

## **Fact Sheet:**

# Articulation Agreements Among Nursing Education Programs

Articulation agreements are important mechanisms that enhance access to baccalaureate level nursing education. These agreements support education mobility and facilitate the seamless transfer of academic credit between associate degree (ADN) and baccalaureate (BSN) nursing programs. Typically negotiated by faculty from both types of academic institutions, these renewable agreements help to ensure equivalency between community college and university courses. Though a formal contract is not necessary to transfer credit between junior and senior colleges, these frameworks do help to inform students' course selection, eliminate curriculum redundancies, streamline the application review process, and promote collaboration among educators across nursing programs.

Though some agreements exist to facilitate progression from associate degree to master's level nursing programs, this report focuses on ADN to BSN articulation. Currently, 31 states and the District of Columbia maintain broad articulation agreements between ADN and BSN programs, including 8 states that mandate credit transfer between programs at public institutions. Most agreements were developed through statewide collaborations among nurse educators, boards of nursing, and other interested parties.

In the remaining 19 states, hundreds of individual school-to-school articulation agreements exist to facilitate credit transfer and baccalaureate degree completion. Though each agreement is different and unique to nursing programs within each state, most allow for the transfer of 60 semester credits, which is consistent with transfer agreements between two- and four-year institutions for other academic disciplines.

### **Types of Articulation Agreements**

Articulation agreements among nursing education programs fall within three general categories: Mandated, Statewide, and Individual.

**Mandated Articulation Agreements:** These formal agreements exist as part of legislation and mandate credit transfer between nursing programs. In Florida, for example, State Board of Education Rule 6A-10.024 provides that all graduates of approved ADN programs in the state will be granted admission into a baccalaureate program offered by any state institution with few exceptions. The law further states that 72 credit

hours, including 42 hours of nursing core courses, will be transferred into BSN programs, which cannot exceed 128 credit hours to complete. States with mandated articulation agreements include:

**Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Washington**

**Statewide Articulation Agreements:** These voluntary articulation plans and models are usually developed through the collaborative effort of nurse educators, regulators, legislators, and other stakeholders wishing to enhance educational mobility for registered nurses (RNs). These agreements are generally accepted by all community colleges and public universities in a given state, though private institutions often choose to participate as well. For example, all state-funded nursing programs in Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Wyoming have adopted the nursing education articulation model and use this framework to guide credit transfer and admissions decisions. Statewide articulation agreements and models exist in the following states:

**Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Wyoming**

**Individual School-to-School Articulation Agreements:** In states without mandated articulation plans and statewide models, individual agreements are often established between ADN and BSN programs. These arrangements typically delineate which nursing courses will transfer between programs as well as the maximum number of credits accepted. Several states including California, Illinois, and Indiana offer online resources to help students and educators identify which courses will transfer from junior to senior colleges. Hundreds of individual articulation agreements have been created in the following states:

**California, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia**

Finally, private schools and nursing programs located in areas with statewide articulation models and/or plans in place often develop individual school-to-school agreements as well.

### **AACN Research and Online Resources**

AACN has compiled the following resources related to articulation agreements among nursing education programs:

- A [directory of state nursing workforce reports](#), which often describe local approaches to academic progression and nursing program articulation.

- Online [nursing program directory](#) to locate degree completion programs, including RN to Baccalaureate, RN to Master's, and LPN to Baccalaureate Degree Programs
- AACN position statements on [Academic Progression in Nursing](#) and [Educational Mobility](#)
- Joint statements on [Academic Progression for Nursing Students and Graduates](#) and the [Educational Advancement of RNs](#)
- AACN fact sheets on [Degree Completion Programs for Registered Nurses](#) and [AACN's Support for Articulation](#)

AACN member schools interested in receiving samples of Statewide or Individual articulation agreements may request copies by contacting [rosseter@aacnnursing.org](mailto:rosseter@aacnnursing.org).

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# Nursing Education Program Articulation Agreements by Type

State	Key to Articulation Agreement Types	Type
Alabama	<p><b>Individual:</b> Arrangements are made on a school-to-school basis. A blanket agreement does not exist.  <i>19 states</i></p> <p><b>Mandated:</b> State laws exist regulating the transfer of credit between public institutions.  <i>8 states</i></p> <p><b>Statewide:</b> Articulation plans and models are in place for public and sometimes private institutions. Often, these agreements apply to all programs in a state's university and community college system.  <i>23 states and the District of Columbia</i></p>	
Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware		
Dist. of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
Iowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana		
Maine		
Maryland		
Massachusetts		
Michigan		
Minnesota	Mandated	
Mississippi	Statewide	
Missouri	Statewide	
Montana	Individual	
Nebraska	Individual	
Nevada	Individual	
New Hampshire	Statewide	
New Jersey	Statewide	
New Mexico	Individual	
New York	Individual	
North Carolina	Mandated	
North Dakota	Statewide	
Ohio	Statewide	
Oklahoma	Statewide	
Oregon	Individual	
Pennsylvania	Statewide	
Rhode Island	Individual	
South Carolina	Mandated	
South Dakota	Statewide	
Tennessee	Statewide	
Texas	Mandated	
Utah	Individual	
Vermont	Individual	
Virginia	Individual	
Washington	Mandated	
West Virginia	Individual	
Wisconsin	Statewide	
Wyoming	Statewide	

## Web Links to Nursing Education Program Articulation Agreements

*Note: We are currently updating this fact sheet. Many of the links below are broken.*

### **Mandated Articulation Agreements**

#### **Alabama**

Articulation and General Studies Committee, State of Alabama

<http://stars.troy.edu/agsc/agsc.htm>

#### **Connecticut**

Connecticut Public Act No. 01-165

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2001/act/Pa/2001PA-00165-R00SB-01366-PA.htm>

#### **Florida**

Statewide Articulation Manual

<https://www.floridacollegesystem.com/sites/www/Uploads/Articulation%20Agreement/Articulation%20Guide%20Final.pdf>

#### **Maryland**

Maryland RN to BSN or RN to MSN Articulation Model

<http://www.mhec.state.md.us/pressroom/September2003/Sept03nursingarticulation%20agreement.asp>

Maryland Board of Nursing Articulation Information

[http://www.mbon.org/main.php?v=norm&p=0&c=education/nsg\\_guide/articulation.htm](http://www.mbon.org/main.php?v=norm&p=0&c=education/nsg_guide/articulation.htm)  
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ARTSYS – Articulation System of Maryland Colleges and Universities

<http://artweb.usmd.edu>

#### **Minnesota**

MNSCU Statewide Nursing Articulation Agreement

<http://www.mntransfer.org/Councils/NursingAC.html>

#### **North Carolina**

Comprehensive Articulation Agreement Between the University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Community College System (p. 56)

[http://intranet.northcarolina.edu/docs/assessment/caa/April%202005/caa\\_manual.pdf](http://intranet.northcarolina.edu/docs/assessment/caa/April%202005/caa_manual.pdf)

#### **South Carolina**

Statewide Agreement on Transfer and Articulation

<http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/TRANSFER/Transfer.HTM>

#### **Texas**

Field of Study Curriculum for Public Nursing Education Programs (p. 46)

<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/UHRI/nurse8-2-04.pdf>

2005-2010 Texas State Health Plan (p. 15-16)

<http://www.texasshcc.org/stateplan2005/ch12005.pdf>

## **Washington**

Articulation and Student Transfer: House Bill 2382 Progress Report

<http://www.hecb.wa.gov/docs/Articulation%20and%20Student%20Transfer%20January%202005.pdf>

## **Statewide Articulation Agreements**

*Note: We are currently updating this fact sheet. Many of the links below are broken.*

## **Alaska**

All of the states ADN programs are offered through the University of Alaska system, which permits seamless articulation into the BSN program.

## **Arizona**

Arizona Transfer Articulation Support System

<http://az.transfer.org/cas/atass/index.html>

Arizona Nursing Program Matrix

<http://az.transfer.org/cas/atass/admin/implement/04courses/nurs.htm>

## **Arkansas**

Arkansas Nursing Articulation Model

[http://www.arsbn.org/pdfs/nursing-programs/approved\\_model\\_2005.pdf](http://www.arsbn.org/pdfs/nursing-programs/approved_model_2005.pdf)

<http://nursing.uams.edu/rnbsn/nln.html>

## **Colorado**

Colorado Commission on Higher Education Statewide Articulation Agreements

<http://www.uchsc.edu/ahec/cando/assets/documents/articulation2001.pdf>

Colorado Nursing Articulation Model History

<http://www.uchsc.edu/ahec/cando/nursing/history.htm>

## **Delaware**

Delaware Connected Degree/Transfer Options

<http://www.dtcc.edu/connecteddegree>

## **District of Columbia**

District of Columbia Articulation Models

[http://www.georgetown.edu/organizations/dccnep/DCCNEP\\_EAM.htm](http://www.georgetown.edu/organizations/dccnep/DCCNEP_EAM.htm)

## **Georgia**

Georgia RN to BSN Articulation Model

<http://www.centerfornursing.org/research/articulationmodels.html>

<http://www.centerfornursing.org/research/georgia.html>

Georgia Board of Nursing Program Directory (See last column)

<http://www.sos.state.ga.us/acrobat/ExamBoards/RN/schools.pdf>

## **Idaho**

Idaho's Statewide Nursing Articulation Plan

<http://icne.boisestate.edu/Documents/Articulation%20Agreement.pdf>

## **Illinois**

Illinois Articulation Initiative

<http://www.itransfer.org/IAI>

## **Iowa**

Iowa Articulation Plan for Nursing Education

<http://www.state.ia.us/nursing/art%20plan%20RN%20to%20Bacc.html>

<http://www.nursingworld.org/snas/ia/artplan.htm>

## **Kansas**

Kansas Nursing Articulation Pathways

<http://www.kumc.edu/studenthandbook/2001/pdf/248.pdf>

TCN Overview of RN-BSN Articulation Models

<http://www.centerfornursing.org/research/articulationmodels.html>

## **Mississippi**

Statewide Articulation Agreement Between Mississippi's 8 Public Universities and Community/Junior Colleges in the State: (p. 118)

[http://www.ihl.state.ms.us/Academic\\_Affairs1/Articulation%20Agreement%202000.pdf](http://www.ihl.state.ms.us/Academic_Affairs1/Articulation%20Agreement%202000.pdf)

Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Student Advisor

<http://www.msuniversities.org/studentadvisor/transfer.html>

## **Missouri**

Missouri Articulation Plan

[http://www.monursing.org/programservices/prog\\_articulation.htm](http://www.monursing.org/programservices/prog_articulation.htm)

## **New Hampshire**

Transfer articulation agreements between the New Hampshire Community Technical College System and the University System of New Hampshire

<http://www.nhtransfer.org/highered.html>

<http://www.nhtransfer.org/sampletransfer.html>

## **New Jersey**

New Jersey Nursing Education Articulation Model

[http://www.njccn.org/advancement\\_edu.asp](http://www.njccn.org/advancement_edu.asp)

## **North Dakota**

North Dakota University System Articulation Agreements

<http://www.ndus.nodak.edu/students/ccn/articulation/agreements.asp#17>

## **Ohio**

Ohio Nursing Articulation Model

[http://64.233.187.104/search?q=cache:NooqdtSkq\\_gJ:www.ohioleaguefornursing.org/PDF%2520files/HFFinalDocument.pdf+&hl=en](http://64.233.187.104/search?q=cache:NooqdtSkq_gJ:www.ohioleaguefornursing.org/PDF%2520files/HFFinalDocument.pdf+&hl=en)

## **Oklahoma**

Oklahoma Nursing Articulation Consortium (ONAC)

<http://www.okcareertech.org/health/ONAC/onacINDEX.HTM>

ONAC Curriculum Model

<http://www.okcareertech.org/health/ONAC/model%20curriculum.htm>

University of Oklahoma Articulation Plan

[http://student-affairs.ouhsc.edu/programs/nur\\_careermobility.pdf](http://student-affairs.ouhsc.edu/programs/nur_careermobility.pdf)

## **Pennsylvania**

Pennsylvania Nursing Articulation Model (p. 8)

<http://home.moravian.edu/public/Nursing/program.pdf>

Pennsylvania Transfer System

<http://www.passhe.edu/content/?/office/academic/passport>

## **South Dakota**

South Dakota Nursing Education Articulation Framework

<http://www.state.sd.us/doh/nursing/NursingEdOps%202004.pdf>

## **Tennessee**

Tennessee Career Mobility Plan

<http://www.centerfornursing.org/research/articulationmodels.html>

## **Wisconsin**

University of Wisconsin Transfer Information System

<http://www.uwsa.edu/tis/resources/ga/wtcsprogs/wtcsnurs.shtml>

## **Wyoming**

University of Wyoming and all Wyoming Community Colleges (p. 2-3)

<http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/hs/Academic%20Plans/AC%20Plan%20-%20Final%20Nov%201.DOC>