

Review Process for Necessary Exemption from Participating in an OGTP
Updated November 19, 2019

The Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways (OGTP) implementation policy acknowledges that, due to the unique nature of certain academic programs, institutions may occasionally require limited and necessary exemptions within the legislative mandate that any associate degree transfer and apply to a bachelor degree program in an equivalent field without unnecessary duplication or barriers. A section entitled “Necessary Individual Program Exemptions from Participating in an OGTP” is included within the implementation policy and states the following:

Very few institutions may offer programs that necessarily require duplication of coursework or other barriers to transfer because of their unique nature. Such programs should submit a request for a necessary exemption from participating in an OGTP for review by the OGTP Steering Committee and/or the OATN Oversight Board.¹ However, TAG courses are commonly agreed-upon courses within a major that must be transferable to the related program regardless of the distinctive nature of a program.

Content: Requests for necessary exemptions should specify from which OGTP the exemption is being requested and provide an explanation, maximum two pages, of why a program requires an exemption to the legislative mandate. Compelling reasons should be provided when requesting an exemption from offering an OGTP, such as restrictive and unavoidable program accreditation rules,² highly competitive admission cohort models,³ nationally acclaimed program features that would be jeopardized, etc. Note: this is not a forum for discussion around previously agreed upon TAGs or TAG policies.⁴ Previous legislation must be followed.

The rationale for exemption should include relevant numbers (e.g., size of program, number of applicants, number of students accepted, number of students enrolled, etc.), program learning outcomes as they pertain to the request, an overview of the program structure/curriculum, and what, if any, options exist for students not admitted to the program being reviewed. Additional appendices may be used to provide data or other relevant information.

Timeline: Institutions must submit their request for a necessary exemption to the Director of the Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways at least four weeks prior to the meeting of the OGTP Steering Committee Meeting (dates to be announced each academic year). Letters will be reviewed once per semester in both fall and spring.

Procedure: All requests for necessary exemptions will be sent to the OGTP Steering Committee in advance of the meeting. Each institution will have the option to attend and briefly present their request. Alternatively, if they do not wish to attend or are unable to do so, the co-chairs of the OGTP Steering Committee will present the request to the OGTP Steering Committee. The OGTP Steering

¹ The OGTP Steering Committee and OATN Oversight Board serve in an advisory capacity to the Chancellor of the ODHE. The Chancellor has final decision-making authority.

² Some programs may not require accreditation but have accreditation available. Programs that have attained this accreditation may have unique requirements.

³ Certain programs may admit only a very small number of students based on a cohort group and have not traditionally accepted transfer students.

⁴ The OGTP Steering Committee and/or OATN Oversight Board will differentiate between OGTP compliance and TAG compliance related issues and will focus on OGTP compliance through this review process.

Committee will review each request submitted in accordance with the guidelines above and provide a recommendation to the Chancellor for whether the exemption should be granted. Members of the Steering Committee will not participate in the evaluation of any requests from their own institution.

Review Process: Committee recommendations will take into account all factors listed above. The recommendation to the Chancellor will be based upon consensus, not voting. The Chancellor's decision is final; however, the Chancellor may decide to reconsider a recommendation in light of compelling new information brought to the OGTP Steering Committee.