

## AA/AS Transfer Major Proposal

Drafted October 18, 2017 – Revised post-CAO Mtg, November 15, 2017

FOR IACCP APPROVAL – December 6, 2017

**APPROVAL GRANTED UNANIMOUSLY – Dec. 6, 2017**

### Existing Framework for the Transfer of AA and AS Programs of Study:

Each of Iowa's community colleges has a state-approved Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degree program consisting of 60-64 semester credits. The distribution of credits by discipline and specific transfer requirements are provided in Iowa's statewide articulation agreements reviewed annually by the Liaison Advisory Committee on Transfer Students (LACTS) and published in the *Public Connection*. Courses within the AA and AS degree programs transfer to Iowa's public universities as stipulated in the agreements; however, there is no guarantee they will transfer as direct equivalents for required courses within a student's chosen field of study (major).

### Proposed Enhancements – AA/AS Transfer Majors:

Establish a policy framework which permits community colleges to adopt *Transfer Majors* which improve student recruitment and success (e.g., structured sets of courses, identification of a cohort, courses of interest and relevance); improve advising; and enhance transferability of associate-level courses into aligned baccalaureate degree programs. These programs will consist of discipline-specific "core" courses designed to provide students with a common foundation of knowledge and credits that seamlessly transfer into aligned baccalaureate programs at Iowa public universities.

### Proposed Framework and Rules of a Transfer Major:

1. Contains a minimum of 18 core semester credits that align with a framework of elements (course disciplines), based on accepted practices of a related baccalaureate program of study (major).

These core courses may also satisfy general education requirements.

2. Transferability of each approved Transfer Major must be guaranteed between the community college and at least one Iowa public university that offers an aligned baccalaureate program; ensuring that every course fulfills major program requirements (i.e., course equivalents).
3. Transcription of each Transfer Major is permitted in a manner such as:  
Degree: *Associate of Arts*  
Transfer Major: *Business*
4. Advertising of approved "Transfer Majors" is permitted in all marketing material and catalogs. The use of other related terms used to describe these programs (e.g., major, pre-professional major) will be discontinued.
5. "Meta Majors" (sometimes referred to as *career clusters* or *communities of interest*) may be utilized for advising, but are not *programs* and may not be transcribed.
6. For statewide archival, access, and approval purposes, a CurriQunet process - maintained by the Department - will accommodate the submission and the automated compliance check for the minimal core elements and articulation of each Transfer Major. This submission process will allow each Transfer Major to be assigned and coded with a discipline-specific CIP number for accurate statewide reporting of enrollment, completion, and educational outcome data.

NOTE: This "approval" process will not consist of the formal elements now employed for CTE programs, and as such will not require advisory committees, labor market analysis, program review, or review/approval by a DE discipline consultant.

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### Phase-In of the Transfer Major Enhancement:

1. Final Transfer Major proposal to the IACCP – Dec. 6, 2017, for approval.
2. Department drafts a revision of administrative rule (Chapter 21) to allow for Transfer Majors as stipulated above. Earliest possible submission to the State Board is January 25, 2018.
3. By the end of AY 2018-2019, colleges will cease transcribing and advertising AA and AS “majors”, “pre-professional majors”, etc. For AY 2018-2019, all new AA and AS programs of study must follow the Transfer Major framework and may be transcribed as “Transfer Major”.
4. A statewide steering committee will be formed with the charge of establishing:
  - a. processes and guidance for the development, modification, and maintenance of specific Transfer Major frameworks;
  - b. a statewide vetting and approval process; and
  - c. procedures for utilizing CurriQunet for compliance checks, program modification, articulation tracking, and reporting purposes. This committee will work closely with the LACTS Committee.
5. A LACTS working group will be established with the charge of ensuring and enhancing the transferability of Transfer Majors via a statewide articulation agreement to be incorporated into *Public Connection*. This group will help facilitate discipline-specific faculty collaboration in the development of transfer majors, and will be committed to establishing and improving course and program articulation among two- and four-year institutions in Iowa.
6. The Department will update CurriQunet functionality and the MIS reporting functionality and manual (for AY2018-2019) to include a designated “Transfer Major” within student files.