
Docket Item:

AP/IB Statewide Course Credit Policy 2020-2021

Summary:

In 2019-2020, the mapping of higher education credit articulated for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams was coordinated and published by HECC and advised by the AP/IB Policy Workgroup. This process led to a more transparent and better aligned articulation list, with the expectation that over time articulations will become increasingly similar among community colleges, comprehensive regional universities and larger research universities.

Several important factors contributed to Oregon's state policy re-design, including action by the Oregon Legislature, advancement of Oregon's groundbreaking Transfer Agreements, and increased focus on transparency for students around course articulations in the K-12 – postsecondary transition.

The 2020-2021 AP/IB Statewide Course Credit Policy provides full transparency with course articulations available at community colleges and public universities. In the newly available table, a student can find out how a particular AP exam subject and score articulates to all 24 public postsecondary institutions in Oregon as well as which core transfer map core content area that AP subject applies.

Legislative Action:

In 2017, the AP bill (SB 207) set the cut score at 3 for AP unless exception was granted. In statute, HECC has a facilitator role for establishing policy and navigating any applications for exceptions to the cut score. In 2019, SB 160 set forth the same alignment for IB cut scores at the score of 4. The AP/IB Policy Workgroup, staffed by the HECC, took charge of implementing both senate bills in addition to creating regular updates stemming from curricular changes. In both AP and IB curricular content, as changes are enacted, the AP/IB Policy Workgroup members act as liaisons to the appropriate academic departments to ensure that the articulation recommendations are updated as needed.

As of fall 2020, the AP/IB Statewide Course Credit Policy will be published in a new “re-designed” format. The specific articulations for subject, exam score, and public university or community college are listed in a large table in the new policy. As of April 2020, this shall be updated on an ongoing basis by either the higher education liaisons in the AP/IB Policy Workgroup or by institutional registrars directly. HECC Staff will work to ensure that the overall integrity and continuity of the policy is maintained over time, in close communication with institutions. The purpose of this coordination is to ensure alignment with the Oregon Transfer Compass tools and provide high levels of transparency for K12 partners.

Background

The statewide course credit policy stems from legislation in 2005, when the Oregon Transfer Module was established and the public institutions had to “Develop uniform standards for awarding college credit for advanced placement test scores” and over time work together to support the alignment of articulations from different campuses. The intent of this work was to ensure that students who transfer would not need to repeat coursework that had been “packaged” in the Oregon Transfer Module. In the policy that existed up until fall 2019, cut scores for the AP and IB exams varied by subject, but within each subject they were intended to be consistent across institutions.

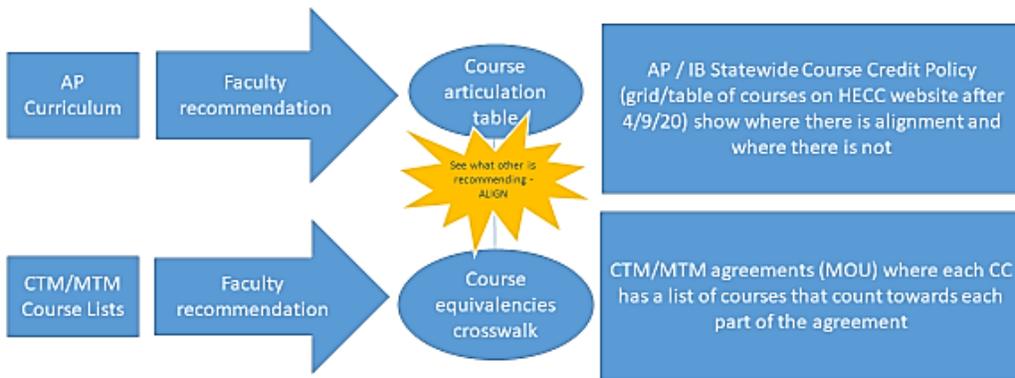
In an effort to streamline transfer among Oregon’s higher education institutions, simplify the articulation process, and reduce loss of credit, Oregon’s State Legislature passed House Bill 2998 (2017), which led to the development of the Oregon Transfer Compass. The Oregon Transfer Compass aims to serve students by providing unified statewide transfer agreements in specific majors, called Major Transfer Maps.

The Core Transfer Maps are groups of eight classes that add up to at least 30 credits. When the full set of eight courses is successfully completed at an Oregon community college, they are guaranteed to transfer as a block to any Oregon public university, and they will count toward that university’s core bachelor’s degree requirements. Core Transfer Maps are a streamlined subset of the Oregon Transfer Module and the Associates of Arts Transfer degree and can improve efficiency in credit transfer between postsecondary institutions through its organized general education framework.

A Major Transfer Map is a course plan for a major that, when completed, will allow students to transfer credits from any Oregon community college to any Oregon public university and count all of those credits toward a bachelor’s degree in the specific major. Currently, Major Transfer Maps are being developed for English Literature, Biology, Business, and Education majors.

The AP/IB Statewide Course Credit Policy serves as a reference point to compare and align course articulations for specific subjects and exams, as well as when credit is awarded by a community college for an AP/IB exam *and* that course is also included in the CTM or an MTM.

The figure below shows an example of how articulations are assigned by faculty in both the AP/IB and the Major Transfer Map workgroups and how they will continue to be aligned over time by referencing each other.



Materials:

See attached reference tables:

- Advanced Placement Articulation Table (3/31/2020)
- International Baccalaureate Articulation Table (3/31/2020)

Technical Notes on the Tables:

Starting in the fall of 2019, the updated Statewide Advanced Placement Policy expands access to articulated college credit for high school students with a score of a 3 on their AP subject exams (while the minimum score was previously 4 in some subjects). This document aims to consolidate and communicate Advanced Placement (AP) course credit articulations for the 7 public universities and 17 community colleges in Oregon.

Data were compiled by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission during the 2019-2020 academic year and will be updated to reflect the latest articulations regularly during the first year of the redesign implementation. Updates for articulations listed in this table should be sent to Erin Weeks-Earp (erin.weeks-earp@state.or.us) at the HECC. Updates will only be accepted from community college or university registrars or members of the AP/IB Policy Workgroup.

To read the Articulation Tables (AP example): The far left includes four identifier columns, followed by 24 columns of specific articulations. The first column (Column A) contains the Core Transfer Map subject areas, (Column B) includes Credit Ranges for each score and subject, and finally, (Column C) lists the AP Exam Subject, these are in Alphabetical order down the rows. Column D shows exam scores (3, 4 and 5).

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission approve the AP/IB Statewide Course Credit Policy 2020-2021.