

Joint Boards Articulation Commission

Annual Report 2001-2002

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2001-2002 Commission Members

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Executive Summary

The Joint Boards Articulation Commission (JBAC) was created by the State Board of Education and State Board of Higher Education in July 1992 and recently completed its tenth year of operation. The Commission is comprised of representatives from the community college, university system, K-12, and independent college sectors and was established to encourage active cooperation and collaboration among sectors in order to achieve the most effective and efficient articulation possible. This document outlines the proceedings of the JBAC for the period September 2001 to June 2002.

During this past year major activities of the JBAC included:

- *Revisions to the Guidelines for the Associate of Arts/Oregon Transfer (AA/OT) Degree*

The Joint Boards of Education approved minor revisions to the AA/OT, as recommended by the JBAC, on January 18, 2002.

- *Review of the Associate of Arts/Oregon Transfer Degree*

A comprehensive review of the requirements of the AA/OT, as offered by the individual community colleges, was undertaken. This review led to further examination of the “notes and clarifications” section of the general degree requirements; work in this area is ongoing.

- *Proposals for Associate of Science/Oregon Transfer Degrees*

A proposal for an Associate of Science/Oregon Transfer degree in business (AS/OT-Bus) was further refined and discussed with several constituencies. A proposal for a “generic” AS/OT was also considered.

- *Analysis of Transfer-Student Data*

An examination of five years of transfer-student data from the intersector “data-match project” was conducted and a major report produced.

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Purpose and Introduction

This document outlines the activities of the Joint Boards Articulation Commission (JBAC) for the period September 2001 to June 2002. First, in this section of the report, background information regarding the JBAC is briefly presented. In the following section, specific JBAC issues and activities for the year are described.

The JBAC was created by the State Board of Education and State Board of Higher Education in July 1992 and completed its tenth year of operation in June 2002. The Commission is comprised of representatives from the community college, university system, K-12, and independent college sectors and was established to encourage active cooperation and collaboration among sectors in order to achieve the most effective and efficient articulation possible. Commission members are appointed by the Oregon University System (OUS) Chancellor, the Commissioner of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD), the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Executive Director of the Oregon Independent Colleges Association (OICA).

Specifically, the JBAC is charged with:

- Advising the Joint Boards on intersector policy issues regarding: student access and transfer; course and program articulation; and implications of data pertaining to transfer students and the transfer function.
- Monitoring the implementation of the Associate of Arts/Oregon Transfer Degree (AA/OT) and other transfer degrees (if and when adopted); and making recommendations for revisions to these degrees, when appropriate.
- Monitoring policies and practices that affect, or have the potential to affect, the flow of students between the postsecondary sectors; and making reports and recommendations to the appropriate bodies that are responsible for these policies and practices.
- Acting as a problem solving and referral forum for articulation- and transfer-related issues.
- Addressing other articulation- and transfer-related issues as assigned/delegated to them by the OUS Chancellor, CCWD Commissioner, or the Joint Boards of Education.

The JBAC meets regularly throughout the academic year to address the issues arising from its charge. In order to maximize the number of topics and issues to be addressed, a variety of concerns are typically considered by the standing and/or ad hoc committees of the Commission.

JBAC Issues and Activities

During this past year, the JBAC initiated, discussed, completed, and/or made significant progress in the following areas:

1. Revisions to the Guidelines for the Associate of Arts/Oregon Transfer Degree

Largely due to work pursued by the JBAC and the Student Transfer Committee (STC) during the previous academic year (2000-01), a proposal for minor modifications to the general guidelines for the Associate of Arts/Oregon Transfer (AA/OT) degree was forwarded to the Joint Boards of Education on January 18, 2002. The proposal was motivated by recent changes in the curricular offerings of some OUS institutions, primarily the migration of courses from 3 credits to 4/5 credits. Hence, the writing requirement in the AA/OT was changed from 9 credits to “a minimum of 8 credits...” and the Arts and Letters requirement was changed from 12 credits to “a minimum of 10 credits...”.

The proposal to modify the degree was undertaken only after thorough consultation with the Oregon English and Writing Advisory Committee (OWEAC), the Council of Instruction Administrators (CIA) of the community colleges, and the OUS Academic Council.

The proposal was accepted by the Joint Boards and the revised set of guidelines are available at the JBAC website (<http://www.ous.edu/aca/transferdeg.html>).

2. Follow-up Review of the Associate of Arts/Oregon Transfer Degree

As part of the ongoing charge to the JBAC to monitor the implementation of the AA/OT, a comprehensive review of the degrees offered by the seventeen community colleges was undertaken.

The review resulted in a comparison chart, for academic year 2001-2002, that presented a college-by-college, side-by-side look at the total credits required for the degree; an analysis of the adequacy of the writing, math, and speech requirements; a breakout of the distribution requirements (by credits required in the various disciplinary areas and total number of credits); and any additional requirements the college imposes for the degree (e.g., in health/wellness or cultural diversity). Also included was a college-by-college description of any anticipated changes for academic year 2002-2003. Finally, there were comments/questions about courses used in the distribution requirements in order to guide further analysis.

Based on the review, the JBAC suggested further development of the “notes and clarifications” section of the general degree guidelines that could be relied upon by colleges when contemplating modifications to their local AA/OT degrees. The JBAC will continue this phase of the AA/OT analysis during the 2002-03 academic year.

3. Associate of Science/Oregon Transfer Degree Proposals

During the past year, two different proposals were considered for Associate of Science transfer degrees.

Associate of Science/Oregon Transfer Degree in Business (AS/OT-Bus)

As reported last year, the STC and the JBAC developed a proposal for an AS/OT-Bus that was presented to the community college Council of Instructional Administrators, the OUS Academic Council, and the senior student services officers of both sectors. Further, the Oregon State Board of Education (June 2001) was consulted and responded positively to the concept of discipline-specific associate-of-science block-transfer degrees. The business degree proposal was subsequently discussed at the annual joint meeting of the community college senior academic officers and the university provosts (November 2001), and finally forwarded to the chairs of the business departments and the university's business school deans for their consideration. The business chairs and deans group convened two day-long work sessions on the degree proposal during 2002 (in February and May) and delegated a small task group to address remaining issues during a summer (July 2002) meeting.

The task group took back a revised proposal to the full chairs and deans group in October 2002, which now seeks acceptance from the other constituencies that have been involved in this process along the way. If state-wide consensus is reached, a proposal will ultimately be brought to the Joint Boards for approval.

Associate of Science/Oregon Transfer Degree ("Generic")

As the discussion of discipline-specific associate degrees continues, a parallel proposal has been developed for a "generic" associate of science degree that could be tailored, depending on student interest and need, to various science-oriented disciplines. Such a degree would presumably lead to enhanced flexibility in constructing degree programs, in much the same way that the AA/OT degree currently does. This concept and proposal is still in the development stages.

4. Synthesis and Analysis of Transfer-Student Data

Data-match Project and Report. In November 2000, the Joint Boards was presented with the first comprehensive report outlining the data available from the joint Oregon University System-Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development "data-match" project. Although that report reviewed four consecutive years of transfer student information from the state of Oregon, the project was still considered in its infancy. Since that time, two more years of data have been compiled and a follow-up report has been produced. (A draft of that report was forwarded to the JBAC for review in October 2002 and the final draft of "Transfer Activity in Oregon Postsecondary Education, 1996-97 to 2000-01," is near completion.)

Data Sharing with OICA Institutions. As the data-match project between OUS and CCWD becomes more standardized, the JBAC has entertained questions about the possibility of similar data sharing efforts between the community colleges and the independent colleges and universities. Such a project would potentially yield even better insight into the behavior of intra-state transfer students. Initial discussions have taken place, with more work to be undertaken during the 2002-03 academic year.

5. Intersector Communication Efforts

The JBAC workplan calls for continuing and improved communication between and among the educational sectors in Oregon in order to benefit transfer students. This section lists some of the efforts in this area supported by the JBAC.

JBAC Web Page and the Articulation Hotline List

The JBAC continues to sponsor its own web page (<http://www.ous.edu/aca/jbac.html>), devoted to transfer students and their issues. Important features of the site include: (1) three main sections, depending on one's relationship to and interest in transfer issues (student; counselor or advisor; administrator or policymaker); (2) the most up-to-date version of the Articulation Hotline List (see below); (3) information for transfer students who are encountering problems (names of OUS and CCWD staff who may be contacted); (4) links to the OUS institutions' home page sections and their course equivalency tables; (5) links to all the Oregon community college home pages; (6) information about the Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (AA/OT) degree; and (7) important JBAC documents such as the current version of the workplan, JBAC and STC membership lists, and meeting minutes.

The *Articulation Hotline List* (<http://www.ous.edu/aca/articdoc.html>) an essential feature of the website, is refined and updated each fall. This document provides a list of names and phone numbers of individuals at OUS institutions, community colleges, and independent institutions who have responsibility for handling both policy questions and day-to-day issues related to transfer and articulation.

JBAC Member Participation in the Articulation and Transfer Conference

Every fall the Oregon University System sponsors a statewide conference aimed at bringing campus representatives together to discuss issues related to articulation and transfer. In December 2001, this conference was held at Chemeketa Community College with the theme of "Expanding the Dialog." This one-day event included sessions that were both lecture and discussion oriented so that all participants were able to voice their views on a wide range of articulation- and transfer-related topics. Most members of the JBAC were in attendance.

6. Consultation with Groups Working in Areas that Impact Articulation and Transfer

The JBAC is committed to coordinating and consulting with other entities that have the potential to impact articulation and transfer efforts in the state. Such groups include, but are not limited to, the Oregon Writing and English Advisory Committee (OWEAC), the OUS Proficiency-based Admission Standards System (PASS) project, the OUS

Academic Council, and the community colleges' Council of Instructional Administrators (CIA). During the past year, the JBAC had the occasion to work with all of these groups on a variety of issues.

7. Revision of JBAC's Operating Guidelines

Communications between the OUS Chancellor and the Commission of Community Colleges and Workforce Development led to a revision of the JBAC's charge as well as the specified composition of the group. The revised charge appears on page 1 of this report. The full set of operating guidelines is available on the JBAC website at <http://www.ous.edu/aca/guidelines02.htm>. The major change with respect to group membership was reflected in the leadership positions; chief academic officers from the two sectors now chair the Commission in alternating years. During the negotiation between the Chancellor and the Commissioner, the JBAC had the opportunity to provide its perspective to the sector leaders at several points.

8. Work of the Student Transfer Committee (STC)

The Student Transfer Committee (STC) is an action-oriented standing committee of the JBAC, comprised of both JBAC members and other representatives from the community college, OUS, and independent college sectors. During the 2001-2002 academic year, the STC to consider a variety of topics, including proposals for Associate of Science/Oregon Transfer degrees and the review of the Associate of Arts/Oregon Transfer degree.

Summary

During the 2001-2002 academic year, the Joint Boards Articulation Commission successfully addressed a wide range of issues that fell within its charge, including the completion of revisions to the AA/OT General Guidelines; conducting a review of the degree as implemented by the colleges; and producing a major report presenting the latest data pertaining to the transfer process and flow of students between community colleges and University System campuses. Additionally, a proposal for an Associate of Science transfer degree in Business continued its momentum under the guidance of the JBAC. And several JBAC members attended the Articulation and Transfer conference and heard policy recommendations from participants in a variety of areas. In sum, the Joint Boards Articulation Commission continues to be a visible and viable force in Oregon, serving to keep the state at the forefront of the national conversation in areas of articulation and transfer.