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:


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 rrosseter@aacnnursing.org.

Original Publication Date: June 2005
Last Update: April 2019
### Key to Articulation Agreement Types

- **Individual**: Arrangements are made on a school-to-school basis. A blanket agreement does not exist.
  - 19 states

- **Mandated**: State laws exist regulating the transfer of credit between public institutions.
  - 8 states

- **Statewide**: 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.
  - 23 states and the District of Columbia
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

Florida
Statewide Articulation Manual

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

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

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.thecb.state.tx.us/UHRI/nurse8-2-04.pdf

2005-2010 Texas State Health Plan (p. 15-16)
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://nursing.uams.edu/rnbsn/nln.html

Colorado
Colorado Commission on Higher Education Statewide Articulation Agreements

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

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://icnne.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

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/ 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

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

North Dakota
North Dakota University System Articulation Agreements
http://www.ndus.nodak.edu/students/ccn/articulation/agreements.asp#17
Ohio
Ohio Nursing Articulation Model

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

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