South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education

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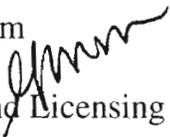Mr. Neal J. Workman, Jr.
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ACAP
Agenda Item 9a.
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MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Advisory Committee on Academic Program

From: Dr. Gail M. Morrison, Director, Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of Course Articulation and Transfer System and Transfer Blocks

In response to the Education and Economic Development Act of 2005 (EEDA), the Commission on Higher Education sought a course articulation and transfer system to help create seamless pathways between two- and four-year institutions. The state Information Technology Management Office recently posted online a letter of intent to award a contract for a course articulation and transfer system. The goal of this system is to provide South Carolina with an on-demand, web-based platform offering information and services for transfer students and the institutions that serve them. The system will:

- display detailed and up-to-date information on degree pathways;
- provide students with an easy way to access transfer agreements developed between public institutions (in a searchable database);
- enable students to compare current courses against equivalent courses at another institution and learn how those courses meet degree requirements for a specific major; and
- facilitate evaluation of an incoming student's transfer credits while at the same time ensuring the consistency of the each institution's course equivalency evaluations.

Using the course articulation and transfer system, students who have created or seek to create a portfolio of coursework will be able to see how that coursework compares for credit at any South Carolina public higher education institution and whether it will meet degree requirements. When a student selects an institution for

possible transfer, the student's course information can be compared to the degree requirements at that institution through an interface with the institution's degree audit system. **While students can compare their coursework to any institution and degree program, the system is not a degree audit system so the tool does not guarantee that transfer reports generated from it will count toward a plan of study until that report is shared with an advisor at the intended institution who will verify the transferability of courses.** Once the advisor at the selected institution approves courses for transfer towards the chosen degree, that approval serves as a contract between the student and institution to guarantee that these successfully completed courses will be accepted by the institution towards the degree.

This course articulation and transfer system will greatly benefit those students who know which institution they wish to attend and who have been admitted to a major at that institution. Similarly, because the system allows students to see how multiple courses compare to degree programs offered at different institutions in the state, it will also aid those students who:

- know the general area of curricular focus they wish to pursue; but
- do not know what major they wish to take; nor
- do they know which four-year institution they wish to attend.

Furthermore, in response to the Education and Economic Development Act of 2005 (EEDA), the Commission on Higher Education reviewed the transfer blocks and surveyed the public four-year institutions regarding their applicability towards the degrees listed. Based on the feedback received, the transfer blocks were revised to include only those courses that would count towards the degrees represented by each block. Conceptually, these transfer blocks are a group of courses designed to meet degree requirements at an institution for the purpose of ensuring that students take only what is necessary for a degree, rather than repeating courses which are similar to or nearly identical to ones already taken at the institution of origin. In other words, the goal of transfer blocks is to promote a seamless transition for the student so that the typical baccalaureate degree will be completed in four years, regardless of transfer. This seamlessness is accomplished by a transfer block since all the courses listed in it must be accepted toward the degrees for which it is intended. For example, if a student needs 120 credits hours in her chosen major of History and completes the 11 courses (i.e., 36 credits hours) included in the Transfer Block for Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, the student will be guaranteed to have only 84 credit hours remaining to complete a baccalaureate degree.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the revised transfer blocks below be accepted for credit toward the degree in all applicable programs of study beginning Fall 2008 for all transfer students from the Technical Colleges into all four-year public institutions in South Carolina.

Revised Transfer Blocks

Transfer Block for Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Majors

ENG 101 (English Composition I)
ENG 102 (English Composition II)
BIO 101 (Biological Sciences I)
MAT 130 (Elementary Calculus)
ENG 201 (American Literature II) *or* ENG 202 (American Literature II) *or* ENG 205 (English Literature I) *or* ENG 206 (English Literature II)
HIS 101 (Western Civilization to 1689) *or* HIS 102 (Western Civilization Post-1689) *or* PHI 101 (Introduction to Philosophy) *or* PHI 110 (Ethics)
MUS 105 (Music Appreciation)
PSY 201 (General Psychology) *or* SOC 101 (Introduction to Sociology)
PSC 201 (American Government)
FRE 101 (Elementary French I) and FRE 102 (Elementary French II) *or* GER 101(Elementary German I) and GER 102 (Elementary German II) *or* SPA 101 (Elementary Spanish I) and SPA 102 (Elementary Spanish II)

Transfer Block for Business Majors

ENG 101 (English Composition I)
ENG 102 (English Composition II)
BIO 101 (Biological Sciences I) and BIO 102 (Biological Sciences II) *or* CHM 110 (College Chemistry I) and CHM 111 (College Chemistry II)
MAT 130 (Elementary Calculus)
ACC 101 (Principles of Accounting I)
ACC 102 (Principles of Accounting II)
ECO 210 (Macroeconomics)
ECO 211 (Microeconomics)
HIS 101 (Western Civilization to 1689) *or* HIS 102 (Western Civilization Post-1689)
ENG 205 (English Literature I) *or* ENG 206 (English Literature II)
ART 101 (Art History and Appreciation) *or* MUS 105 (Music Appreciation)
FRE 101 (Elementary French I) and FRE 102 (Elementary French II) *or*

GER 101(Elementary German I) and GER 102 (Elementary German II) *or*
SPA 101(Elementary Spanish I) and SPA 102 (Elementary Spanish II)

Transfer Block for Engineering and Engineering Technology Majors

ENG 101 (English Composition I)
ENG 102 (English Composition II)
CHM 111 (College Chemistry II)
PHY 221 (University Physics I)
MAT 140 (Analytical Geometry and Calculus I)
MAT 141 (Analytical Geometry and Calculus II)
HIS 101 (Western Civilization to 1689)
"Project Lead the Way" articulation agreements with Clemson, The Citadel, S.C. State and USC-Columbia.

Transfer Block for Sciences and Mathematics Majors

ENG 101 (English Composition I)
ENG 102 (English Composition II)
MAT 140 (Analytical Geometry and Calculus I)
HIS 102 (Western Civilization Post-1689)
ENG 201 (American Literature I) *or* ENG 202 (American Literature II) *or*
   ENG 205 (English Literature I) *or* ENG 206 (English Literature II)
ART 101 (Art History and Appreciation) *or* MUS 105 (Music Appreciation) *or*
   THE 101 (Introduction to Theater)
PSY 201 (General Psychology) *or* SOC 101 (Introduction to Sociology)
PSC 201 (American Government)
FRE 101 (Elementary French I) and FRE 102 (Elementary French II) *or*
   GER 101 (Elementary German I) and GER 102 (Elementary German II)

Transfer Block for Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle-Level and Special Education Majors

ENG 101 (English Composition I)
ENG 102 (English Composition II)
BIO 101 (Biological Sciences I)

* Secondary Education majors should consult the recommended courses for the major they wish to specialize in.