

## **PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE PROGRAM-TO-PROGRAM ARTICULATION AGREEMENT IN THEATRE**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with Article XX-C of the Public School Code of 1949, this Agreement ensures that a student who successfully completes an Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree at an institution participating in the Commonwealth's statewide college credit transfer system can transfer the full degree into a parallel bachelor degree program in Theatre at another participating college or university.

Full junior-standing will be granted to students who have successfully completed an AA or AS degree provided that:

- The associate's degree earned includes, at least 24 credits of major-specific coursework as outlined under the Required Major-Specific Content in this agreement.
- The associate's degree includes the general competencies outlined under Required Competencies Outside of the Discipline.

See Appendix A: Major Requirements for Program-to-Program Articulation in Theatre.

Students meeting these criteria will be considered by participating bachelor degree granting institutions to have received adequate preparation for transfer with junior standing into a parallel bachelor degree in Theatre and to be eligible to enter advanced coursework in the field of study.

### **II. OVERVIEW**

Theatre is an interdisciplinary field that requires knowledge of the art form as well as evaluation of the student. Higher education has traditionally played a critical role in fostering achievement and building quality in the arts disciplines, such as theatre. Content and methods of instruction evolve over time, following and extending the natures of the various art forms and reflecting the general nature of art as a mode of thought and action. But a fundamental goal remains: to enable students to improve the quality of their work in order to achieve excellence.

The National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) contains standards and guidelines for institutions offering degree programs in theatre and other related arts disciplines. The NAST identifies three essential elements of any degree program in theatre:

1. **General Education** -- These competencies are usually developed through studies in English composition and literature; foreign languages; history, social studies, and philosophy; visual and performing arts; natural science; technology; and mathematics. Precollegiate study, regular testing and counseling, and flexibility in course requirements are elements in achieving these competencies.
2. **Theatre Studies** – Objectives of this type are ordinarily emphasized in courses such as acting, speech, play analysis, design technology, history and literature of the theatre, and through regular practical and intimate contact with living theatre.
3. **Performance and Theatre Electives** – The work in this area includes acting, design/technology, other aspects of participation in theatre productions, and studies in scholarly or pedagogical aspects of theatre. In addition to electives in general education, further studies in theatre, including performance, should be possible through a selection of additional courses. Institutions have various policies concerning the granting of credit for performance and production in liberal arts curricula, including the relegation of

performance to extracurricular activity. Such policies are taken into account when curricular proportions are considered.

The minimum competencies for each of these elements, as identified by NAST, are as follows:

**1. General Education Competencies.**

- The ability to think, speak, and write clearly and effectively, and to communicate with precision, cogency, and rhetorical force.
- An informed acquaintance with the mathematical and experimental methods of the physical and biological sciences, and the historical and quantitative techniques needed for investigating the workings and developments of modern society.
- An ability to address culture and history from a variety of perspectives.
- Understanding of, and experience in thinking about, moral and ethical problems.
- The ability to respect, understand and evaluate work in a variety of disciplines.
- The capacity to explain and defend views effectively and rationally.
- Understanding of and experience in one or more art forms other than theatre.

**2. Theatre Studies Competencies.**

- The ability to think conceptually and critically about text, performance, and production.
- An understanding of playwriting and production processes, aesthetic properties of style, and the way these shape and are shaped by artistic and cultural forces.
- An acquaintance with a wide selection of theatre repertory including the principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
- The ability to develop and defend informed judgments about theatre.

**3. Competencies of Performance and Theatre Electives.**

- Ability in areas of performance and production or playwriting appropriate to individual needs and interests, consistent with the goals and objectives of the specific liberal arts degree program being followed.
- An understanding of procedures and approaches for realizing a variety of theatrical styles.
- Intermediate to advanced competence in one or more theatre specializations in creation, performance, scholarship, or teaching.

The committee of faculty and personnel creating this agreement used these basic principles as a guide for its work. In addition, the committee reviewed current course syllabi related to theatre degree programs at the participating institutions and compared expected competencies and learning outcomes. The combination of these efforts led to the foundation-level requirements outlined below.

**III. REQUIRED Major-Specific Content**

An associate degree transferable under this Agreement must include **at least 24 credits** of Major-Specific coursework that incorporates all of the competencies identified in the following broad content areas.

- 1. Theatre and its Elements – at least 3 and up to 6 credits**
- 2. Acting– at least 3 and up to 9 credits**
- 3. Production – at least 3 and up to 6 credits**
- 4. Stagecraft – at least 3 and up to 9 credits**

See Appendix A: Major Requirements for Program-to-Program Articulation in Theatre.

This agreement acknowledges that, depending upon how an institution chooses to deliver the content competencies, an institution may offer an associate degree that exceeds the minimum 24 credits. The specific course structure is not as important as making sure that upon completion of the associate's degree, the student has achieved the competencies included in this agreement and is prepared to enter advanced coursework as a junior in the parallel major at a participating bachelor-degree institution.

### **1. Theatre and its Elements – at least 3 and up to 6 credits**

Coursework in this content area will develop a student's knowledge of:

1. The roles and duties of different theatre artists involved in a production.
2. The elements of performance and of different theatre spaces.
3. Dramatic text and literature and the analysis of such pieces.
4. The social and historic context of the theatre, including exploration of the history and evolution of theatre, ritual performance, and other cultural expression.
5. Original extraction and use of primary sources, theory, performance or design of theatrical work and related topics.
6. Theatrical criticism.
7. Live theatre by experiencing the theatre arts in practice and engaging with theatre artists.

Upon successfully completing this coursework, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and name performance elements and artists.
- 2) Identify the roles and duties of different theatre artists involved in a production.
- 3) Understand the elements of performance and of different theatre spaces.
- 4) Analyze dramatic text and literature.
- 5) Draw information from a written text to determine artistic and aesthetic choices used to interpret and communicate the writer/creator's vision.
- 6) Understand and contextualize theatre against the cultures and historical periods which created it.
- 7) Apply appropriate research techniques to create an original extraction, theory, performance or design of a theatrical work or a related topic.
- 8) Use skillful observation and the principles of aesthetics and play analysis to formulate an informed critique of a theatrical work.

### **2. Acting– at least 3 and up to 9 credits**

Coursework in this content area will develop a student's knowledge of:

1. The skills needed to work in the elements of performance and of different theatre spaces, such as cooperation, respect and responsibility.
2. Use of voice and body in performance.
3. Imagination and application of a specific approach to the art of acting.
4. Performance skills and techniques.
5. The preparation of materials required for audition and presentation for further study in the theatre arts

Upon successfully completing this coursework, students will be able to:

- 1) Be able to work within a collaboratively with professional decorum and respect.
- 2) Identify the specific use of body, voice and imagination to communicate.
- 3) Apply skills to move and create voice with freedom and expression.
- 4) Apply specific techniques and methods for freeing the imagination necessary for creating expressive performance and improvisation.
- 5) Apply skills to the creation of a public production.
- 6) Use performance skills and technique to create a public performance or presentation of theatrical work, such as a monologue, scene, play or theatre piece.
- 7) Use the skills of observation, aesthetic and analysis to create an informed critique of a theatrical work.

- 8) Engage with live theatre and theatre artists to experience and understand theatre arts in practice.

### **3. Production – at least 3 and up to 6 credits**

Coursework in this content area will develop a student's knowledge of:

1. The roles and duties of different theatre artists and collaborators involved in a production.
2. The elements of performance and of different theatre spaces.
3. The skills needed to work in the elements of performance and of different theatre spaces, such as cooperation, collaboration, respect and responsibility.
4. Original extraction, theory, performance or design of theatrical work and related topics.
5. Various production techniques.

Upon successfully completing this coursework, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify the roles and duties of different theatre artists involved in a production.
- 2) Understand the elements of performance and of different theatre spaces.
- 3) Be able to work collaboratively within a theatrical production process with professional decorum and respect.
- 4) Draw information from a written text to determine artistic and aesthetic choices used to interpret and communicate the writer/creator's vision.
- 5) Identify the use of specific workshop tools and methods.
- 6) Apply skills to using shop tools and methods.
- 7) Apply imagination and personal aesthetic to the interpretation of a theatrical work.
- 8) Use production skills to create a public performance or presentation of theatrical work.

### **4. Stagecraft – at least 3 and up to 9 credits**

Coursework in this content area will develop a student's knowledge of:

1. Shop tools and techniques.
2. Backstage practices and etiquette.
3. Basic skills in building costumes, scenery, sound design, and lighting.
4. Use and basic safety procedures of power tools.
5. Use of tools and equipment relevant to the theatre.
6. Materials used for scenery, costumes, and props construction.
7. Basic knowledge and skills in costumes, scenery, sound design and lighting design.
8. The preparation of portfolio materials required for further study in the theatre arts.

Upon successfully completing this coursework, students will be able to:

1. Correctly identify workshop tools and their specific use/application .
2. Apply skills to using shop tools safely.
3. Apply the use of basic skills in building costumes, scenery, sound and lighting designs.
4. Communicate the play in a visual form and create an environment that is conducive to the expression of that visual communication.
5. Apply knowledge and skills to construct scenery, costumes and props with given materials.
6. Identify the basic process of design.

## **IV. REQUIRED Competencies Outside of the Discipline**

An undergraduate degree in theatre must include, at minimum, the following general competencies:

- The ability to think, speak, and write clearly and effectively.
- An informed acquaintance with fields of study beyond theatre such as those in the arts and humanities, the natural and physical sciences, and the social sciences.
- A functional awareness of the differences and commonalities regarding work in artistic, scientific, and humanistic domains.

- An awareness of the body as a tool for movement and expression, and the care of their physical selves
- Awareness that multiple disciplinary perspectives and techniques are available to consider all issues and responsibilities including, but not limited to, history, culture, moral and ethical issues, and decision-making.
- The ability to identify possibilities and locate information in other fields that have bearing on theatre questions and endeavors.

Institutions will determine whether these competencies are embedded in an institution's general education curriculum and/or major-specific coursework.

#### **V. RECOMMENDED Coursework Outside of the Discipline**

In addition to the major-specific requirements mentioned previously, Theatre students would benefit greatly from completing foundation-level coursework in the following areas:

- **History – 3-4 credits**
- **Literature – 6-8 credits**
- **Arts and Humanities (in an area other than Theatre) – 3-4 credits**
- **Exercise Science and Wellness, Dance or Movement – 3-4 credits**

Institutions are advised to incorporate recommended coursework into the articulated associate degree either as part of the institution's general education curriculum (or distribution requirements), as a requirement of the major or to fulfill required free electives.

Recommended coursework outside of the discipline may be fulfilled by completing approved courses from the Transfer Credit Framework. The Framework consists of six categories which include courses in English, public speaking, math, science, art, humanities, history and the behavioral and social sciences. Each category consists of multiple course options. The Framework allows students to transfer up to 30 credits of foundation courses from one participating college or university to another and have those courses count toward graduation.

Some Framework courses are more relevant to the field of Theatre than others. Students should work with an academic advisor to select the best options for their major of interest. See Appendix B.

Students who do not complete recommended coursework prior to transferring will not be penalized by the receiving bachelor-degree institution.

## Appendix A: Program-to-Program Articulation Model in Theatre

<b><u>REQUIRED</u></b> <b><u>Major-Specific Content</u></b>	<b>Transfer Criteria</b>
Theatre and its Elements	<b>at least 3 and up to 6 credits</b>
Acting	<b>at least 3 and up to 9 credits</b>
Theatre Production	<b>at least 3 and up to 6 credits</b>
Stagecraft	<b>at least 3 and up to 9 credits</b>
<b><u>RECOMMENDED</u></b> <b><u>Coursework Outside of the Discipline</u></b>	<b>Transfer Criteria</b>
History	3-4 credits
Literature	3-4 credits
Arts & Humanities (in an area other than Theatre)	6-8 credits
Dance or Exercise Science and Wellness	3-4 credits

## Appendix B: Transfer Credit Framework

Students who successfully complete courses from the categories below may transfer those credits toward the graduation requirements of nearly any major offered by the participating institutions. Please be aware that certain majors may have specific requirements prescribed by external agencies. Students should work with an advisor to select appropriate courses as they relate to the major.

Category 1 (3-4 credits total)	Category 2 (3-4 credits total)	Category 3 (min. 3-4 credits; max. 6-8 credits)	Category 4 Must include lab (min. 3-4 credits; max. 6-8 credits)	Category 5 (min. 3-4 credits; max. 6-8 credits)	Category 6 (min. 3-4 credits; max. 6-8 credits)
English Composition	Public Speaking	Foundations of Mathematics	General Chemistry I (majors & non-majors courses)	General Psychology	Introduction to Music
		College Algebra	General Chemistry II (majors & non-majors courses)	Introduction to Sociology	Introduction to Philosophy
		Elementary Statistics	General Biology I (majors & non-majors courses)	American National Government	Elementary Spanish I
		Precalculus	General Biology II (majors & non-majors courses)	Educational Psychology	Elementary Spanish II
		Calculus I	General Physics I (non-calculus)	History of Western Civilization II	Painting I
			General Physics II (non-calculus)	Principles of Macroeconomics	Elementary French I
		Anatomy & Physiology I	Principles of Microeconomics	Elementary French II	
		Anatomy & Physiology II	U.S. History I	Drawing I	
		Introduction to Astronomy	U.S. History II	Ethics	
			History of Western Civilization I	Introduction to Art	
			Contemporary Social Problems	German I	
			Introduction to Anthropology	German II	
			Human Growth & Development	Introduction to Literature (may also be known as Introduction to Poetry, Interpreting Literature, Reading Literature, Theses in Literature, Topics in Literature, Current Themes in Literature)	
			Child Psychology	Survey of American Literature	
				Literature of the Western World	
				World Literature	
				American Literature	
	Survey of English Literature				
		Introduction to Theatre			

**ADDENDUM**  
**GENERAL STATEWIDE PROGRAM-TO-PROGRAM**  
**ARTICULATION in PENNSYLVANIA**  
**(Revised April 11, 2012)**

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted Act 114 of 2006, which added to the Public School Code of 1949, Article XX-C entitled “Transfers of Credits Between Institutions of Higher Education” (referred to in this Agreement as the “Statewide Transfer System”);

WHEREAS, Act 114 of 2006 requires all community colleges in Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities to participate in the Statewide Transfer System;

WHEREAS, Act 114 of 2006 permits independent and state-related institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania, as each is defined in Article XX-C, to elect to participate in the Statewide Transfer System;

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted Act 50 of 2009, which requires institutions participating in the Statewide Transfer System to accept the transfer of Associate of Arts and Associate Science degrees into parallel baccalaureate programs and recognize all competencies attained within the associate degree program;

WHEREAS, Act 50 of 2009 defines an Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree containing a minimum of 60 college-level credits and designed primarily for transfer to a baccalaureate institution;

WHEREAS, Act 50 of 2009 requires the Transfer Articulation Oversight Committee (TAOC), as established in section 2004-C of the Public School Code of 1949, to identify Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree programs for transfer with full junior standing into parallel baccalaureate degrees annually; and,

WHEREAS, Act 50 of 2009 requires members of the Transfer Articulation Oversight Committee established in section 2004-C of the Public School Code of 1949, to identify modifications that may be required in existing associate or baccalaureate degrees to satisfy external accreditation or licensure requirement;

All Institutions participating in the Statewide Transfer System enter into this Articulation Agreement and mutually agree as follows:

1. The statewide program-to-program articulation agreement ensures that students who complete an AA or AS degree from a participating institution will have their coursework and credits transfer into a parallel baccalaureate program with full junior standing and without the need for course-by-course equivalency.
2. Students are subject to the admissions and transfer credit policies of the participating institutions. The admissions and transfer credit policies for all of the institutions participating in Pennsylvania’s college credit transfer system can be found at [www.PAcollegetransfer.com](http://www.PAcollegetransfer.com).
3. The AA or AS degree must include a minimum of 60 college-level credits designed and acceptable for transfer, not including developmental or remedial courses or career, technical or applied courses.
4. The transfer of coursework with a grade less than a C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) in the AA or AS will be consistent with the policies of native students at the participating college or university.
5. Students and institutional personnel will be able to find out which institutions offer articulated programs by accessing a searchable database located at [www.PAcollegetransfer.com](http://www.PAcollegetransfer.com). PDE will maintain this database through program information provided to TAOC by the individual participating institutions.
6. References to courses in all agreements designate competencies and are not to be construed as making a reference to a specific course at a specific institution. Course titles in the agreements are presented for guidance in advising students as to



which coursework they should take even though the course at the student's college may not have the specific title mentioned in the agreement.<sup>1</sup>

**7. Responsibilities of Associate Degree Institutions**

- a. The AA or AS degree leading to a parallel bachelor degree will include the minimum number of credits and competencies of major-specific coursework as defined by the Agreement.
- b. Any remaining AA or AS degree requirements will be accepted from arts and sciences electives designed and acceptable for transfer, not including developmental, remedial, career, technical or applied courses.
- c. By awarding the AA or AS, the Associate Degree Institution is validating that the student has met the competency requirements outlined in the Agreement.

**8. Responsibilities of Bachelor Degree Institutions**

- a. The Bachelor Degree Institution will recognize all competencies attained within the AA or AS degree and accept a transfer student who has earned the associate degree with full junior standing into a parallel baccalaureate degree program.
- b. All decisions made with respect to the transfer process shall be based on the principle of equivalence of expectations and requirements for native and transfer students.
- c. A transfer student's admission into the parallel baccalaureate degree will be subject to the Bachelor Degree Institution's specific requirements for admission to that major and be consistent with such requirements for native students.

**9. Agreement Revision and Assessment**

- a. Once a statewide program-to-program articulation agreement has been approved by TAOC, no amendments to the agreement can be offered by any party within the initial six (6) months of the agreement. After that time, a TAOC member with a proposed amendment to an approved agreement should submit the change to PDE.

Amendments that are offered as clarifying or technical but do not alter the substantive portions or intent of the agreement must be forwarded to TAOC. TAOC representatives will have at least thirty (30) days to review, comment and approve or deny the proposed amendments.

Amendments that seek to alter the substantive nature or intent of the agreement in any part must be forwarded to the appropriate PAC for review and consideration. The PAC will then make a recommendation to the TAOC, and TAOC shall approve or deny the proposed amendments.<sup>2</sup>

- b. PDE and TAOC will exercise responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreement and its implementation.
- c. PDE shall collect data annually from the participating institutions that will enable the Department and TAOC to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the Agreement in fostering a seamless transfer process and the academic success of transfer students at the senior institutions.

**10. Transfer Appeal Process**

- a. In accordance with Pennsylvania's Statewide Transfer System, each Bachelor Degree Institution shall have a procedure through which a transfer student can appeal a decision that he/she believes is not consistent with this Agreement.
- b. The Transfer Appeal Process shall be published, at minimum, in the institution's catalog and posted to the Commonwealth's official website of the Statewide Transfer System, [www.PAcollegetransfer.com](http://www.PAcollegetransfer.com).

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by TAOC and added to the agreement on April 11, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Approved by TAOC and added to agreement on August 18, 2011.

### **11. Institutional Resolution of Disputes**

- a. In the event that an Associate Degree Institution considers the decision of a Bachelor Degree Institution to be inconsistent with this Agreement, the Associate Degree Institution shall consult directly with the Bachelor Degree Institution and attempt to resolve the matter.
- b. If the institutions are unable to resolve the issue, the Associate Degree Institution may submit their concern to PDE for consideration by the TAOC Dispute Resolution Committee. The Dispute Resolution Subcommittee will act according to the policies and procedures developed by TAOC as part of the Statewide Transfer System. The determination made by the Dispute Resolution Subcommittee will be binding upon the parties.

### **12. Implementation Date and Applicability**

Having fulfilled the requirements outlined in the Program-to-Program Articulation Agreement, students transferring with an AA or AS degree from a participating institution will be considered by the receiving baccalaureate degree institution to have received adequate preparation in the field of study at the foundation level and therefore eligible to transfer as a junior into advanced major coursework.

Participating institutions will enact the Agreement in accordance to the timeline outlined by the TAOC, but no later Fall 2013.<sup>3</sup>

Continuation of the agreement remains in effect until such time as all cooperating institutions of the Statewide Transfer System formally approve any revisions.

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Articulation:** The aligning of curriculum between institutions of higher education to ensure the efficient and effective movement of students among those institutions.

**Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) Degree:** A degree consisting of at least 60 college-level credits and designed for transfer into a baccalaureate degree program.

**Foundation Coursework:** Courses at a level of comprehension usually associated with freshman and sophomore students and typically offered during the first half of a baccalaureate degree program. Such coursework typically does not have course prerequisites.

**Native Student:** A student who entered a given college or university without first matriculating at another college.

**Parallel Baccalaureate Degree:** A bachelor degree program in a comparable field of study and with similar foundation-level major-specific competencies as an associate degree program.

**Receiving Institution:** The college or university where a transfer student plans to enroll and to apply previously earned credit toward a degree program.

**Transfer Credit:** The credit granted by a college or university for college-level courses or other academic work completed at another institution.

**Transfer Student:** A student who enters a participating college or university after earning college-level credit at another college or university.

**Transfer:** The process by which a student moves from one postsecondary institution to another. Also refers to the mechanics of credit, course and curriculum exchange between institutions.

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<sup>3</sup> Agreements approved by TAOC prior to August 31, 2011 must be implemented by the institutions by Fall 2012. Agreements approved by TAOC after August 31, 2011 but before May 1, 2012 must be implemented by the institutions by Fall 2013.

**Advanced Coursework:** Courses with advanced depth of content knowledge in the field of study and carry the expectation of more complex competencies identified in the expected student learning outcomes is referred to as advanced coursework. These courses often have prerequisites and are usually beyond the “Introduction to…” or “Foundation of…” level.