Articulation and Transfer Policy Updates Due to COVID-19

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on higher education, the OATN has been receiving many questions about transfer policies. Temporary updates and clarifications have been made as a result. Please visit our website to access the most current information.

Transfer Talk Tuesday

The Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network has been sponsoring a series of professional development webinars to provide information to faculty and staff on transfer-related topics and initiatives. Each talk is 20-30 minutes in length with additional time for questions and discussion. Recordings from the previous sessions are available on our website, or using the hyperlinks below:

- Back to Basics
- Tackling Transfer Demographics
- Military Minutes
- Ohio Mathematics Initiative
- Technology Bytes
- 23 OGTPs, Now What?
- College COVID Strategies to Support Students
Special Features (cont.)

The following additional Transfer Talk Tuesday events are planned for the fall semester:

- **National Transfer Student Week Edition** – October 20, 2020
  Hear how various institutions will be celebrating National Transfer Student Week despite being distanced by COVID-19.

- **4 C’s of CCP** – November 17, 2020
  College Credit Plus Director Larisa Harper will do a Transfer Talk Tuesday takeover and cover everything you need to know about College Credit Plus for transfer students.

- **30 Years of OTM** – December 15, 2020
  Learn about how the Ohio Transfer Module began and its major milestones over the last 30 years.

Progress Reports

**Ohio Mathematics Initiative**

**Online Formats in Mathematics Discussion**

On August 6, 2020, the Communication, Outreach, and Engagement Subgroup (Subgroup 3) sponsored a webinar where mathematics faculty could gather to have an open discussion about the challenges experienced teaching courses via the current pandemic-related remote delivery format, and exchange ideas for effective course delivery. Subgroup 3 is planning to sponsor additional webinars for mathematics faculty during the fall semester.

**Ohio Values Veterans**

**Military Transfer Assurance Guides (MTAGs)**

Currently, two faculty members are doing an initial review of a large group of business-type military courses. The goal is to look for potential equivalencies with military training, experience, and coursework. The focus is on business because it is still the number-one major area of post-9/11 veterans. The course review project should be complete near the end of fall term. After completion, the results will be shared with the Business TAG panels to determine if any MTAGs can be created. The results will also be shared via a webinar with all the public institutions.

**College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)**

The last newsletter mentioned that the Spanish TAG panel was reviewing the new “Spanish with Writing” CLEP exam. That review has since been completed. On July 9, 2020, the memo regarding the credit awards for this exam was sent to institutions. The credit awards
Progress Reports (cont.)

also aligned with the American Council on Education recommendations for awarding credit for this exam. The memo can be found at this link.

Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways (OGTP)

Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways Update

This fall, a number of OGTP faculty panels are continuing their work, including Nursing, Criminal Justice, Dietetics, Medical/Clinical Laboratory, Applied Business, Education, and Engineering. New panels starting this fall include Health Information Management and Exercise Science/Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy.

The OATN is also continuing to seek institutional submissions for the new OGTP in communication studies this fall. In the meantime, the OGTP team continues to finalize and post institutional templates for the 22 existing pathways. Please watch the website for updates: https://www.ohiohighered.org/ogtp.

OTM, TAG, and CTAG Submissions

Upcoming TAG Submission Deadlines

The next submission deadline is October 2, 2020. For your convenience, submission preparation templates are available on our website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Due and Submission Deadline*</th>
<th>OAN</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Special Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2020 (Beginning of October 2020)</td>
<td>OBU013</td>
<td>Business Statistics</td>
<td>The submissions are for learning outcome #1 only.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OMT018</td>
<td>Calculus III</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2022 (Mid-March 2022)</td>
<td>OAH060</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OAH061</td>
<td>Introduction to Logic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2022 (Beginning of October 2022)</td>
<td>OAH062</td>
<td>Introduction to Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OAH063</td>
<td>Multicultural Literature</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Please note that the semester due term is the expiration term for your currently approved courses under the former TAG course criteria.

For questions regarding progress for the OTM/TAGs, contact Michelle Blaney at 614-644-9601 or mblaney@highered.ohio.gov.

Please direct questions on the CTAG review process to Nikki Wearly at nwearly@highered.ohio.gov.

TAG, OTM, and CTAG Review Cycle Timeline 2020-2021

Note: The rolling review is limited and based on areas of high priority policy implementation (i.e. those with deadlines or requirements for the Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways, expirations, etc.). Panels may perform rolling reviews throughout the year by choice or as requested by Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network staff following the definition for rolling reviews. Submissions for the rolling review may be submitted until March 1, 2021.
Meetings of the Minds

General Education Steering Committee Meeting (September 11, 2020)

The General Education Steering Committee met virtually on Friday, September 11, 2020. Dr. Gigi Escoe and Dr. Carolyn Haynes opened the meeting. Jessi Spencer provided OTM policy updates and outlined spring and summer WebEx meetings focusing on virtual laboratory, remote teaching, and best practices with natural science faculty from across the state. Following this discussion, the committee focused on the proposed Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) changes. Updates included drafted language to clarify the conceptual models of the OTM revision, a report on reactions from the two-year and four-year institutions, updates on revisions to the first and second OTM writing courses, as well as the oral communication course, overview on the development of diversity learning outcomes, and progress recommendation in preparation of the fall Oversight Board meeting. The committee went on to discuss possible OTM name changes/branding, as well as draft an institutional renewed commitment to the modernized OTM statement and timeline goals.

OATN Oversight Board Meeting (September 17, 2020)

The OATN Oversight Board met virtually on Thursday, September 17, 2020. Dr. Paula Compton opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. Charles See and Nick Derksen provided updates on the Career-Technical Credit Transcript Workgroup report. Dr. Escoe and Dr. Haynes presented proposed changes to the OTM which included updates, status of diversity learning outcomes, OTM title change, promise statement, and next steps. This was followed by discussions around third-party evaluators policy/guidelines presented by Jared Shank. The meeting concluded with OATN updates including COVID-19 policy adjustments, Transfer Talk Tuesday series, WebEx meetings with natural sciences faculty, career-technical articulation verification implementation, articulation and transfer clearinghouse exploration phase, and OATN budget updates.

OTM Faculty Subcommittee Meeting (September 25, 2020)

The OTM Faculty Subcommittee met virtually on Friday, September 25, 2020. Dr. Randy Smith welcomed subcommittee members. Jessi Spencer presented the subcommittee members with a status of the proposed OTM conceptual model and additional proposed changes. This was followed by an update on diversity learning outcomes and a subcommittee discussion. The subcommittee went on to hear updates from each of the faculty subcommittee leads on progress and projects related to each discipline area. The meeting concluded with discipline areas breaking out into individual groups to further discuss updates and progress for the fall academic semester.

Upcoming Meetings

Ohio Mathematics Initiative Chairs/Leads Network
October 30, 2020

General Education Steering Committee Meeting
November 6, 2020

Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways Steering Committee Meeting
November 17, 2020

OATN Advisory Council Meeting
November 19, 2020

OATN Oversight Board Meeting
December 2, 2020

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Overview of CTAG Creation Process and Updates

The creation of a new Career-Technical Assurance Guide (CTAG) and the Career-Technical Articulation Numbers (CTANs) associated with it can seem quite simple, but it actually has many moving parts. The process includes a great amount of research that is completed by faculty lead experts. They look for common programs and courses at the public colleges and universities, and review Ohio Department of Education (ODE) program standards. This is followed by a collaborative effort to develop learning outcomes that must be endorsed by the 36 public colleges and universities. The process involves leading panel discussions among faculty subject matter experts to find a consensus among peers, with many edits and changes made to the learning outcomes. As this process moves along, there is alignment work that must be done between the ODE standards and the learning outcomes. The alignment is again discussed by a panel of experts to ensure consensus. A review then occurs to be sure that learning outcomes, standards, and even the courses all meet requirements needed to award college credit and be endorsed statewide. Additionally, after everything is aligned, lead faculty also participate in the creation of an end-of-course test that students must pass in addition to passing the course in order to earn the college credit.

This year, the process was further complicated by the persistence of COVID-19. Despite the added challenges, progress is under way. Faculty lead experts have continued the momentum they gained when they moved to working remotely, and all are ready to continue working to the final stage in CTAG and CTAN creation.

In the health sciences, some great strides are being made. We anticipate that there will be a new CTAG in the area of behavioral health. Currently, CTANs in mental health and chemical dependency have made it to the alignment stage in the creation process. Additionally, we are also in the alignment stage when it comes to biotechnology. We are confident that progress will continue at a quick pace, with item writing to occur for the end-of-course exams in either the winter or spring.

Although still in the research stages of creation, one faculty lead expert is working on a potential dental assisting CTAG. This area was hit a little harder than

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others with the challenges of COVID-19, but there is hope that it may make it to the item writing stage in the spring.

Other successes in health sciences have been the reviews of clinical medical lab, health information management, medical terminology, and exercise science. Only minor updates were needed as all had strong alignments. These areas will all be ready to begin item writing very soon.

A fresh academic year also brings some new projects. The transportation pathway will be reviewed with CTAGs in automotive and air transportation. Again, the faculty lead experts are dedicated and ready to begin the review and possible CTAN creation. Adapting to remote work may have taken some time to adjust, but it seems like it is no barrier to our faculty lead experts and their dedication toward helping students earn college credit in various career-technical areas. The OATN is looking forward to great progress despite the complications that have occurred this year.

Career-Technical Articulation Verification (CTAV) Updates

Phase III – Reporting

Phase III development of CTAV is under way. Initially, the scope of the new reporting functionality was limited to collecting data on the awarding of CTAG credits at the postsecondary level. Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) staff have explored options to develop a more comprehensive data reporting functionality that will give public colleges and universities the ability to provide information on various types of transfer credit awarded (e.g., Career-Technical Assurance Guides (CTAG), Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG), Ohio Transfer Module (OTM), Military Transfer Assurance Guide (MTAG), etc.).

Conversations on how to report back to the secondary institutions have begun. Discussions on the level of detail needed to report back to the secondary institutions will shape how these reports are created. ODHE’s plan is to add reporting functionality that is as streamlined and easily accessible as the rest of the CTAV process. ODHE will continue to improve reporting as it is understood how to best serve those who are actively using the information.

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Recommendations on Awarding Credit

ODHE has begun to load student assessment data into our Higher Education Information (HEI) system as the new way to verify CTAG credit. Prior to awarding credit, per the HLC recommendations, the institution must first confirm that the student is seeking this credit. The HLC policies that provide direction on how institutions of higher education need to confirm with the students if they want college credit for prior learning, including CTAG courses, are as follows:

- **HLC Policy: Assumed Practices**
- **HLC Policy: Recruiting, Admissions and Related Institutional Practices**

ODHE is not recommending how institutions reach out to the students for validating that they want credit. Each institution should establish a process that works for its system and applicants.

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Transfer Technology

Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse

The Articulation and Transfer Technology team has been working hard in the discovery phase to assist in the rewrite of the Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse. The team welcomed John Shaw, a contractor with extensive experience in defining requirements on projects in the technology field. He is also retired from the military. To date, the team has met with nearly 20 constituents from public postsecondary, private, and even out-of-state postsecondary, to discover how transcripts are shared. If you would like to learn more or provide some input, please reach out to Revathi Kumaraswamy at rkumaraswamy@highered.ohio.gov.

Staff Feature

OATN staff have been keeping themselves busy this summer even with the restrictions related to COVID-19. Guess which staff member did each of the following:

Figure 1: Who learned how to build a new patio?

Figure 2: Who remodeled the living room?

Figure 3: Who watches the sunrise over the lake in the back yard each morning?

Figure 4: Two OATN staff members moved to new locations in Columbus and adopted cats this summer. Who are they?

Figure 5: Who taught OATN staff how to make Masala Chai this summer?

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Staff Feature (cont.)

Figure 6: Who floated down the river during an outdoor music festival?

Figure 7: Who is sharing the joy of nature with the next generation?

Figure 8: Who made a firepit to enjoy with the family?

Figure 9: Who built a garden box for vegetable gardening?

Figure 10: Whose daughter conquered the slide at the local park?

Figure 11: Who visited the Kinzua Railroad Bridge?

Answers:
1. Nicki Werry
2. Candice Grant
3. Brandon Bush
4. Holly Hall and Zoe Woodbury
5. Michelle Blanken
6. Jared Shank
7. Pauline Campani
8. Michelle Blanken
9. Jessica Sponser
10. Candice Grant

1-800-AFFORD-IT (233-6734)
https://TransferCredit.ohio.gov

OhioHigherEd
Department of Higher Education