Mendocino  
Merced  
Merritt  
Mission  
Mt. San Antonio  
Mt. San Jacinto  
Ohlone  
Orange Coast  
Porterville  
Rio Hondo  
Sacramento City  
San Jose City  
San Mateo  
Santa Ana  
Sierra  
Skyline  
Taft

West Hills  
West Valley  
Yuba

**CCC sites with no ASSIST link: 15**

Alameda  
Antelope Valley  
College of the Canyons  
Compton  
East Los Angeles  
Lassen  
Los Angeles Southwest  
Los Angeles Trade-Tech  
Oxnard  
San Bernardino  
San Diego City  
San Joaquin Delta  
Solano  
Southwestern  
West Los Angeles