

New Jersey Colleges and Universities
**A General Education Foundation for
Associate in Arts and Associate in Science Transfer Programs
in New Jersey's Community Colleges**

Introduction

- The overall goal of this agreement is to provide an efficient path toward an in-state bachelor's degree for New Jersey college students who begin their studies at a community college. Ideally, this means full transfer toward the bachelor's degree of all credits required to complete the associate degree program at the community college and the same credit and grade requirements for baccalaureate completion by transfer students as for native students. (Nothing in this agreement restricts an institution, upon receiving a transfer student whose record contains transfer credits or credits for nontraditional learning acquired other than through formal study in courses offered by the sending community college, from re-evaluating those credits according to its own criteria.)
- Both community colleges and baccalaureate institutions have a responsibility to work together toward this end, providing students the options and the information they need while maintaining high expectations and program standards.
- Community college transfer programs prepare students for transfer into a wide variety of baccalaureate programs. The general education foundation of a well-designed transfer program will transfer in full, subject to the same requirements and standards for the native student. Beyond that foundation, careful attention must be paid to the requirements of the particular major.
- The goals and objectives (attached) developed by the NJ County College General Education Project are a suitable basis on which to establish a collaborative approach to general education transfer across institutions and sectors.

Agreement

- Each participating community college agrees to offer AA and AS transfer programs with a common foundation of general education courses as provided in the attached. The balance of each program (which typically provides a range of required and elective courses) will be designed at the discretion of the community college. Consistent with long-standing tradition and state regulation, the general education foundation is recognized as 45 credits for AA programs, and 30 credits for AS programs.
- Each participating transfer institution will accept this general education foundation in full for each transferring community college student who has completed it (as certified by the community college) and who is enrolling in a parallel bachelor's degree program (i.e., AA to BA or AS to BS). This foundation will satisfy 45 credits (AA) or a minimum of 30 credits (AS) of the general education requirements at the transfer institution, consistent with the requirements for native students at that institution.
- In cases where a community college transfer program requires a larger number of general education credits than stipulated in this foundation, each participating transfer institution will make every reasonable effort to accept these additional general education credits - up to the number of general education credits required of native students pursuing the designated major.
- Beyond general education, the student will bear major responsibility to choose courses at the community college which are consistent with the intended baccalaureate institution and major. Where appropriate, individual program articulation agreements should be developed to guide students in the selection of courses beyond the foundation.
- Both community colleges and transfer institutions share responsibility for program articulation within the various categories of major and for ongoing attention to issues of course standards and content within each general education category. The academic officers of each sector will jointly organize ongoing processes for these purposes.
- This agreement is subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the "Transfer Articulation Principles for New Jersey Colleges and Universities" approved by the Executive Board of the New Jersey Presidents' Council on May 19, 1997. Institutions may participate or withdraw at any time by letter signed by the chief academic officer and addressed to the New Jersey community college academic officers c/o a designated coordinating member. Should any institution withdraw, it shall hold harmless any students who entered in reasonable expectation that this agreement was applicable to them.
- This agreement shall remain in effect until successor language is determined to be acceptable by at least 75% of current participants.

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General Education Goal(s) addressed									Course category	AA credits	AS min credits ⁹
1	2	3				7		9	Communication ¹	9	6
1	2	3	4	5			8	9	Mathematics - Science - Technology Mathematics ⁵ : 3 - 8 cr Science ⁶ : 3 - 8 cr Computer science or technological literacy ⁷ : 0 - 4 cr	12	9
1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	Social Science ³	6	3
1	2	3			6	7	8	9	Humanities ⁴	9	3
1	2	3			6		8	9	History ²	6	
1	2	3					8	9	Diversity courses ⁸	3	
									<i>General education foundation total</i>	45	30

Note	AA programs	AS programs
1	A set of courses which addresses the full scope of Goal 1 and which prepares students for studying literature; normally, two courses in English composition plus a course in speech or human communication.	A minimum of two courses in English composition. May include an additional course in speech or human communication (see note 9 below).
2	Any broad-based courses such as World, Western or American History (or Civilization).	(See note 4 below.)
3	Any two introductory courses from among anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology or sociology.	At least one introductory course from among anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology or sociology.
4	Any three broad-based courses in art, music or theater appreciation; literature; a foreign language; philosophy and/or religious studies - and/or additional broad-based courses in history.	At least one broad-based course in history; art, music or theater appreciation; literature; a foreign language; philosophy and/or religious studies.
5	Any foundations, statistics or algebra/calculus course(s) that build(s) on demonstrated proficiency in basic algebra.	
6	Any course(s) in general biology, chemistry or physics - or robust non-major survey courses. At least one of these courses must have a laboratory component.	
7	Either a standard literacy course emphasizing common applications, or a rigorous introduction to computer science. [This component is not required for students who can demonstrate competency.]	
8	Any course whose primary purpose is to help students analyze the implications of the commonalities and differences among culturally diverse people(s). May include courses in gender studies or in non-western history or thought. If the diversity competencies are successfully integrated into one or more other general education courses, three credits may be moved from this category to another.	
9	AS programs require a minimum of 30 credits from among the indicated categories, with minimum distributions as shown. Beyond these minimums, any 30-credit subset of the AA program credit distribution will be accepted. (AS students who wish to transfer more than 30 credits of general education are advised to follow the AA distribution requirements.)	