

DRAFT

STATEWIDE PROGRAM-TO-PROGRAM ARTICULATION IN 4-8 EDUCATION

In Pennsylvania, Statewide Program-to-Program Articulation is intended to provide students with a seamless pathway from an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree into a bachelor degree in a similar field of study without loss of academic progress.

A committee of faculty and personnel from the colleges and universities that participate in the Commonwealth's college credit transfer system has developed the attached DRAFT articulation agreement and are asking members of the participating institutions to assist them by providing feedback by **October 21, 2011**.

The PAC will then take these comments under advisement before submitting the agreement to the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee for review and approval.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Comments must be submitted using the electronic form available on the [Pennsylvania Transfer and Articulation Center](http://www.PAcollege-transfer.com) website located at www.PAcollege-transfer.com.

Prior to submitting feedback, individuals should visit the [PA TRAC website](#) to gain a better understanding of the purpose and process of statewide articulation in Pennsylvania.

DEADLINE

Comments on this DRAFT articulation agreement may be submitted from **midnight on Monday, October 3, 2011, until 11:59 PM on Friday, October 21, 2011**.

QUESTIONS?

Questions concerning this DRAFT articulation agreement should be submitted as a comment using the online form mentioned above.

Questions concerning Pennsylvania's statewide articulation process and college credit transfer system should be emailed directly to PDE's Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education at Pennsylvania at ra-patrac@state.pde.us.

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PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE PROGRAM-TO-PROGRAM ARTICULATION AGREEMENT IN 4-8 EDUCATION

In accordance with Article XX-C of the Public School Code of 1949, institutions participating in Pennsylvania's statewide college credit transfer system agree to the following policies governing the transfer of credits from a participating associate-degree granting institution into a participating four-year college or university. This agreement specifically ensures that a student who successfully completes an Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree in 4-8 Education or any AA or AS degree that incorporates the required competencies at a participating institution can transfer the full degree into a parallel bachelor degree program leading to certification in 4-8 Education at a participating institution.

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

- Successful completion of an associate degree in 4-8 Education that includes all of the required major competencies identified in this Agreement.
- A minimum cumulative grade of B or better in the associate degree (equivalent of a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale)
- Current clearances portfolio including PA Act 34 Criminal History Record Check (CHRC), Act 114 Federal Criminal History Record Fingerprint Card, Act 151 PA Child Abuse History Clearance, negative TB test results, and passing results from General Knowledge on the Praxis exams

See Appendix A: Program-to-Program Articulation Model for 4-8 Education and Appendix B: Required Education Program Acceptance Tasks.

It is therefore understood that students meeting these requirements will be considered by both the associate degree granting institution and the receiving bachelor degree institution to possess the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for entry as a junior into a parallel bachelor degree program leading to certification in 4-8 Education.

Students studying 4-8 Education should be concerned primarily with the process of teaching and learning with emphasis on the specific cognition and development of middle level students. The National Middle School Association (NMSA) provides professional guidelines for the 4-8 Education degree. These competencies from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and NMSA have been accessed in designing a curriculum agreement that demonstrates students' understanding of the fundamentals of the middle level grades and provides the necessary background for success in advanced coursework in the major.

To that end, the associate degree in 4-8 Education must include coursework in:

- Philosophy of Middle Level Education with Field Experience;
- Cognition and Young Adolescent Development;
- Special Education/Inclusive Practices; and,
- English Language Learners (ELL).

REQUIRED MAJOR-SPECIFIC CONTENT AREA

Under this Agreement, students are required to acquire 9 credits in the courses listed below, with 6 optional credits. A fully transferable associate degree in the field of 4-8 Education must include certain competencies according to PDE and NMSA. Acquisition of these competencies will allow 4-8 Education majors to identify and solve problems specific to middle level teaching and learning. Competencies included within a course must be clearly documented in all internal and external references to course descriptions including in catalogs, course lists, syllabi, etc.

Individual institutions may determine how the competencies are met within the required coursework. For example, one institution may choose to embed the competencies in two 3-credit courses with two separate 1-credit laboratory courses, while another institution teaches the same competencies in three 3-credit courses that include hands-on activities. How an institution incorporates the competencies into the associate degree program does not affect the transferability of the associate degree under this Agreement in as much as all of the competencies are met.

As previously noted, students are required to earn a minimum cumulative grade of B or better in the associates degree (equivalent of a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale). See Appendix A: Program-to-Program Articulation Model for 4-8 Education.

This agreement requires that 4-8 Education students fulfill some of these competencies through the following *Major-Specific Content Area* coursework. Additionally, it is highly recommended that 4-8 Education programs include up to 3 credits of coursework each in ELL Teaching English Language Learners and Technology, **or** 90 hours each embedded in required credit coursework.

- Philosophy of Middle Level Education: 3 credits
- Cognition, Young Adolescent Development: 3 credits
- Special Education/Inclusive Practices: 3 credits
- Field Experience (embedded within the required courses as per institutional preference)
 - Level I & II Field Experience: 40 hours
- ELL Teaching English Language Learners: 3 credits or 90 hours embedded in required credit coursework
- Technology: 3 credits or 90 hours embedded in required coursework

The Pennsylvania State Board of Education adopted changes that affect all of Pennsylvania's instructional and educational specialist programs by requiring 9 college-level credits (or 270 hours or an equivalent combination thereof) for Adaptations and Accommodations for Diverse Students in an Inclusive Setting and 3 credits (or 90 hours or equivalent combination thereof) to meet the Instructional Needs of English Language Learners. These new regulations for certifying teachers take effect January 1, 2013.

GENERAL CONTENT AREAS

REQUIRED General Content

Under this Agreement, a fully transferable associate degree in the field of 4-8 Education must include competencies in the following primary general content areas:

- English Composition I – 3 credits
- Literature (General or Young Adolescent) – 3 credits
- Speech/Interpersonal Communication – 3 credits
- Math Content I & II – 6 credits
- Lab Science – 6-8 credits (depending on whether courses offered are worth 3 or 4 credits)
- United States/American History – 3 credits
- Psychology (General or Adolescent/Cognition) – 3 credits

OPTIONAL General Content

The following courses should be listed as options, with advisors directing students based on the institution they would be interested in entering for their final two years of study.

- U.S. Government – 3 credits
- World Geography – 3 credits
- Two additional science courses (Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics) – 6-8 credits

Institutions may determine how the competencies identified in these primary content areas are met. For example, one institution may choose to embed the Lab Science competencies in four 3-credit courses, while another institution may teach the same competencies in three 4-credit courses. How an institution incorporates the competencies into the associate degree program does not affect the transferability of the degree under this Agreement in so long as all of the competencies are met.

Students are required to earn a minimum cumulative grade of B or better in the associate's degree (equivalent of a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale).

See Appendix A: Program-to-Program Articulation Model for 4-8 Education.

REQUIRED SPECIFIC CONCENTRATION CONTENT AREAS

All students wishing to enter the middle level teacher program will take the aforementioned coursework in professional education plus coursework in at least one of the following areas of concentration:

- 1. English/Language Arts and Reading – 9 credits**
- 2. Mathematics – 9 credits**
- 3. Science – 9 credits**
- 4. Social Studies – 9 credits**

Dual concentration options may be pursued at the four-year institution. Further, students should be advised that foundational coursework is necessary and that to be certified to teach at the middle grade level they must take a 21- or 30-credit focus and pass the appropriate test(s).

Herein, specific competencies are provided succinctly. The reader is referred to the PDE 4-8 Program Articulation Guidelines relating to those specific content areas (e.g., Mathematics) for more detailed descriptions.

As with *Major Specific Content Areas*, institutions may determine how the competencies identified in these *Specific Concentration Content Areas* are met. How an institution incorporates the competencies into the associate degree program does not affect the transferability of the degree under this Agreement in so long as all of the competencies are met.

In all Concentrations, students are advised to work closely with an advisor, the 4-8 Education Coordinator, and a transfer counselor to select appropriate courses related to their associate degree program, transfer-major, and personal interests. Contact should be made with an advisor, the 4-8 Education Coordinator, and a transfer counselor at the expected four-year institution as soon as possible during associate's degree coursework to ensure that the four-year institution's general education requirements are appropriately woven into the student's associate degree curriculum.

1. English/Language Arts and Reading Concentration – 9 credits

Students selecting the English/Language Arts and Reading Concentration must obtain the following competencies at the associate degree level:

- English/Language Arts and Reading
- Word level instruction
- Text level comprehension
- Reading-writing connection
- Communication
- Assessment in literacy

Students should earn 9 credits in English/Literature, with 6 credits of writing being earned in coursework beyond Composition I and II. Please note that a writing intensive literature course can fulfill the writing requirement.

Coursework that might meet these requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- American Literature I and II
- British Literature I and II
- World Literature I and II
- Creative Writing
- Adolescent Literature
- Shakespeare
- African-American Literature
- African Literature
- Women in Literature

2. Mathematics Concentration – 9 Credits

Students selecting the Mathematics Concentration must obtain the following competencies at the associate degree level:

- Numbers and operations
- Algebra and functions
- Geometry and measurement
- Data analysis, statistics, probability
- Calculus concepts and applications
- Mathematical modeling and applications of mathematical understandings

Students should take 9 credits of math as follows:

- Middle Level Mathematics/Physics Instruction – 3 credits
- Two courses from the following for a total of 6 credits:
 - Introductory Statistics
 - Calculus
 - Introductory Geometry
 - Introductory Algebra

3. Science Concentration – No more than 16 credits

Students selecting the Science Concentration must obtain the following competencies at the associate degree level:

- Physical sciences
- Life sciences
- Ecology standards
- Earth and space sciences
- Science and inquiry

Students must complete no less than 6 credits, but no more than 16 credits, of laboratory science coursework. This coursework has already been allotted in the Agreement's core credits. Please note that students in the Science Concentration must complete one course in each of the four science areas listed below to meet the required 12-credit focus:

1. **Biology** – 7-8 credits
 - General/Introductory Biology
 - Ecology
2. **Chemistry** – 7-8 credits
 - General Chemistry I
 - General Chemistry II
3. **Earth Science** – 7-8 credits
 - Physical Geology
 - Earth and Space
4. **Physics** – 7-8 credits
 - General Physics I
 - General Physics II
5. **Mathematics** – *Students Choose two of the following:*
 - Introductory Statistics
 - Calculus III
 - Introductory Geometry
 - Introductory Algebra

4. Social Studies Concentration – 9 credits

Students selecting the Social Studies Concentration must obtain the following competencies at the associate degree level:

- Geographic literacy
- Physical/human interactions of places and regions
- History of the World
- History of the United States
- History of Pennsylvania
- Macroeconomics
- Civics and government

Students must complete the 9-credit generalist area of concentration as follows:

- **US History I – 3 credits**
- **World Geography – 3 credits**
- **Political Science/U.S. Government – 3 credits**

Please note that some institutions may choose to add a 3-credit Pennsylvania History course, while others may choose to embed Pennsylvania History within U.S. History I.

In the Social Studies Concentration, the following courses are recommended to be taken in sequential order to complete the 21- and 30-credit hour options.

- World History I
- US History II
- Economics (MACRO)
- World History II
- One course from the following for a total of 3 credits:
 - Cultural Anthropology/Cultural Geography
 - Political Science: State and Local Government

REQUIRED FIELD EXPERIENCE

Pennsylvania Department of Education requires all education students to obtain 190 hours of pre-student teacher field experience. In order to fulfill this requirement, it is recommended that 10 hours of field experience be included as an integral part of all education courses. This enables students to immediately apply the knowledge gathered in each course to their observations and periphery participation in the field.

Level 1: Observation

Candidates are observers in a variety of education and education related settings (e.g., community organizations, tutoring programs). Programs are expected to design this phase so that candidates participate before formal admission to the teacher education program. Apart from community and after-school programs, there must be a range of school and classroom experiences (e.g., urban, suburban, rural; high- and low-performing schools)—all taking place in middle level grades—so that candidates have a broad experience and learn as much as possible about middle level learners and middle level education philosophy.

Level 2: Exploration

This stage may be called the “assistant” phase of field experience—it is where the candidate works under a certified teacher’s direction with a small group of students. Activities could include tutoring, helping with reading assignments, and so forth. Ideally, this stage would also occur before admission to the teacher preparation program.

REQUIRED CLEARANCES PORTFOLIO

Prior to transferring to a bachelor degree institutions, students must provide proof of the following clearances:

- PA Act 34 Criminal History Record Check (CHRC)
- Act 114 Federal Criminal History Record Fingerprint Card
- Act 151 PA Child Abuse History Clearance

In addition, students must provide proof of negative TB test results and passing results from the appropriate required exams. See Appendix B: ***Required Education Program Acceptance Tasks for more details.***

Appendix A: Program-To-Program Articulation Agreement for 4-8 Education

REQUIRED MAJOR-SPECIFIC CONTENT (9 cr)	REQUIRED GENERAL CONTENT (27-30 cr)	REQUIRED CONCENTRATION Coursework			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philosophy of Middle Level Education with Field Experience: 3 cr Cognition, Young Adolescent Development: 3 cr Special Education/Inclusive Practices: 3 cr 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composition I: 3 cr Composition II: 3 cr (for some institutions) Literature (General or Young Adolescent): 3 cr Speech: 3 cr Math Content 1 & 2: 6 cr Lab Science: 6-8 cr (depending on whether courses offered were worth 3 or 4 cr) U.S./Amer History: 3 cr Psychology (General, Intro or Adolescent/ Cognition): 3 cr 	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p><u>English/Language Arts and Reading Concentration</u> (15 cr, including 6 cr of writing)</p>	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p><u>Mathematics Concentration</u> (15 cr)</p>	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p><u>Science Concentration</u> (No more than 16 cr)</p>	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p><u>Social Studies Concentration</u> (15 cr)</p>
		<p>Coursework that might meet these requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Lit I & II British Lit I & II World Lit I & II Creative Writing Adolescent Lit Shakespeare African-American Lit African Lit Women in Lit 	<p>Mid-Level Mathematics Instruction – 3 cr</p>	<p><u>ONE</u> course in <u>each</u> area (12 cr):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Biology–7-8 cr <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General/Intro Bio Ecology Chemistry–7-8 cr <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gen Chemistry I Gen Chemistry II Earth Science–7-8 cr <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phys. Geology Earth and Space Physics–7-8 cr <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gen Physics I Gen Physics II 	<p>Generalist area of concentration (9 cr)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> US History I – 3 cr World Geography – 3 cr Political Science/U.S. Government – 3 cr
			<p>Choose two of the following (6 cr):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intro Statistics Calculus I or II Intro Geometry Intro Algebra 	<p>Choose <u>TWO</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intro Statistics Calculus III Intro Geometry Intro Algebra 	<p>The following courses are recommended to be taken in sequential order to complete the 21- and 30-credit options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World History I U.S. History II Macroeconomics World History II One course (3 cr) in either Cultural Anthro/Cultural Geography <u>OR</u> State/Local Govt

Technology: 3 cr or 90
hrs embedded in
required coursework

OPTIONAL Suggested:

- U.S. Government: 3 cr
- World Geography:
3 cr
- Two Additional
Sciences: 6 cr

***HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED:***
ELL Teaching English
Language Learners: 3 cr
or 90 hrs embedded in
required credit
coursework

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Appendix B: Required Education Program Acceptance Tasks

Required Education Program Acceptance Tasks
▪ Completion of Associates Degree
▪ Negative TB test results
▪ Pennsylvania Background Check (Act 34)
▪ Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (Act 151)
▪ Fingerprint-based FBI record check (Act 114)
To Maintain Acceptance in Education Program
▪ Minimum cumulative grade of B or better in the associates degree (equivalent of a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale)
▪ Obtain current Pennsylvania qualifying/passing scores for the appropriate PA qualifying examinations. Qualifying scores established by Pennsylvania Secretary of Education (See www.teaching.state.pa.us/teaching/ and choose "Testing Requirements")
▪ Documentation of (40 hours) Level I and II Field Experience within each course
▪ Maintenance of clearances as per individual institutional Code of Conduct policies (Certificate of No Offense)