

## **PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE PROGRAM-TO-PROGRAM ARTICULATION AGREEMENT IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

### **I. Introduction and Overview**

Political Science is an academic field of study focusing on key questions of political power, processes, and the authority of the institutions of the state. Analysis of governmental organizations and processes often involves understanding the political system (actors, institutions, and law) as a whole – in other words “politics” – “who gets what, when, and how.” The study of politics also requires examining the role of citizens and how they can influence (and are influenced by) governmental institutions, processes, and the law. Political Science also examines the “behavior” of informal political processes and actors – interest groups, media, public opinion, political culture, and non-governmental actors. Political Scientists study such processes in an effort to develop general principles or theories about the way the world of politics works. Subfields within Political Science include: U.S. institutions and government, international relations, comparative politics, political theory, public administration, public policy, and the law. Overall, Political Science as a discipline is housed within the larger academic sphere of the social sciences and thus employs an array of research methodologies in the development of said principles and theories.

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 in Political Science (or any AA or AS degree that incorporates the competencies required and outlined below) at an institution participating in the Commonwealth’s statewide college credit transfer system can transfer with junior standing into a parallel bachelor degree program at a participating four-year institution.

In order for students to transfer the full associate degree into a parallel bachelor degree program at a participating four-year institution with full junior-standing, all of the following criteria must be met:

- The associate degree must include a minimum of 60 college-level credits.
- The associate degree must include at least twelve (12) college-level credits that incorporate the competencies identified in four Major-Specific Content Areas as well as all of the Required General Competencies identified in this agreement.
- The student must successfully complete 30 credits of foundation-level coursework from the Transfer Credit Framework.
- The total number of Political Science credits completed at the associate-degree level cannot exceed 50% of the major-specific coursework required by the parallel bachelor degree program offered by the four-year institution.

See Appendix B: Program-to-Program Articulation Model for Political Science

It is therefore understood that students meeting these requirements will be considered by both the associate degree-granting institution and the receiving four-year institution to possess the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for entry as a junior into a parallel bachelor degree program in Political Science.

## II. **REQUIRED Major-Specific Content (12 credits)**

Under this Agreement, a fully-transferable associate degree in the field of Political Science must include **at least twelve (12) college-level credits that incorporate the competencies identified in four content areas:**

1. **American/United States Government/Politics**
2. **International Relations/World Politics**
3. **Comparative Politics/Comparative Government**
4. **Select one of the following areas:**
  - **Political Philosophy/Theory/Thought**
  - **State and Local Government/Politics**

The competencies required in each of the major content areas are outlined below.

### 1. **American/United States Government/Politics**

Students should have a demonstrated understanding of the basic concepts and ideas in American/United States Government/Politics:

*Competency 1:* The theoretical principles that underlie the Constitution from which the government and politics of the United States emanate

*Competency 2:* The structure and organization of the executive, legislative, judiciary branches of government

*Competency 3:* Civil liberties and civil rights

*Competency 4:* Political factors and dynamics of democracy and actors within the system: citizens, political parties, interest groups, the media, and electoral process

*Competency 5:* Public policy with respect to its impact on ethnic minorities throughout history

### 2. **International Relations/World Politics**

Students should have a demonstrated understanding of the basic concepts and ideas in International Relations/World Politics:

*Competency 1:* The nature and roots of the interstate system and the international system, with a strong focus on the role of the state

*Competency 2:* Processes of conflict and cooperation between states and within the international system

*Competency 3:* Theoretical principles of international relations and their application in historical modules, in addition to the study of key actors, their patterns of behavior, current trends, and controversies

*Competency 4:* Formulation of foreign policy as well as the political-diplomatic, economic (globalization), military-security, and cultural interaction of nation states

*Competency 5:* The fundamental concepts, functions and process of politics of international organizations such as the United Nations and World Trade Organization

*Competency 6:* Human rights concerns emanating from the global economy, including the environment, minority subjugation, civic opposition, and international responses

### 3. **Comparative Politics/Government**

Students should have a demonstrated understanding of the basic concepts and ideas in Comparative Politics/Government:

*Competency 1:* Comparative study the governance of nations in the developed and less-developed regions of the world

- Competency 2:* The processes by which political systems are shaped through historical forces, political cultures, the international environment, economic conditions, ideologies, and the decisions of leaders and public participants in politics
- Competency 3:* Comparative institutions, electoral and voting processes, political systems, public policies, and political and economic development
- Competency 4:* Significant political issues confronting governmental units, interest groups, and individuals
- Competency 5:* The roles of ethnic, religious, and other minorities within the global community as related to decision-making and power relations
- Competency 6:* Scientific methodologies within the Political Science discipline and the ability to construct typologies and assess those political systems

4. Students must have a demonstrated understanding of the basic concepts and ideas in *either* Political Philosophy/Theory/Thought or State and Local Government/Politics.

a. **Political Philosophy/Theory/Thought**

*Competency 1:* Key ideas such as order, human nature, freedom, justice, community, and equality that animated the great thinkers of ancient, medieval, and modern political thought

*Competency 2:* Fundamental tenets of major ideologies and the impact of these ideologies on political reality and historical development

*Competency 3:* The continued relevance of considered historical ideas and how they grapple with perennial problems of politics, for example, examining the extent to which past ideas can aid the understanding of the present political landscape

b. **State and Local Government/Politics**

*Competency 1:* Theories and historical circumstances that have shaped the organization of federalism, its functions, and the politics of the interactions between the state, and federal levels including analysis of politics in counties, cities, and towns in urban, suburban, and rural areas

*Competency 2:* The functional operation of state and local governments with an analysis of their powers to tax and finance; enforce laws; regulate commerce and business, and promote the social and economic welfare

### III. **REQUIRED General Foundation Competencies**

Students transferring with an associate degree shall attain and be able to demonstrate, as measured by a variety of learning outcome and assessment mechanisms, the following essential competencies. These competencies can be integrated and demonstrated within the required and recommended major coursework in Political Science and/or within the general associate degree requirements.

- I. **Critical Thinking:** Students will develop the ability to apply, synthesize, and analyze materials (e.g., data or texts) and to think critically. We pull apart complex issues into their basic components and then assess these issues or arguments on the basis of reasoned application of a variety of methodological approaches (e.g., quantitative or qualitative analysis, case studies, logical analysis, etc.)
- II. **Knowledge:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of the discipline of Political Science and the required four-course framework in terms of content, purpose and methods.
- III. **Research Methods:** Students will be able to explain research methods used in the discipline of political science, and social science broadly, and evaluate conclusions derived from these methods.

- IV. **Information literacy**<sup>1</sup>: Students will develop skills that include the ability to identify, locate and access sources of information, the ability to critically evaluate information (legitimacy, validity, and appropriateness), the ability to organize information to present a sound central idea in a logical order, and the ability to use the work of others accurately and ethically.
- V. **Communication Skills**: students will demonstrate the necessary oral and written skills (English and Public Speaking) to convey their knowledge about political science or other appropriate topics to others.
- VI. **Diversity and Globalization**: students will demonstrate the ability to compare and contrast similarities and differences in the experience of humans in diverse cultures, nations (comparative government and international relations), and civilizations across time (history) and space (geography, anthropology, foreign language, and sociology).

#### **IV. RECOMMENDED Major-Specific Content (Credits toward eventual transfer into parallel bachelor degree program)**

It is recognized that many two-year institutions teach a wide variety of Political Science courses. Therefore, students are recommended to take additional Political Science courses as part of the articulated associate degree and transfer those courses (on top of the required 12 credits taken under Required Major-Specific Coursework) to a four year-institution. Students will not be penalized for not completing additional political science coursework as part of the articulated associate degree.

The total number of Political Science credits completed at the associate-degree level cannot exceed 50% of the major-specific coursework required by the parallel bachelor degree program offered by the four-year institution. **Students should check with their advisor and consult the four-year institution requirements for transfer equivalencies BEFORE enrolling in additional Political Science Content.**

The following are recommended content areas in Political Science. Many of these content areas are critical elements of the Political Science Bachelor of Arts degree at four-year institutions.

##### **1. Research Methods**

Students should have a demonstrated understanding of the basic concepts and ideas in Research Methods:

*Competency 1:* The logic and the skills of social science research as well as the process of writing for an academic audience

*Competency 2:* Research methods and applications as they relate to the practice of political science research

*Competency 3:* Causation, research design, conceptualization and measurement, operationalization, research models, and quantitative and qualitative analysis for the exploration, description, and explanation of political and social phenomena

*Competency 4:* Data collection and introductory statistical concepts and consider current political events as well as ongoing political questions as a means of investigating various methods of inquiry

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<sup>1</sup>This definition comes from the 2006 Middle States Report: "Information literacy is the array of knowledge and skills necessary to identify the information needed for a task and then to locate, understand, evaluate, and use that information efficiently and effectively within appropriate ethical and legal limits."

## **2. Public Administration**

Students should have a demonstrated understanding of the basic concepts and ideas in Public Administration:

*Competency 1:* Public administration in the United States as a process of implementing public policy

*Competency 2:* Concepts and frameworks necessary for public service

*Competency 3:* Key concepts such as organization theory, organization structure, bureaucracy, human resource and public management, ethics, public policy analysis, personnel, budgeting, and the politics and processes of public administration

## **3. Political Philosophy/Theory/Thought (If not taken to fulfill a REQUIRED Major-specific Content Area)**

Students should have a demonstrated understanding of the basic concepts and ideas in political science:

*Competency 1:* Key ideas such as order, human nature, freedom, justice, community, and equality that animated the great thinkers of ancient, medieval, and modern political thought

*Competency 2:* Fundamental tenets of major ideologies and the impact of these ideologies on political reality and historical development

*Competency 3:* The continued relevance of considered historical ideas and how they grapple with perennial problems of politics, for example, examining the extent to which past ideas can aid the understanding of the present political landscape

**OR**

## **State and Local Government/Politics (If not taken to fulfill a REQUIRED Major-specific Content Area)**

Students should have a demonstrated understanding of the basic concepts and ideas in State and Local Government/Politics:

*Competency 1:* Theories and historical circumstances that have shaped the organization of federalism, its functions, and the politics of the interactions between the state, and federal levels including analysis of politics in counties, cities, and towns in urban, suburban, and rural areas

*Competency 2:* The functional operation of state and local governments with an analysis of their powers to tax and finance; enforce laws; regulate commerce and business, and promote the social and economic welfare

## **4. Constitutional Law**

Students should have a demonstrated understanding of the basic concepts and ideas in Constitutional Law:

*Competency 1:* The power relationships among branches of government (checks and balances) and between levels of government (federalism)

*Competency 2:* Important constitutional provisions, historically critical Supreme Court decisions, as well as areas of contemporary interest

*Competency 3:* The relationship between government and its citizens, including restrictions on interference with individual freedom (civil liberties) and obligations to prevent discrimination and ensure equality (civil rights)

*Competency 4:* The primary arguments made by advocates on most sides of the controversies surrounding the structure, organization and functioning of government

**5. Selected Political Science courses under advisement.**

For a specialized course topic, students should contact the respective four-year transfer institution for equivalency.

**V. RECOMMENDED Content Outside of the Major**

In addition to the 12 credits of coursework from the Required Major-Specific Content Areas previously listed, students transferring into a bachelor degree program at the junior level in Political Science would benefit from acquiring content and competencies in the areas below.

Since not all sending institutions offer courses in these content areas, it is understood that a student would necessarily need to fulfill specific requirements of each receiving institution during the junior and senior years at the four-year institution.

Courses from the 30-Credit Transfer Framework may be used to satisfy recommended coursework outside of the major. Student should consult an advisor before enrolling in recommended coursework to ensure transferability and applicability to the associate degree and parallel bachelor degree. See Table 1 and Appendix B.

1. **Foreign Language:** Students are advised to complete at least two semesters of sequential foreign language at their two-year institution if possible. It should be noted that many 2-year institutions offer language courses and/or require at least one year of foreign language study for graduation. In addition, many 4-year institutions require language study to a proficiency level for a Bachelors of Arts (BA) degree in Political Science.

Example might include two to four semesters of language study:

SPA 101, SPA 102 (or equivalencies) – first year  
SPA 201, SPA 202 (or equivalencies) – second year

Students may use two approved courses of sequential foreign language from Category 6 in the Transfer Framework. See Table 1 and Appendix B.

2. **Economics:** Recommend students complete three (3) to six (6) credits in Economics. Content areas include Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. Approved Microeconomics and Macroeconomics courses from Framework Category 5 may be used to satisfy this recommendation. See Table 1 and Appendix B.
3. **Geography:** Recommend students take three (3) credits in Geography, if available. NOTE: Not all institutions include Geography as a Political Science requirement.
4. **History:** Recommend students take three (3) credits in history. Any approved History course from Framework Category 5 may be used to satisfy this recommendation. See Table 1 and Appendix B.

## VI. **REQUIRED Foundation Level Coursework**

The Commonwealth's statewide college credit transfer system includes an advising tool called the "30-credit Transfer Credit Framework." With the assistance of an academic advisor students are required to complete 30 credits of approved coursework from the Framework as part of the transferable associate degree program.

The Framework allows students to seamlessly transfer up to 30 credits of foundation courses from one participating college or university to another and have those courses count toward graduation. Please be aware that certain majors may have specific requirements prescribed by external agencies. It is the student's responsibility to work with an advisor to select appropriate courses as they relate to the major.

The Framework consists of a menu of courses that fall within six broad categories: English, public speaking, math, science, fine arts and humanities, and the behavioral and social sciences. To fully benefit, students are advised to select a range of courses according to the criteria for each category. See Appendix B: 30-Credit Transfer Framework.

Under this Agreement, students may select courses according to the criteria indicated for Framework Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6. In Category 5, students may apply a maximum of three credits earned in an approved American National Government course toward the 12 credits of Required Major-Specific Content. See Table 1: Required Transfer Framework Courses for Political Science Majors.

In addition, other courses in Framework Category 5 may satisfy major requirements as determined by the individual institution. Students are advised to work with an advisor to select courses related to their associate degree program, transfer major and personal interests.

**Table 1: Required Framework Courses for Political Science Majors**

<b>Framework Category</b>	<b>Transfer Framework allows students to take...*</b>	<b>Political Science Majors should take...*</b>
<b>Category 1</b>	3-4 credits	One approved course (3-4 credits)
<b>Category 2</b>	3-4 credits	One approved course (3-4 credits)
<b>Category 3</b>	Min. 3-4 credits; Max. 6-8 credits	Two approved courses (6-8 credits)
<b>Category 4</b>	Min. 3-4 credits; Max. 6-8 credits	Two approved courses (6-8 credits)
<b>Category 5</b>	Min. 3-4 credits; Max. 6-8 credits	1. An approved American National Government course (3-4 credits) 2. One additional approved course (3-4 credits), preferably in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, or History
<b>Category 6</b>	Min. 3-4 credits; Max. 6-8 credits	Two approved courses (6-8 credits)  (Students transferring into Bachelor of Arts degrees are recommended to fulfill this requirement with two sequential semesters of foreign language.)
<p>*Students are advised not to exceed the credit number indicated in each Framework Category. Credit requirements are presented as a range since actual credit number may vary by specific course and institution. Students should consult an academic advisor prior to enrolling in any Framework coursework and refer to the list of Transfer Equivalencies found at <a href="http://www.PAcollegetransfer.com">www.PAcollegetransfer.com</a>.</p>		

## Appendix A: Program-to-Program Articulation Model for Political Science

<b>REQUIRED Major-Specific Content (at least 12 credits from four major areas)</b>	<b>Transfer Criteria</b>
1. American/United States Government/Politics 2. International Relations/World Politics 3. Comparative Politics/Comparative Government 4. Select <u>one</u> of the following areas: a. Political Philosophy/Theory/Thought b. State and Local Government/Politics	See specific competencies in Section II.
<b>REQUIRED General Foundation Competencies</b>	<b>Transfer Criteria</b>
Students must attain and demonstrate competencies in the following areas as part of the articulated associate degree: I. Critical Thinking II. Knowledge III. Research Methods IV. Information Literacy V. Communication Skills VI. Diversity and Globalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students transferring with an associate degree shall attain and be able to demonstrate, as measured by a variety of learning outcome and assessment mechanisms, competencies can be integrated and demonstrated within the required and recommended major coursework in Political Science and/or within the general associate degree requirements.</li> <li>Section III details competencies for each area.</li> </ul>
<b>RECOMMENDED Major-Specific Content</b>	<b>Transfer Criteria</b>
1. Research Methods 2. Public Administration 3. Political Philosophy/Theory/Thought <u>OR</u> State and Local Government/Politics ( <i>whichever area was not taken to fulfill a REQUIRED Major-specific Content Area</i> ) 4. Constitutional Law 5. Additional Political Science courses under advisement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will not be penalized for not completing additional political science coursework as part of the articulated associate degree.</li> <li>The total number of Political Science credits completed at the associate-degree level cannot exceed 50% of the major-specific coursework required by the parallel bachelor degree program offered by the four-year institution.</li> <li>Students should consult an advisor BEFORE enrolling in additional Political Science Content.</li> </ul>
<b>RECOMMENDED Content Outside of the Major</b>	<b>Transfer Criteria</b>
1. <u>Foreign Language</u> : At least two semesters of sequential foreign language 2. <u>Economics</u> : 6-8 credits in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics 3. <u>Geography</u> : 3 credits 4. <u>History</u> : 3 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Courses from the 30-Credit Transfer Framework may be used to satisfy recommended coursework outside of the major. See below and Appendix B.</li> <li>Student should consult an advisor before enrolling in recommended coursework to ensure transferability and applicability.</li> </ul>
<b>REQUIRED Foundation Level Coursework</b>	<b>Transfer Criteria (Coursework selected in consultation with an advisor)</b>
<b>Category 1 (3-4 credits)</b>	One approved course (3-4 credits)
<b>Category 2 (3-4 credits)</b>	One approved course (3-4 credits)
<b>Category 3 (6-8 credits)</b>	Two approved courses (6-8 credits)
<b>Category 4 (6-8 credits)</b>	Two approved courses (6-8 credits)
<b>Category 5 (6-8 credits)</b>	1. An approved American National Government course (3-4 credits) 2. One approved course (3-4 credits), preferably in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics or History
<b>Category 6 (6-8 credits)</b>	Two approved courses (6-8 credits) (Recommend two sequential courses of foreign language)



**Appendix B: 30-Credit Transfer Credit Framework**

Students who successfully complete foundation level courses from the categories below may transfer 30 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>2</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>3</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.

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<sup>2</sup> Adopted by TAOC and added to the agreement on April 11, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Approved by TAOC and added to agreement on August 18, 2011.

- 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).

#### **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>4</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.

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<sup>4</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.

**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.

**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.