



ARTICULATION AND TRANSFER FOR ARIZONA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
by the Arizona Board of Regents
and the Arizona Community Colleges





LEADING TRANSFER FOR ARIZONA

The Academic Program Articulation Steering Committee (APASC) is the coordinating body of Arizona's statewide articulation and transfer system, providing programs and resources that link the state's public and tribal community colleges and universities. APASC projects like AZTransfer.com support statewide goals to increase the number of degree holders in Arizona.

APASC is guided by representatives from each of our universities, the Arizona Board of Regents and rural and urban community college academic representatives.

The organization is led by an Executive Director, Dr. Carol Spencer; a Director of Technology, Rebecca McKay; a Director of ASSIST, Melinda Gebel and a Director of Marketing, Erin Woodell. A full organizational chart can be found at www.apascaz.org.

Resources to support these efforts are generously provided by the Arizona Legislature and Arizona's public and tribal community colleges and three state universities.

IT'S WORKING

In 1996 the Arizona Legislature charged our universities, community colleges, and Board of Regents to collaborate to develop ways for students to seamlessly transfer from community colleges to universities. Meeting the higher education needs of our state was and is a priority of these three bodies. The Academic Program Articulation Steering Committee (APASC) was formed as the cooperative body to carry out this charge.

In accordance with ARS 15-1824, APASC, on behalf of the community colleges and Arizona Board of Regents, prepares an annual report to the legislature on the progress toward improving articulation and transfer. This report is the most recent and presents major accomplishments in 2011-2012 and a brief description of activities and used in Arizona articulation.

TRANSFERS AND GRADUATES ON THE RISE

The number of baccalaureate degrees awarded to transfer students at our three universities continues to rise (figure 1). Among those graduates, the number of students entering the university with an Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) or an Associate's degree has nearly doubled.

AGECs are blocks of general education courses completed at a community college that are transferred as a whole to a university. The AGEC enables students to minimize loss of credits and facilitates quick and dependable transferability. APASC continues to work to facilitate pathways that maximize the number of transferable credits for community college students.

Students from a wide variety of disciplines are transferring (figure 2). Areas with the greatest percentage of transfers include Business and related fields, Education, and Health Professions.

FIGURE 1

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS ENTERING AS NEW TRANSFERS FROM ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

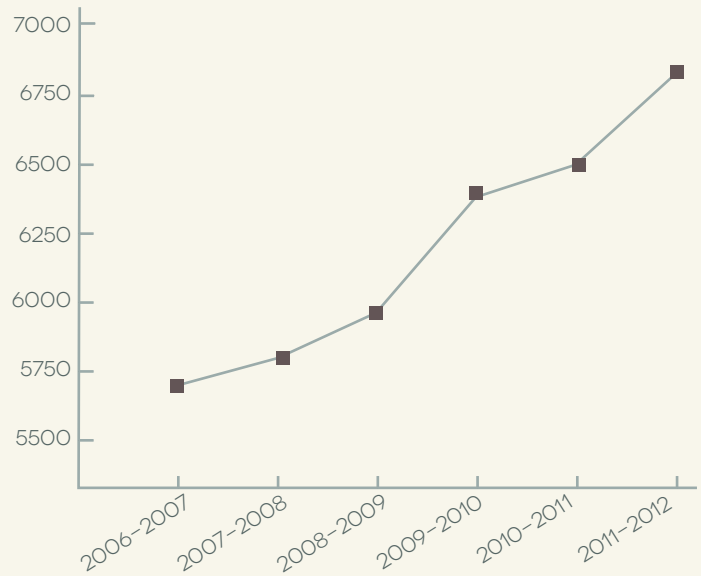


FIGURE 3

NEW TRANSFERS FROM ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CREDITS TRANSFERRED AT ENTRY

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
TOTAL NEW AZCC TRANSFERS	8,282	8,455	8,974	9,201	9,777	10,141
TRANSFER HOURS AT ENTRY						
12 TO 23 HOURS	9.2%	9.2%	9.8%	8.7%	8.1%	6.8%
24 TO 34 HOURS	10.7%	10.9%	11%	10.4%	10.1%	8.0%
35 TO 59 HOURS	36.8%	37.3%	36.7%	34.8%	31.0%	30.5%
60 OR MORE HOURS	43.3%	42.6%	42.5%	46.1%	50.8%	54.7%

FIGURE 2

TOP MAJORS SELECTED AT ARIZONA PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES BY NEW TRANSFERS FROM ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN 2011-2012



MORE STUDENTS ARE TRANSFERRING MORE CREDITS

During the 2011-2012 academic year, 10,141 Arizona community college transfer students entered Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, and Northern Arizona University (figure 4). This is an increase of 22.4% since 2006-2007.

Looking at the number of credit hours transferred to a university, the number of students with 60 or more hours increased significantly since 2006-2007 (figure 3). In the 2011-2012 academic year, 54.7% of new transfer students entered the university system with 60 or more community college hours, a nearly 10% increase over 2006-2007.

APASC and Arizona's postsecondary institutions serve a diverse set of students (figure 5). Transfer students represent a broad cross section of our state's population with ethnic minorities accounting for 36% of the student population.

FIGURE 4

NEW TRANSFERS FROM ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

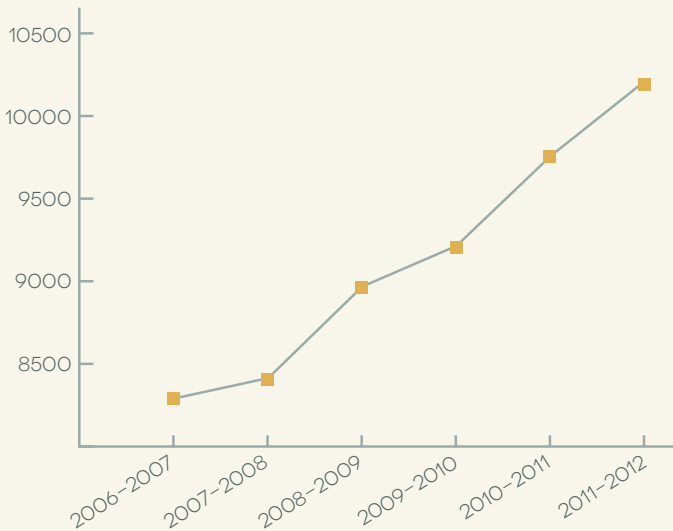


FIGURE 5

NEW TRANSFERS FROM ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGES 2011-2012 ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION



WHITE - 62% ASIAN AMERICAN - 4% UNKNOWN - 1%
HISPANIC - 23% AMERICAN INDIAN - 4%
AFRICAN AMERICAN - 5% INTERNATIONAL - 1%

IT'S A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

APASC is the convener. We work with faculty and curriculum leaders from every public and tribal community college and university in Arizona.

Each academic discipline has an Articulation Task Force (ATF) comprised of faculty from each college and university. These ATFs meet annually to agree on articulated courses, review transfer agreements, and make recommendations on test scores. APASC schedules these meetings and provides the organizational tools, technological back up, support, and documentation. This year, 1,627 faculty and academic advisors served on one or more ATFs.

Each ATF meeting is assisted by Institutional Articulation Facilitators (IAFs) from across the state. Each community college and university has one or more designated IAFs. In 2012, 21 individuals served as IAFs and collaborated with ATFs and APASC to ensure that the Arizona transfer system works.

APASC's work enables community colleges and universities to develop pathways for students to help them plan their higher education career. Agreements and tools developed by our community colleges and universities use the foundation agreements made within APASC to fine tune their more institutionally focused transfer programs.

Arizona State University (ASU) and the Maricopa County Community College District developed the Maricopa to ASU Pathways Program (MAPP). ASU also offers the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program with other community colleges statewide. Northern Arizona University (NAU) implemented a joint admission program with most community colleges called CC2NAU to increase student retention and completion of a baccalaureate degree. The University of Arizona (UA) is developing specific transfer pathways with community colleges, clear four-year plans for community college transfer to UA for all UA majors on the Degree Search website, and completion options for students in their region of the state. All of these programs depend on the foundation provided by ATFs and the statewide transfer degrees.

APASC continues to be an active partner in the Lumina Foundation Grant GettingAHEAD (Access to Higher Education and Degrees), and the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Both of these activities focus on the critical links between levels of education and smoothing the transition for students by improving advising, career planning, financing models, coordination of governance, and assessment.

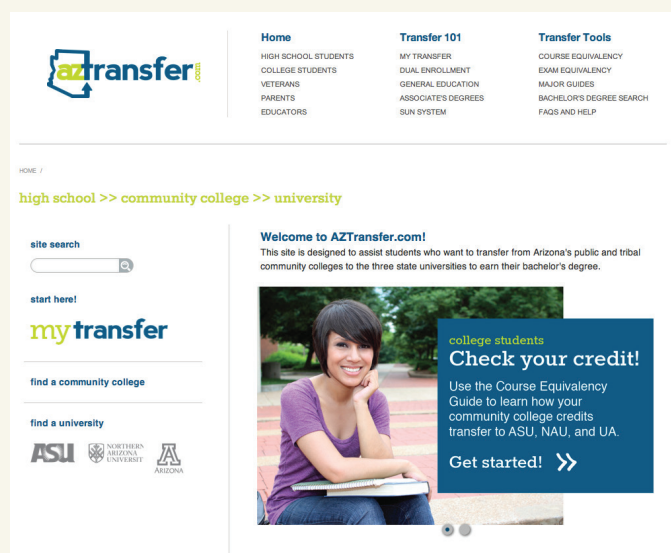
WE'RE REACHING OUT

Students and families are planning for college earlier and more intentionally than they have in the past. That provides APASC and all of our colleges and universities opportunities to interact with students sooner and more frequently. But it also requires us to be well prepared for those opportunities.

A major effort this year was to redesign the AZTransfer website to make it more student-focused and contemporary (figure 6). This website is our primary tool to interact with students, families, academic advisors and high school counselors. The site was designed to provide access to APASC information as well as the Arizona community colleges and universities. With assistance from our constituent groups we rolled out the new website in August of this year. We invite you to visit the site and do some “exploring” of Arizona higher education and transfer opportunities.

FIGURE 6

NEW DESIGN OF AZTRANSFER.COM



A new partnership this year opened doors to reach students early in the educational planning process. As a Resource Member of the Arizona School Counselors' Association, AZTransfer was able to participate in their College Relations Council Fall High School Visitation Tour and directly interact with thousands of high school juniors, seniors, and their families. This annual statewide tour is an organized effort for representatives from postsecondary institutions to come together and provide information to students.

An AZTransfer representative attended 43 high school events across Arizona throughout September and October, some of which incorporated multiple schools in one event. Students were given information

about AZTransfer.com and had the opportunity to ask questions. During the tour, over 1,500 student e-mail addresses were collected. After the tour, a follow-up e-mail was sent to each of the students.

The marketing campaign also included television and internet advertising corresponding with the high school football season. The AZ Transfer of the Game campaign on Cox Cable made nearly 200,000 impressions to residents in Phoenix and Tucson.

TOOLS TO HELP

APASC develops and supports a number of technology based tools that assist students and their advisors as they plan the academic journey.

AZTransfer.com features many interactive tools including the Course Equivalency Guide (CEG) and Exam Equivalency Guide (EEG). Using the CEG, students can easily research the transferability of their courses. The EEG visually shows students how their Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exam scores are accepted at Arizona's community colleges and universities.

MyTransfer is another popular tool on AZTransfer.com that allows students to develop a customized academic plan and pathway. After answering a few questions about their desired major, what university they want to attend, and what postsecondary education they have already completed, students are pointed to resources to help them complete their plan.

In 2012 APASC and the Arizona higher education community launched the Shared Unique Numbering system (SUN) that identifies courses that all institutions accept for transfer under a single course number. This system gives transferable courses a unique identity that increases their visibility to students.

The Arizona State System for Information on Student Transfer (ASSIST) is a key part of APASC. It has the ability to collect and use data to inform both colleges and universities as well as our public audience. Community colleges use ASSIST data to track persistence, time to degree, GPAs and majors. The data are also used for compliance and reporting purposes. Universities use ASSIST data to generate system wide reports on transfers, baccalaureate degrees and persistence rates. ASSIST data are also used to conduct a wide range of reports focusing on transfer students and their enrollment patterns and successes.



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