

Fact Sheet:

Articulation Agreements Among Nursing Education Programs

Articulation agreements are important mechanisms that enhance access to baccalaureate level nursing education. These agreements support education mobility and facilitate the seamless transfer of academic credit between associate degree (ADN) and baccalaureate (BSN) nursing programs. Typically negotiated by faculty from both types of academic institutions, these renewable agreements help to ensure equivalency between community college and university courses. Though a formal contract is not necessary to transfer credit between junior and senior colleges, these frameworks do help to inform students' course selection, eliminate curriculum redundancies, streamline the application review process, and promote collaboration among educators across nursing programs.

Though some agreements exist to facilitate progression from associate degree to master's level nursing programs, this report focuses on ADN to BSN articulation. Currently, 32 states and the District of Columbia maintain broad articulation agreements between ADN and BSN programs, including 8 states that mandate credit transfer between programs at public institutions. Most agreements were developed through statewide collaborations among nurse educators, boards of nursing, and other interested parties.

In the remaining 18 states, hundreds of individual school-to-school articulation agreements exist to facilitate credit transfer and baccalaureate degree completion. Though each agreement is different and unique to nursing programs within each state, most allow for the transfer of 60 semester credits, which is consistent with transfer agreements between two- and four-year institutions for other academic disciplines.

Types of Articulation Agreements

Articulation agreements among nursing education programs fall within three general categories: Mandated, Statewide, and Individual.

Mandated Articulation Agreements: These formal agreements exist as part of legislation and mandate credit transfer between nursing programs. In Florida, for example, State Board of Education Rule 6A-10.024 provides that all graduates of approved ADN programs in the state will be granted admission into a baccalaureate program offered by any state institution with few exceptions. The law further states that 72 credit hours, including 42 hours of nursing core courses, will be transferred into BSN programs, which cannot exceed 128 credit hours to complete. States with mandated articulation agreements include:

Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Washington

Statewide Articulation Agreements: These voluntary articulation plans and models are usually developed through the collaborative effort of nurse educators, regulators, legislators, and other stakeholders wishing to enhance educational mobility for registered

nurses (RNs). These agreements are generally accepted by all community colleges and public universities in a given state, though private institutions often choose to participate as well. For example, all state-funded nursing programs in Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Wyoming have adopted the nursing education articulation model and use this framework to guide credit transfer and admissions decisions. Statewide articulation agreements and models exist in the following states:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Individual School-to-School Articulation Agreements: In states without mandated articulation plans and statewide models, individual agreements are often established between ADN and BSN programs. These arrangements typically delineate which nursing courses will transfer between programs as well as the maximum number of credits accepted. Several states including California, Illinois, and Indiana offer online resources to help students and educators identify which courses will transfer from junior to senior colleges. Hundreds of individual articulation agreements have been created in the following states:

California, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

Finally, private schools and nursing programs located in areas with statewide articulation models and/or plans in place often develop individual school-to-school agreements as well.

AACN Research and Online Resources

AACN has compiled the following resources related to articulation agreements among nursing education programs:

- Overview of nursing education articulation agreements by type
- State-by-state directory of Web links to various kinds of articulation agreements
- A list of individual school-to-school articulation agreements is available by contacting rrosseter@aacn.nche.edu.
- Lists of RN to Baccalaureate, RN to Master's Degree, and LPN to Baccalaureate Programs
- AACN position statement on *Educational Mobility*
- AACN fact sheets on *Degree Completion Programs for Registered Nurses* and *ACN's Support for Articulation*

AACN member schools interested in receiving samples of Statewide or Individual articulation agreements may request copies via email by contacting rrosseter@aacn.nche.edu.

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Nursing Education Program Articulation Agreements by Type

<i>State</i>	<i>Agreement Type</i>
Alabama	Statewide
Alaska	Statewide
Arizona	Statewide
Arkansas	Statewide
California	Individual
Colorado	Statewide
Connecticut	Mandated
Delaware	Statewide
District of Columbia	Statewide
Florida	Mandated
Georgia	Statewide
Hawaii	Individual
Idaho	Statewide
Illinois	Statewide
Indiana	Individual
Iowa	Statewide
Kansas	Statewide
Kentucky	Individual
Louisiana	Statewide
Maine	Individual
Maryland	Mandated
Massachusetts	Individual
Michigan	Individual
Minnesota	Mandated
Mississippi	Statewide
Missouri	Statewide
Montana	Individual
Nebraska	Individual
Nevada	Individual
New Hampshire	Statewide
New Jersey	Statewide
New Mexico	Individual
New York	Individual
North Carolina	Mandated
North Dakota	Statewide
Ohio	Statewide
Oklahoma	Statewide
Oregon	Individual
Pennsylvania	Statewide
Rhode Island	Individual
South Carolina	Mandated
South Dakota	Statewide
Tennessee	Statewide
Texas	Mandated
Utah	Individual
Vermont	Individual
Virginia	Individual
Washington	Mandated
West Virginia	Individual
Wisconsin	Statewide
Wyoming	Statewide

Key to Articulation Agreement Types

Individual: Arrangements are made on a school-to-school basis. A blanket agreement does not exist.

18 states

Mandated: State laws exist regulating the transfer of credit between public institutions.

8 states

Statewide: Articulation plans and models are in place for public and sometimes private institutions. Often, these agreements apply to all programs in a state's university and community college system.

24 states and the District of Columbia

Web Links to Nursing Education Program Articulation Agreements

Mandated Articulation Agreements

Alabama

Articulation and General Studies Committee, State of Alabama

<http://stars.troy.edu/agsc/agsc.htm>

Connecticut

Connecticut Public Act No. 01-165

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2001/act/Pa/2001PA-00165-R00SB-01366-PA.htm>

Florida

Statewide Articulation Manual (p. 7)

http://www.facts.org/pdf_sw/statwidearticulationmanual.pdf

Maryland

Maryland RN to BSN or RN to MSN Articulation Model

<http://www.mhec.state.md.us/pressroom/September2003/Sept03nursingarticulation%20agreement.asp>

Maryland Board of Nursing Articulation Information

http://www.mbon.org/main.php?v=norm&p=0&c=education/nsg_guide/articulation.html

ARTSYS – Articulation System of Maryland Colleges and Universities

<http://artweb.usmd.edu>

Minnesota

MNSCU Statewide Nursing Articulation Agreement

<http://www.mntransfer.org/Councils/NursingAC.html>

North Carolina

Comprehensive Articulation Agreement Between the University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Community College System (p. 56)

http://intranet.northcarolina.edu/docs/assessment/caa/April%202005/caa_manual.pdf

South Carolina

Statewide Agreement on Transfer and Articulation

<http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/TRANSFER/Transfer.HTM>

Texas

Field of Study Curriculum for Public Nursing Education Programs (p. 46)

<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/UHRI/nurse8-2-04.pdf>

2005-2010 Texas State Health Plan (p. 15-16)

<http://www.texasshcc.org/stateplan2005/ch12005.pdf>

Washington

Washington State Nursing Education Articulation and Competency Project

http://www.wacenterfornursing.org/html/media/arti_com.pdf

Statewide Articulation Agreements

Alaska

All of the states ADN programs are offered through the University of Alaska system, which permits seamless articulation into the BSN program.

Arizona

Arizona Transfer Articulation Support System

<http://az.transfer.org/cas/atass/index.html>

Arizona Nursing Program Matrix

<http://az.transfer.org/cas/atass/admin/implement/04courses/nurs.htm>

Arkansas

Arkansas Nursing Articulation Model

http://www.arsbn.org/pdfs/nursing-programs/approved_model_2005.pdf

<http://nursing.uams.edu/rnbsn/nln.html>

Colorado

Colorado Commission on Higher Education Statewide Articulation Agreements

<http://www.uchsc.edu/ahec/cando/assets/documents/articulation2001.pdf>

Colorado Nursing Articulation Model History

<http://www.uchsc.edu/ahec/cando/nursing/history.htm>

Delaware

Delaware Connected Degree/Transfer Options

<http://www.dtcc.edu/connecteddegree>

District of Columbia

District of Columbia Articulation Models

http://www.georgetown.edu/organizations/dccnep/DCCNEP_EAM.htm

Georgia

Georgia RN to BSN Articulation Model

<http://www.centerfornursing.org/research/articulationmodels.html>

<http://www.centerfornursing.org/research/georgia.html>

Georgia Board of Nursing Program Directory (See last column)

<http://www.sos.state.ga.us/acrobat/ExamBoards/RN/schools.pdf>

Idaho

Idaho's Statewide Nursing Articulation Plan

<http://icne.boisestate.edu/Documents/Articulation%20Agreement.pdf>

Illinois

Illinois Articulation Initiative

<http://www.itransfer.org/IAI>

Iowa

Iowa Articulation Plan for Nursing Education

<http://www.state.ia.us/nursing/art%20plan%20RN%20to%20Bacc.html>

<http://www.nursingworld.org/snas/ia/artplan.htm>

Kansas

Kansas Nursing Articulation Pathways

<http://www.kumc.edu/studenthandbook/2001/pdf/248.pdf>

TCN Overview of RN-BSN Articulation Models

<http://www.centerfornursing.org/research/articulationmodels.html>

Louisiana

Louisiana Nursing Education Articulation Model

<http://www.lsnbn.state.la.us/documents/neam/neam.pdf>

Mississippi

Statewide Articulation Agreement Between Mississippi's 8 Public Universities and Community/Junior Colleges in the State: (p. 118)

http://www.ihl.state.ms.us/Academic_Affairs1/Articulation%20Agreement%202000.pdf

Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Student Advisor

<http://www.msuniversities.org/studentadvisor/transfer.html>

Missouri

Missouri Articulation Plan

http://www.monursing.org/programservices/prog_articulation.htm

New Hampshire

Transfer articulation agreements between the New Hampshire Community Technical College System and the University System of New Hampshire

<http://www.nhtransfer.org/highered.html>

<http://www.nhtransfer.org/sampletransfer.html>

New Jersey

New Jersey Nursing Education Articulation Model

http://www.njccn.org/advancement_edu.asp

North Dakota

North Dakota University System Articulation Agreements

<http://www.ndus.nodak.edu/students/ccn/articulation/agreements.asp#17>

Ohio

Ohio Nursing Articulation Model

http://64.233.187.104/search?q=cache:NooqdtSkq_gJ:www.ohioleaguefornursing.org/PDF%2520files/HFFinalDocument.pdf+&hl=en

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Nursing Articulation Consortium (ONAC)

<http://www.okcareertech.org/health/ONAC/onacINDEX.HTM>

ONAC Curriculum Model

<http://www.okcareertech.org/health/ONAC/model%20curriculum.htm>

University of Oklahoma Articulation Plan

http://student-affairs.ouhsc.edu/programs/nur_careermobility.pdf

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Nursing Articulation Model (p. 8)

<http://home.moravian.edu/public/Nursing/program.pdf>

Pennsylvania Transfer System

<http://www.passhe.edu/content/?/office/academic/passport>

South Dakota

South Dakota Nursing Education Articulation Framework

<http://www.state.sd.us/doh/nursing/NursingEdOps%202004.pdf>

Tennessee

Tennessee Career Mobility Plan

<http://www.centerfornursing.org/research/articulationmodels.html>

Wisconsin

University of Wisconsin Transfer Information System

<http://www.uwsa.edu/tis/resources/ga/wtcsprogs/wtcsnurs.shtml>

Wyoming

University of Wyoming and all Wyoming Community Colleges (p. 2-3)

<http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/hs/Academic%20Plans/AC%20Plan%20-%20Final%20Nov%201.DOC>