

## **Developing Articulation Agreements with Independent and Out-of-State Institutions**

California's independent colleges and universities are known for their diversity, quality, and innovation. From the University of Southern California, with over 30,000 students, to the University of Judaism, with fewer than 300 students, these institutions offer a wide range of academic programs in more than 130 fields of study.

The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) (<http://www.aiccu.edu/>) inventories articulation and transfer processes of the 76 colleges and universities enrolling almost 8,500 community college transfer students each year. Nearly one-fourth of California's Baccalaureate Degrees are earned at AICCU colleges and universities. In total, the independent colleges and universities enroll 29% of the total student body in California at the four-year and graduate levels.

Statewide efforts in the area of CSU Certification and IGETC have assisted independent colleges and universities assess the comparability of courses. AICCU maintains an up-to-date list of those member institutions that accept CSU Certification and/or IGETC in lieu or as the major part of their lower division general education. To receive a copy, contact AICCU's research director or check the AICCU web site ([https://partner.xap.com/common\\_functions/site\\_templates/loaddoc.asp?i=909\\*\\*\\*a4300b002bcfb71f291dac175d52df94](https://partner.xap.com/common_functions/site_templates/loaddoc.asp?i=909***a4300b002bcfb71f291dac175d52df94)). Students may have to complete additional coursework in areas unique to the mission of that particular institution.

Conversely, independent colleges and universities may submit their curriculum for inclusion in CSU GE-Breadth certification. Since approved courses from independent institutions will not be included in ASSIST, contact the CSU Chancellor's Office for up-to-date approved course listings.

Independent colleges and universities act autonomously in setting transfer credit policies. Since each institution is free to establish its own standards, there are few requirements that apply to all institutions. One hallmark of these colleges and universities is their tradition of flexibility and review of special circumstances in the admission process. Each individual applicant is reviewed with care and adjustments to their transcript evaluations are made if students demonstrate that their previous courses meet comparable standards at their new institution. In the majority of colleges and universities, the responsibility for determining transfer credit is assigned to a Transfer Admissions Counselor and/or an official evaluator in the Registrar's Office. Transfer students' records are evaluated on an individual basis, according to guidelines usually established by the academic departments, or in consultation with the department faculty or division deans.

In some independent institutions transfer students are relatively few in number, and therefore a formal articulation process is not necessary. Those schools reporting formal articulation agreements have, for the most part, developed them within their geographic area. Generally, these agreements have focused on transferable community college courses for lower-division credit, general education courses, and some transferable courses applicable to the major (particularly in high demand major fields). Generally, catalog descriptions, course outline of record, and/or student learning objectives/outcomes are required for course articulation.

Increasingly, many independent colleges and universities are including their articulation agreements on their institution's web site. This assists potential student transfers and community college counselors in preparing students for transfer. Updates of articulation are generally done on a yearly basis.