

**THE BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COMMITTEE ON GENERAL EDUCATION**

**CERTIFICATION OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION STATUS OF A BCC COURSE:
POLICY AND PROCESS**

Rationale for Modification

1. The former process of GE course certification, followed by the Committee since the 1980s, became unwieldy. The Statewide Articulation Agreement in the late 1990s included a consensus that articulation-transfer issues and questions should be handled by a (then) new online system known as ARTSYS. That system, which has been up and running since 2000, is now known as NJ Transfer. BCC's four-year transfer-target institutions have expressed a strong preference in favor of BCC's using NJ Transfer for establishing the general education transferability of BCC courses. Transfer officers at the four-year schools have grown less and less willing to respond to our transfer inquiries that we had been sending to them via U.S. Mail. The Committee has come to agree that the use of the NJ Transfer system should replace the older inquiry-by-mail transfer-articulation process.

2. The Committee came to feel that BCC's former policy for approving or disapproving courses as general education courses had grown overly dependent upon the judgments and decisions of our four-year transfer-target institutions and that our own judgments as to the general education characteristics of BCC courses had become secondary. Accordingly, the Committee decided to develop its own systematic set of standards for defining the nature of a general education course. Those standards (and policies, procedures, and forms attendant thereto) are presented in the following pages of this proposal. The general education transferability of a course will remain a basic consideration, but the General Education Committee will henceforth rely primarily on its own developed standards for deciding whether or not a given course will be certified for inclusion in the BCC list of general education courses.