



Transfer of Credits Response October 2014

Pursuant to 2014 House Enrolled Act 41, Section 067, Footnote 8

Joint Education Interim Committee
Joint Appropriations Interim Committee

A footnote in the 2014 Wyoming State Legislature's budget bill directed the University of Wyoming, in consultation with the Wyoming Community College Commission and each Wyoming community college, to examine the institutional and administrative changes needed to ensure credits earned at community colleges will transfer to the University of Wyoming and be applicable to an accredited degree program. The legislative recognition of the importance of this issue is well founded. Transfer students represent nearly half of UW's incoming undergraduates each and every year. Having them succeed is an institutional, as well as a statewide priority.

While UW shares common course numbering with the community colleges and individual courses transfer quite well, many students continue to encounter legitimate problems with their community college courses being applied to degree programs at UW. Three statewide meetings have led to the identification of clear problems with clear solutions. Students from the community colleges face challenges when they transfer to UW. These challenges include:

- Ineffective communication between the community colleges and UW regarding the requirements for degrees
- Credits earned in multiple associate's degree programs
- Credits earned at multiple community colleges
- Credits earned in programs not offered by UW
- Inefficient exchange of transcripts
- Credits lost due to change of major

UW and the colleges may not be responsible for a student's change of major, but we can provide the kind of clarity and student support that will significantly improve the efficient transfer of credits with *program-level articulation and enhanced advising services*.

An analysis of transcripts reveals that students with a Wyoming community college associate's degree who graduated from UW in 2012-13 earned an average of 152 credit hours. Students who spent all four years at UW graduated with an average of 134 hours. The difference

– of 18 hours, more than a full semester – is unacceptable. A college education is valuable. It is also expensive. State and federal financial aid is often depleted after four years. UW and the state’s community colleges must redouble their efforts to ensure that two years of study at a community college plus two years of study at UW will, in most cases, lead to a bachelor’s degree.

Extensive consultation with UW’s community college partners has determined that our primary goal should be program-level articulation, or signed agreements that guarantee Wyoming community college graduates who follow a designated path will arrive at UW as juniors in their chosen degree programs. UW currently accepts 95% of the credit hours earned by transfer students. (The other 5% are technical or remedial credits and not applicable to UW degree programs.) But those hours currently do not always apply toward the degrees students are seeking, and can prevent them from entering UW as juniors. When this situation occurs, it is usually due to a breakdown in communication between the community colleges and UW. For instance, community college students may arrive at the university without having completed the pre-requisite and foundation-level coursework they must have to finish a bachelor’s degree in two years. Consequently, a second crucial goal is enhanced advising for transfer students, including the opportunity to be in contact with a UW advisor *before* enrollment at the university.

Both goals can be met through these initiatives:

Program-Level Articulation (2+2 Plans)

The 17 highest demand majors at UW (see Appendix A), which together impact about half of the transfers from Wyoming community colleges, are currently articulating 2+2 degree plans with each of the Wyoming community colleges. 2+2 plans ensure that community college graduates will arrive at UW as juniors on track to graduate. This is important for several reasons, particularly with regard to the admissions policy UW adopted last year in which students who earn an associate’s degree at a Wyoming community college are automatically admitted to UW.

The 2+2 agreements will be developed collaboratively by faculty, signed by deans and vice presidents, and placed on file in the Registrar’s Office at each institution. They will also be published on an accessible website. The goal is to complete as many of these 2+2 plans as possible by the spring of 2015. Because there are seven separate community colleges, each with its own programs, every high-demand major requires seven unique 2+2 articulation agreements. This means 119 plans are necessary. The lead administrators at the colleges and UW will craft a document of principles to ensure long-term adherence to these plans. 2+2 plans should enable full-time students taking 15 or more credits per semester to complete an associate’s degree at a Wyoming community college with the assurance they are on track and on time to graduate from

UW in four years. We are pleased to report that 2+2 plans for Accounting and Business Administration between LCCC and the UW College of Business have been signed and are ready for implementation in 2015 (see Appendix B for an example of an agreement). A number of other plans are nearly ready to be signed. 2+2 plans for UW's 73 other degree programs will be designed and signed once the first 119 agreements are complete.

4-Year Plans/Curriculum Maps

By March of 2015, each of UW's 90 degree programs will post clear plans students can follow to earn a bachelor's degree in four years. These semester-based curriculum maps will enable students to review required courses in advance and plan for transfer to UW accordingly. They will provide critical guidance for students who have completed an associate's degree, students who have not completed an associate's degree, and high school students selecting dual or concurrent courses offered by the community colleges and UW. The plans will assume that students are ready to begin with college-level math and English courses and are able to take 15 credit hours per semester. Students who need remedial courses or take fewer than 15 credit hours per semester are not likely to complete a bachelor's degree in four years without taking some summer classes. The 4-year degree plans will be published electronically on a website for easy access.

TreQ, the Transfer EQuivalency Self-Service Program

UW implemented the TreQ, Transfer Equivalency Self-Service Program, website in September 2014. This program will allow prospective students to evaluate the transferability of every college class they have taken (or might take) before they arrive at the university. Students can also determine how their earned credits will transfer into their intended program of study (a degree evaluation). This powerful advising tool can work in conjunction with the 4-year plans to ensure transparency and efficient selection of classes. TreQ will allow all prospective UW students, whether they are in high school or at a community college, to select college courses wisely.

Efficient Transcript Sharing

Registrars from each institution are currently working to improve how transcripts are shared. An efficient exchange of records can significantly improve the student transfer process. Student participation in a 2+2 plan will be marked on a transcript to ensure the student is tracked in the appropriate academic catalog/bulletin year.

Advising Enhancements

Along with clear paths toward graduation, students deserve high-quality support from UW in anticipation of their transition from the community college to the university. Academic advising sets the stage for student success at both the community college and UW. Wyoming Transfer Advance currently connects students who have signaled their intent to transfer to the university to a variety of key services. The program provides financial aid counseling and transitional support, in addition to enhanced academic advising. It needs to expand. A statewide advising summit is scheduled for 2015. All of the institutions involved need to develop a comprehensive advising plan for transfer students. A key component will be identifying UW academic advisors for these students.

While each of these initiatives will improve service to transfer students, this must be a long-term effort. We have only just begun. With 90 programs to articulate and seven community colleges to work with, more than 630 separate transfer articulation agreements may need to be developed. In addition, many of the associate degree programs currently range from 65 to 76 credit hours. This makes it difficult for students to finish at a community college in four semesters, especially if remedial courses are needed. The community colleges are working to trim their programs to 60-64 credit hours. UW programs are doing the same. This will be critical to the success of the 2+2 plans. Students also often transfer without an associate's degree; change majors before, during, or after transfer; or require remediation. Those students may find their time to graduation somewhat delayed.

The University of Wyoming and the community colleges can and will work together to ease the transfer process by clearly outlining requirements, providing interactive advising tools, and improving communication among the institutions and with students. All of us have vowed to move forward as a team. The policies enacted now will create a new standard for institutional collaboration and reflect a renewed commitment on behalf of students. Annual statewide program articulation summits will provide future opportunities for improvement. Educating the state's citizens is central to our missions. We must provide more clarity and support for our students, and we will.

For questions or clarifications, please contact Alyson Hagy, Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Education, Academic Affairs, at ahagy@uwyo.edu or 307-766-4286.

Transfer of Credits Response

Appendix A

17 High Demand Majors:

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Animal & Veterinary Science

Family and Consumer Sciences

College of Arts and Sciences:

Biology

Communication

Criminal Justice

English

Political Science

Psychology

Wildlife & Fisheries Biology Management

Zoology

College of Business:

Accounting

Business Administration

College of Education:

Elementary Education

College of Engineering:

Civil Engineering

Petroleum Engineering

College of Health Sciences:

Kinesiology and Health Promotion

Nursing

Appendix B

Signed 2+2 plan with map and articulation agreement

Appendix C

Current Initiatives

Statement of Principles to be signed by all 8 presidents

119 2+2 agreements signed by the spring of 2015

4-year degree plans posted by all UW programs by March 2015

Implementation of Transfer Advance

Launch of Transfer Equivalency Self-Service (TreQ) online advising tool

Electronic Transcripts

Future Goals

2+2 plans with all UW degree programs

Repository for 2+2 agreements with CC and UW Registrars

Coordinated admissions processes

More advising enhancements

Shared catalog

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

OVERVIEW:

This formal program articulation agreement is made and entered into by Laramie County Community College, hereinafter referred to as LCCC, and University of Wyoming, hereinafter referred to as UW. By this agreement LCCC and UW express a shared commitment to increasing opportunities for student access to and success in higher education.

PURPOSE:

This agreement provides students who have completed the **Associate of Science** degree with articulated coursework in Accounting the opportunity to complete a **Bachelor of Science in Accounting** degree at UW. Any LCCC student who has earned an Associate of Science degree with coursework that adheres to the guidelines within this agreement is guaranteed that UW will accept designated major related credits and that all general education credits will apply to the Bachelor of Science degrees in a manner consistent with the treatment of native UW students and given junior status in the major.

CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER:

Section I: Admissions and Matriculation

LCCC students maintaining continuous enrollment under this agreement will be afforded the same treatment and protection as native UW College of Business students enrolled under a specific catalog.

Criteria for acceptance into UW College of Business will be consistent with the criteria outlined in the institutional articulation agreement between LCCC and UW.

LCCC, upon request of students, will provide verification of completed courses to UW through its Office of Registration and Records.

Transfer students from LCCC will have access to financial aid, scholarships, and student services on the same basis as native students.

UW will apply the same academic progress and graduation standards to LCCC transfer students as those applicable to native UW students.

Section II: Program Plan

While a course-by-course equivalence was used in the development of this plan, this agreement presumes that the general education core requirements at LCCC meet general education requirements at UW. Students falling under this program articulation agreement will be responsible for successfully completing the additional prescribed requirements.

AS Accounting			Equivalent University of Wyoming Courses		
General Education			General Education		
Course	Course Title	Credits	Course	Course Title	Credits
COLS 1000	FIRST YEAR SEMINAR	3	FYS 1000	FIRST YEAR SEMINAR	3
CO/M 1010	PUBLIC SPEAKING	3	COJO 1010	PUBLIC SPEAKING	3
ENGL 1010	English I: Composition	3	ENGL 1010	Freshman English	3
MATH 1400	PRE-CALCULUS ALGEBRA	4	MATH 1400	COLLEGE ALGEBRA	3
MATH 2350	BUSINESS CALCULUS I	4	MATH 2350	BUSINESS CALCULUS I	4
MATH 2355	MATHEMATICAL APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS	4	MATH 2355	MATHEMATICAL APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS	4
STAT 2010 -OR- STAT 2070	Statistical Concepts	4	STAT 2050 -OR- STAT 2070	Statistical Concepts	4
ECON 1200	Economics, Law, and Government	3	ECON 1200	Economics, Law, and Government	3
Arts and Humanities Elective		3	Human Culture Elective		3
Lab Science Elective		4	Science Elective		4
Social Science Elective		3	Human Culture Elective		3
Business Core			Business Core		
Course	Course Title	Credits	Course	Course Title	Credits
ACCT 2010	Principles of Accounting I	3	ACCT 1010	Principles of Accounting I	3
ACCT 2020	Principles of Accounting II	3	ACCT 1020	Principles of Accounting II	3
BADM 2010	Business Law I	3	MGT 1040	Legal Environment of Business	3
ECON 1010	Principles of Macroeconomics	3	ECON 1010	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
ECON 1020	Principles of Microeconomics	3	ECON 1020	Principles of Microeconomics	3
ACCT 2230	Intermediate Accounting I	3	ACCT 2230	Intermediate Accounting I	3
IMGT 2400	Introduction to Information Management	3	IMGT 2400	Introduction to Information Management	3
MGT 2100	Principles of Management	3	MGT 3210	Management and Organization	3
ACCT 2450	Cost Accounting	3	ACCT 2240	Cost/Managerial Accounting	3

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING COURSEWORK TO COMPLETE BACHELORS OF SCIENCE

Courses needed for major in Accounting

Non-Business Electives	3
MKT 3210 Introduction to Marketing	3
FIN 3250 Corporate Finance	3
DSCI 3210 Productions and Operations Management	3
MGT 4800 Business Strategy and Policy	3
ACCT 3430 Intermediate Accounting II	3
ACCT 3070 Tax Accounting I	3
ACCT 3830 Intermediate Accounting III	3
ACCT 3610 Accounting Information Systems I	3
ACCT 4050 Governmental & Nonprofit	3
ACCT 4060 Audit I	3
ACCT 4600 Professionalism & Ethics COM 3	3
Accounting elective	3
Free electives	17
	<u>56</u>

- A minimum of 9 of 17 credit hours must be 3000/4000 level

TERMS of AGREEMENT:

This agreement is made and entered into in the academic year 2015-2016 and remains in force unless a new articulation agreement is signed by all parties. The agreement is subject to annual review to assure currency with the respective degree requirements, and may be amended at any time. Should either party desire to discontinue this agreement, advance notification of one year will be required.

SIGNATURES:

Laramie County Community College and University of Wyoming hereby enter into this program articulation agreement leading from the Associate of Science degree with articulated coursework in Bachelor of Science in Accounting by the affixing of signatures of the academic officers of both institutions.

Dr. Jose Fierro
Chief Academic Officer
Laramie County Community College

Date

Dr. David Jones
Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Wyoming

Date

Dr. John Mittelstaedt
Interim Dean, College of Business
University of Wyoming

Date

Dr. Penne Ainsworth
Chair, Department of Accounting
University of Wyoming

Date

A.S. in ACCOUNTING

Laramie County Community College

FRESHMAN

Fall Semester				Hrs	Spring Semester				Hrs	
ACCT	2010	Principles of Accounting I*		3	ACCT	2020	Principles of Accounting II*		3	
COLS	1000	First Year Seminar		3	CO/M	1010	Public Speaking*		3	
ECON	1200	Economics, Law, and Gov.		3	ECON	1010	Principles of Macroeconomics*		3	
ENGL	1010	English I: Composition*		3			Aesthetic Analysis		3	
MATH	1400	Pre-Calculus Algebra		3	MATH	2350	Business Calculus*		4	
				TOTAL					TOTAL	<u>16</u>



SOPHOMORE

Fall Semester				Hrs	Spring Semester				Hrs	
ACCT	2450	Accounting**		3	ACCT	2230	Intermediate Accounting I**		3	
ECON	1020	Principles of Microeconomics*		3	IMGT	2400	Intro to Information Management*		3	
MGT	2100	Principles of Management**		3			Cultural Awareness		3	
MATH	2355	Mathematical Applications*		4			Laboratory Science Elective		4	
BADM	2010	Business Law I**		3	STAT	2010	Statistical Concepts*		4	
				TOTAL					TOTAL	<u>17</u>
									TOTAL Credit Hours	<u>64</u>

Transfer Recommendations:

*Component of Advanced Business Standing. Grade of C or above required.

**Grade of C or above required for common body of knowledge and major specific core.

Academic plans and course schedules may need to be altered if your math placement scores require you to take MATH 0900, 0921, or 0925 prior to registering for MATH 1400.

B.S. in ACCOUNTING

University of Wyoming

JUNIOR

Fall Semester			Hrs	Spring Semester			Hrs
ACCT	3070	Tax Accounting I**	3	ACCT	3610	Accounting Information Systems**	3
ACCT	3430	Intermediate Accounting II**	3	ACCT	3830	Intermediate Accounting III**	3
DSCI	3210	Production & Operations Mgt **	3	FIN	3250	Corporate Finance**	3
MKT	3210	Introduction to Marketing**	3	Free Electives			6
Non-Business Elective			3	TOTAL			<u>15</u>
TOTAL			<u>15</u>				



SENIOR

Fall Semester			Hrs	Spring Semester			Hrs
ACCT	4050	Governmental & Nonprofit**	3	MGT	4800	Business Strategy and Policy**	3
Accounting Elective (4010, 4020, 4540 or 4830)**			3	ACCT	4060	Audit I**	3
3000/4000 Level Electives			6	ACCT	4600	Professionalism and Ethics**	3
Free Electives			2	3000/4000 Level Electives (MGT 4350)			3
TOTAL			<u>14</u>	TOTAL			<u>12</u>
				Total Credit Hours			<u>56</u>

*Component of Advanced Business Standing. Grade of C or **above** required.

Grade of C or **above required for common body of knowledge and major specific core.

Students planning to sit for the CPA exam are encouraged to take Commercial Law (MGT 4350).

This program has been formulated to meet the requirements of AACSB International—the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the University of Wyoming and the College of Business.

Minimum requirements include:

-Minimum of 48 semester hours of junior-senior-level courses. 30 of the 48 hours must be earned from UW.

-2.50 grade point average: In all College of Business courses.

-2.50 grade point average: In all Institution (UW) courses.

-50% of the business credit hours must be from the University of Wyoming.

-Grade of C or **above** required for common body of knowledge and major specific core courses.

-A maximum of 6 hours of freshman-sophomore level military science and a maximum of 6 hours of junior-senior-level military science may be applied to degrees in the College of Business.

-Pass MGT 4800 including a passing score on the ETS standardized test for COB majors.