

Transfer Task Force Transfer Agreement

(Adopted by the Higher Education Coordinating Board June 1994)¹

Principles

- It is the purpose of this agreement to ensure that there is a transfer opportunity for all resident Washington community college transfer students who have completed a transferable associate's degree, 90 transferable hours, or who have otherwise progressed as far as they can at the community college.
- Increasing demand and limited resources exacerbate the need for collective approaches to higher education access. The community colleges and the baccalaureate institutions seek to develop cooperative and collaborative solutions to address the issues facing higher education.
- Baccalaureate institutions must maintain a balance of upper and lower division students in order to preserve their mission and goals.
- While this agreement among the public institutions focuses on transfer students, it recognizes that there are many other students with an equal interest in obtaining a baccalaureate education. In order to ensure fair educational opportunities for all students, this agreement must consider their needs.
- An increase in system capacity is essential, and an increase in the capacity and programs offered at the upper division branch campuses is fundamental to the success of this agreement. Increased enrollment and improved retention at the community colleges create transfer pressure at the baccalaureate institutions that should be taken into account when planning for enrollment growth in the system.
- Local agreements among institutions which are consistent with this agreement are encouraged. Nothing in this agreement is meant to interfere with any such local agreement.

Agreement

- Each baccalaureate institution will maintain its current proportion of community college transfer student admissions. The numbers will be monitored by the HECB. The branch campuses will continue to serve students seeking to continue their education beyond the first two years and, therefore, proportionality does not apply to them.
- Within these proportions of community college transfer students, the baccalaureate institutions will grant priority in admissions to those who have completed an associate's degree, 90 hours or otherwise have progressed as far as they can at the community college over those who may continue to make progress at the community college.
- In order to provide a suitable placement for every qualified community college transfer student, community colleges, baccalaureate institutions and the HECB will design an effective mechanism to ensure students a suitable transfer placement when they are not admitted to their first choice.
- The parties to this agreement will be convened at least annually by the HECB.

¹ Included in The Intercollege Relations Commission (ICRC) handbook revised July 2008, p. 42. Available at <http://www.washingtoncouncil.org/ICRC.html> .