Ohio Transfer Promise

On May 18, 2021, the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), with the support of the presidents and provosts at each of Ohio’s public colleges and universities, announced the Ohio Transfer Promise, a recommitment of the institutions of higher education to Ohio’s statewide transfer initiatives and policies.

The Ohio Transfer Promise includes all statewide transfer initiatives. This endeavor will help to avoid unnecessary credit duplication and get students on the right degree or credential pathway to a successful future. The promise reaffirms Ohio’s commitment to increasing educational access and the number of Ohioans earning a degree, certificate, or other postsecondary credential of value.

“The Ohio Transfer Promise is possibly the most comprehensive statewide transfer agreement in the country,” said Chancellor Randy Gardner. “It will provide students with a firm guarantee that their coursework will transfer while also providing institutional supports to assist students on their way to earning a degree or credential.”

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“I am very excited about the new Ohio Transfer Promise and what it means for our students,” said Lorain County Community College President Marcia Ballinger. “It highlights the innovative policies the state of Ohio has taken to increase transfer rates and bachelor’s degree attainment across the state, policies like the recently announced Ohio Transfer 36 and the Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways.

“As we work with our four-year partners to increase equity, transfer, and completion for all students, the Ohio Transfer Promise guarantees a smooth transition without loss of momentum. Students will be assured of completing their bachelor’s degree no matter where they start their education, removing barriers and increasing educational attainment,” Ballinger added.

Community college and public university leaders agree on the critical value of the initiative.

“The Ohio Transfer Promise provides students with an increased opportunity to be successful,” said Bowling Green State University President Rodney K. Rogers. “Because of Chancellor Randy Gardner and the Ohio Department of Higher Education, Ohio’s community colleges and universities are in a better position to serve transfer students. This promise ensures we can effectively provide an education to transfer students so they are prepared for the workforce and to live meaningful and productive lives.”

Promises made by the presidents and provosts of Ohio’s public colleges and universities as part of the Ohio Transfer Promise include:

- Embrace and celebrate transfer students as a part of our mission.
- Eliminate obstacles in the awarding of transfer credit and respect transfer students throughout their entire educational experience by providing needed services and taking pride in their accomplishments.
- Adhere to all of Ohio’s Transfer Policies, including the statewide guarantees.

The Ohio Transfer Promise is posted in its entirety, with signatures from all presidents and provosts, at ohiohighered.org/ohio-transfer-promise.
Ohio Transfer 36

A critical foundational initiative included in the Ohio Transfer Promise is the Ohio Transfer 36 (formerly known as the Ohio Transfer Module). The Ohio Transfer 36 represents a subset or the entire set of an institution’s general education curriculum. Originally created in 1990 as the Ohio Transfer Module, the Ohio Transfer 36 was modified extensively in 2021 as a result of years-long discussions by various constituents on the goals for general education in Ohio.

The implementation of the Ohio Transfer 36 has been occurring in a series of 10 phases that started in the spring of 2021.

- **Phase 1**: On February 24, 2021, the OATN officially announced the upcoming revisions to the Ohio Transfer Module that focused on flexibility, with certainty to allow students to choose different paths based on their own unique situations. Also included was the unveiling of the new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) learning outcomes. The announcement indicated that several additional announcements would be sent statewide in the coming weeks.

- **Phase 2**: On March 30, 2021, the OATN officially announced new learning outcomes across all discipline areas. The announcement also mentioned that a pilot rollout would go into effect for fall 2021 when institutions would be provided the opportunity to submit new courses through the submission and review process based on the new learning outcomes.

- **Phase 3**: The OATN sent a survey to the provosts and chief academic officers of each public college and university to gather nominations for additional panel members to serve on the Ohio Transfer 36 faculty review panels. As a result of these nominations, 55 new panel members were added to the panels.

- **Phase 4**: On May 11, 2021, the OATN officially announced the rebranding of the Ohio Transfer Module to the Ohio Transfer 36 to better convey the critical importance of general education courses for student success and completion. On May 18, 2021, the Ohio Transfer Promise was officially announced statewide. The Ohio Transfer Promise, Ohio’s first comprehensive statewide transfer agreement, outlined a statewide recommitment to transfer initiatives including the newly revised Ohio Transfer 36.

- **Phase 5**: On May 19, 2021, spreadsheets of all currently approved Ohio Transfer 36 courses were sent to institutions. The instructions asked institutions to review the courses to determine if the institution intends to resubmit all of them during the upcoming re-review process. These retirement reports represent an opportunity for institutions to review their currently approved courses and retire those that are no longer offered or do not meet the new learning outcomes. In addition, institutions were asked to provide a website hyperlink to specific

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general education requirements that can be shared from the Ohio Department of Higher Education website.

- **Phase 6**: On July 7, 2021, the OATN sent out final implementation announcement details that outlined new course submission and expedited course re-review instructions as well as various additional implementation pieces statewide.

- **Phase 7**: At the beginning of the fall semester, the OATN staff trained new Ohio Transfer 36 panel members and hosted full panel orientation sessions for new and current members.

- **Phase 8**: Throughout the month of October 2021, the OATN, in conjunction with the Ohio Teaching Consortium, hosted four-week synchronous DEI Mini-Course Design Institute (MCDI) sessions for two-year and four-year Ohio public institutional representatives to participate in a professional development series to assist with DEI course design or redesign. Attendees participating in the MCDI have been nominated by their institutions.

- **Phase 9**: For the fall 2021 review, institutions began submitting courses using the newly announced learning outcomes.

- **Phase 10**: Spring 2022 begins the first term of re-reviewing previously approved courses starting with the oldest approvals first and moving forward from there. Institutions will be provided a timeline for review near the latter part of the fall semester, after responding to the review request of currently approved Ohio Transfer 36 courses.

Implementation announcements and materials are available on the website at [ohiohighered.org/Ohio-Transfer-36/revisions-implementation](http://ohiohighered.org/Ohio-Transfer-36/revisions-implementation)

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**Industry-Recognized Credential Transfer Assurance Guides (ITAGs)**

Industry-Recognized Credential Transfer Assurance Guides (ITAGs) are currently in the early development stages. They are a statewide transfer initiative included in the Ohio Transfer Promise that guarantees the award of college-level credit to students earning agreed-upon industry-recognized credentials. Credit is awarded regardless of where the credential is earned, and faculty will determine specified courses that are equivalent. ITAGs are not meant to replace Career-Technical Assurance Guides (CTAGs). They are another option for individuals to earn credit when learning can be validated by a credential. For a more in-depth comparison of ITAGs and existing Career-Technical Credit Transfer (CT)^2 initiatives, [read this PDF](http://ohiohighered.org/Ohio-Transfer-36/revisions-implementation).

The goals of ITAGs are:

1. To recognize that learning can be validated by an industry-recognized credential
2. To reduce variability in transfer credit evaluation and application
3. To provide students and employers information on the college credit value of credentials

The ITAG development process is consistent with the five-step process to equivalency utilized by existing transfer initiatives, and will be student focused and faculty driven. Knowledge, skills, and competencies associated with the earned credential will be aligned to postsecondary learning outcomes by a panel of faculty and industry experts. The first ITAGs are expected to be announced in early 2022.

For questions on ITAGs, please contact Nikki Wearly, Director of Career-Technical Education Transfer Initiatives, at [nwearly@highered.ohio.gov](mailto:nwearly@highered.ohio.gov).
Progress Reports

Transfer Talk Tuesday

The OATN 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.

The next Transfer Talk Tuesday session is scheduled at 1 p.m. on November 16, 2021 and titled Introducing ITAGs. The webinar will provide participants with an opportunity to join Nikki Wearly, Director of Career-Technical Education Transfer Initiatives, to learn about the progress of the OATN’s newest transfer initiative, Industry-Recognized Credential Transfer Assurance Guides (ITAGs).

Recordings from the previous sessions are available on the website.

Ohio Mathematics Initiative

Ohio Mathematics Chairs/Leads Network

The Ohio Mathematics Chairs/Leads Network met virtually on Friday, May 7, 2021. Dr. Luis Casian opened the meeting by welcoming the network. This was followed by updates from Karl Hess and Dr. Cosmin Roman on co-requisite calculus courses. Anna Cannelongo provided updates on the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Higher Education High School Mathematics Initiatives. Dr. Ricardo Moena presented updates on mathematics course development. Monica Delgado and Dr. Claire Merriman presented updates on the mathematics outreach programs. The meeting concluded with a discussion led by Dr. Casian around COVID-19 and online teaching; textbook development; diversity, equity, and inclusion dual approval courses; and identification of areas that need further discussion.

Ohio Values Veterans

Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program

The most recent state budget bill included language to expand the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program (ONGSP). In the past, only associate and baccalaureate degrees were eligible for ONGSP funds. The language included in the budget bill expanded ONGSP use to now also include: credential-certifying programs, licensing programs, trade certification programs, and apprenticeship programs. ODHE has been working with the Adjutant General’s Office and the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation to approve a list of programs that would now be eligible under the new guidelines. Once the approval process is complete, ODHE and the National Guard will more formally reach out to students and academic institutions to inform them of the changes and new options.

The Ohio Mathematics Initiative has released the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report. The full report and previous annual reports are available in the important Documents section of the OMI website.
Progress Reports (cont.)

Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways (OGTP)

Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways Update

In accordance with the OGTP implementation policy, 21 of the existing OGTPs in the areas of Social and Behavioral Sciences (anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology AA to BA, psychology AS to BS, sociology, and social work), Arts & Humanities (art history, English, history, music, philosophy, studio/fine arts, and theatre), and Math & Science (biology, chemistry, geology, mathematics AS to BA, mathematics AS to BS, and physics) will be reviewed by faculty panels this fall. Any significant changes will result in seeking endorsement from all public institutions again.

The Applied Business OGTP and the Respiratory Therapy OGTP have been sent out for endorsement. If approved, these would add two additional pathways for applied associate degrees to transfer.

The OATN continues to assist institutions in determining how to record OGTP completion on student transcripts – as well as develop a system for reporting OGTP completion through HEI so that research can be conducted on the efficacy of the initiative.

OTM, TAG, and CTAG Submissions

Upcoming TAG Submission Deadlines

The next submission deadline is March 4, 2022. For your convenience, submission preparation templates are available on our website for Transfer Assurance Guides and Ohio Transfer 36.

For questions regarding progress for Ohio Transfer 36 and Transfer Assurance Guides, contact Michelle Blaney at 614-644-9601 or mblaney@highered.ohio.gov.

Please direct questions on the Career-Technical Assurance Guides review process to Dr. Ben Parrot at bparrot@highered.ohio.gov.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Due and Submission Deadline</th>
<th>OAN</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2022 (Mid-March 2022)</td>
<td>OAH060</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>OAH061</td>
<td>Introduction to Logic</td>
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<td>Fall 2022 (Beginning of October 2022)</td>
<td>OAH062</td>
<td>Introduction to Literature</td>
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<td></td>
<td>OAH063</td>
<td>Multicultural Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2023 (Beginning of October 2023)</td>
<td>OSC028</td>
<td>Biology (Genetics)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>OSC029</td>
<td>Full-Year Sequence of Anatomy and Physiology I &amp; II with Lab</td>
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*Please note that the semester due term is the expiration term for currently approved courses under former TAG course criteria.*
Meetings of the Minds

General Education Steering Committee Meeting (April 30, 2021)

The General Education Steering Committee met virtually on Friday, April 30, 2021. The meeting was opened by committee co-chairs Dr. Gigi Escoe and Dr. Carolyn Haynes. The committee viewed a presentation from Jessi Spencer that provided updates on the implementation of the new Ohio Transfer 36. Following this update, Dr. Haynes and the five Ohio Transfer 36 faculty panel leads provided feedback on the various Ohio Transfer 36 Q&A statewide sessions. Dr. Candice Grant and Mitch Wilson showcased the new Ohio Transfer 36 approvals platform to committee members. In the afternoon, the committee discussed currently approved Ohio Transfer 36 course resubmissions and approvals; the process for course resubmission utilizing learning outcomes; and diversity, equity, and inclusion dual approval courses.

OATN Advisory Council Meeting (May 21, 2021)

The OATN Advisory Council met virtually on Friday, May 21, 2021. Dr. Jonathan Dryden opened the meeting by welcoming council members. The meeting began with an update on the newly revised Ohio Transfer 36 implementation by Jessi Spencer and Michelle Blaney. This was followed by a presentation from Dr. Candice Grant and Mitch Wilson on the new Ohio Transfer 36 approvals. Wilson went on to present on the new changes to the Course Equivalency Management System (CEMS), and he and Dr. Paula Compton followed with a discussion on the OATN coding project. Shelly Jackson provided council members with an update from CollegeSource. Those in attendance broke into groups to discuss COVID-19 transfer success stories. In the afternoon, Kristi Conrad provided updates on Career-Technical Assurance Guide (CTAG) progress with Nikki Wearly and Wilson providing an update on the Career-Technical Articulation Verification (CTAV) initiative. Dr. Grant and Holly Hall went on to update council members on the status of the Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways (OGTPs). Jared Shank showcased the new ACE military tool to attendees. The meeting concluded with an update from Revathi Kumaraswamy on the Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse (ATC) enhancements.

OATN Oversight Board Meeting (September 17, 2021)

The OATN Oversight Board met virtually on Friday, September 17, 2021. Dr. Paula Compton opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction of new and current board members. Board members went on to hear updates from Jared Shank and Dr. Randy Smith on the status of the Senate Bill 89 Report. The Board broke into smaller discussion groups to provide commentary and suggestions for the report. Jessi Spencer provided an update on natural science lab requirements. Holly Hall presented information gathered from a review and survey of institutional transient (outgoing) policies/procedures and academic residency policies and how those policies relate to OATN policy. Spencer and Michelle Blaney provided updates on the implementation of the Ohio Transfer 36. Spencer and Mitch Wilson shared the results of the spring 2021 Appeals Survey. Dr. Gigi Escoe and Dr. Jonathan Dryden provided an update on the Statewide Steering Committee for ITAGs. Spencer ended the meeting with an update on the OATN budget; with no other items, the meeting adjourned.

Ohio Transfer 36 Faculty Subcommittee Meeting (September 24, 2021)

The Ohio Transfer 36 Faculty Subcommittee met virtually on Friday, September 24, 2021. Dr. Randy Smith welcomed subcommittee members and provided a brief history of the Ohio

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Meetings of the Minds (cont.)

Transfer 36 faculty subcommittee. The Ohio Transfer 36 subcommittee went on to hear updates from each of the six faculty subcommittee panel leads and co-leads. This was followed by a presentation on implementation updates by Jessi Spencer and Michelle Blaney. Dr. Larry Krissek wrapped up presentations by providing an update to the subcommittee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion professional development. The meeting concluded with discipline areas breaking into individual groups to further discuss panel participation and future review processes.

(CT)² Corner

Career-Technical Assurance Guides (CTAGs)

For fall 2021, ODHE announced three new Career-Technical Assurance Guides (CTAGs). The first is Behavioral Health, which includes two courses, one in Mental Health and the other in Chemical Dependency. The second area is Dental Assisting, also offering two courses including Introduction to Dental Assisting and Dental Radiography. Additionally, a CTAG was created in Biomedical Technology. In this area an alignment was possible to an additional secondary course. Thus, both ODE secondary courses Animal and Plant Biotechnology and Biotechnology of Health and Disease may result in earned credit for the Biotechnology Principles CTAG course.

The review of the Transportation Pathway is finishing this year. Updates were made to both the Automotive and Air Transportation CTAGs. In Air Transportation, a CTAG course in Private Pilot was expired. Students will still be able to explore Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) credit if they have completed the course, but the updates to the program did not support a CTAG course. However, the exploration into developing a course in drones has been moving along smoothly. The addition of a CTAG course is anticipated as the learning outcomes endorsement survey results were positive.

Updates to the Information Technology CTAG occurred in the area of Cisco this year. Cisco condensed its program from a four-course series into a three-course series. The updates were official this September on the Academy Network and courses are verified on that website. The new Cisco course structure is:

- Cisco I Introduction to Networks
- Cisco II Switching, Routing, and Wireless Essentials
- Cisco III Enterprise Networking, Security, and Automation

Finally, the new pathway review has begun in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). This year ODE is updating the Business and Administration, Finance, and Marketing Pathways. Updates to CTAG courses in Entrepreneurship, Administrative and Professional Support, Medical Management and Support, and Supply Chain Management are underway. In addition, lead faculty experts are exploring the possibility of new CTAG courses in the following areas:

- Accounting
- Business Law
- Finance
- Management
- Marketing

For questions on CTAGs, please contact Kristi Conrad, Senior Associate Director of Secondary Career-Technical Alignment Initiatives, at kconrad@highered.ohio.gov.

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Secondary One-Year Option

One-Year Option allows students with credit from Ohio Technical Centers to earn a block of technical credit toward an Associate of Technical Studies (ATS). Previously this was created for adult learners, but it will now be extended to secondary students completing specified programs. Please note, credit will be awarded only as a block of technical credit to be used only toward an ATS degree.

For secondary programs to be evaluated and approved for the One-Year Option, the program must:

- culminate in a credential equivalent to the credential earned through an approved OTC program for which there is an approved template,
- have instruction time equivalent to required clock-hours listed on approved template, and
- have no CTAG discipline or course-level CTAN that has been approved for any secondary career-technical pathway or is deemed in-demand.

The first program being considered for this option will be Cosmetology. For more information and updates on the Secondary One-Year Option, please refer to the webpage.

Articulation and Transfer Technology

Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse

The Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse (ATC) recently upgraded its security layer. All institutions received new ciphers that would allow their client to connect using the updated Transport Layer Security (TLS). The upgrades support TLS 1.2 and 1.3 and ensure that private and sensitive information is encrypted when sent over the Internet. Work is continuing on the design and functionality of the ATC 2.0. The proposals have been presented to leadership and all opportunities are still under consideration. The team continues to meet to discuss potential changes and updates.

Technology Steering Committee

The OATN Technology Steering Committee met on October 19, 2021. This was the first meeting with the new chair of the committee, Rob Drapcho, the Director of Enrollment Management at Bowling Green State University Firelands.

Dave Sauter shared updates coming to the HEI Alternative Credit (AC) file. He shared some reports of the previous year’s data and how institutions are doing overall. Sauter will be meeting with a series of institutions that will be reviewing usage and looking for ways to improve reporting strategies.

There was also a review provided on slight changes made to the Course Equivalency Management System (CEMS). Since these changes have been completed, there has been some confusion on how institutions submit courses into the system. The presentation provided a platform to explain how some of these changes are functioning.
**Staff Feature**

**OATN Welcomes New Staff Members**

**Ben Parrot** comes to OATN from Ohio University, where he served as an academic advisor and transfer specialist in the College of Arts & Sciences. Prior to his time in that role, he served for seven years as a faculty member in the Department of Modern Languages, where he taught German courses of all levels. During his time in Modern Languages, he also worked with transfer students as the departmental advising coordinator and participated in the curricular submission process for German TAG courses.

Ben’s academic background is primarily in the field of German studies: He holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in German from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a B.A. in German and a B.A. in Linguistics from The Ohio State University.

Born and raised in the Columbus area, Ben is excited to return to central Ohio. In his spare time, he enjoys playing board games, reading, learning new languages, and, during pandemic-free times when he’s not hesitant to be in close quarters with large groups of people, choral singing. He hopes those times will return soon!

**Chris Steinman** comes to OATN from Johns Hopkins University, where he served as a senior institutional research analyst for student affairs (Arts & Sciences, Engineering). In that role, he was heavily involved in predicting, tracking, and reporting of students’ retention, transfer, and graduation, among other major research topics, and worked on a multi-year study of the psychosocial health and well-being of traditionally underrepresented students. Prior to that, Chris worked for the Ohio Department of Education as a social science research analyst for accountability.

An Ohio native, Chris grew up in the Mansfield area, where he attended technical high school for a certificate in Graphics Arts. He earned an A.A. in Liberal Arts from Cuyahoga Community College, as well as a B.A. in Psychology (with a philosophy minor) and an M.A. in Experimental Social Psychology from Kent State University. He is delighted to return to his home state and once again serve Ohio students.

In his spare time, Chris plays League of Legends, has been known to play rock guitar, bass guitar, and dabble with a few other instruments, and enjoys reading postmodern literature and philosophy of science.

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OATN Summer Travels

OATN staff would like to share a few photographs from their summer vacations. See if you can guess who had each of these experiences.

1: Who went white water rafting in the New River Gorge?

2: Who enjoyed photographing animals near Playa del Carmen, Mexico?

3: Who went all the way to McKinney, Texas to experience fantastic barbeque?

4: Who enjoyed the great outdoors of Lake Erie, along with some fine campfire cuisine?

5: Who made 2021 the “year of the beach” with visits to Ocean City and Assateague Island, Maryland; Virginia Beach, Virginia; Ocracoke Island, North Carolina (pictured); Hollywood Beach, Florida; and Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (pictured)?
Staff Feature (cont.)

6: Who took this beautiful picture of the sunset at Bean Point, Anna Maria Island, Florida?

7: Starlight, star bright… who visited the Roanoke Star in Roanoke, Virginia?

8: Who is the brave person who traveled with two small children to Disney World’s 50th anniversary celebration, and also made a trip to Gettysburg National Military Park?

9: Who traveled to Mackinac Island, Michigan and took this photo of the Mackinac Bridge?

Answers:

1: Holly Hall
2: Kristi Conrad
3: Jessi Spencer
4: Paula Compton
5: Michelle Blaney
6: Mitch Wilson
7: Ben Parrot
8: Jared Shank
9: Zoe Woodbury

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