

<b>Policy #</b>	<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Reso #</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>
	<b>CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment</b>		

**ITEM**

The intent of the CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment Policy is to eliminate transfer barriers and increase transfer student success within CSCU institutions. This is in alignment with the Board of Regents for Higher Education’s (“BOR”) Strategic Goal 1: Student Success, which includes:

- a) Improve access to CSCU’s certificate and degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels for various targeted populations (under-represented, nontraditional, out-of-state, international, some college no degree, veterans, employee upskilling, high school dual credit, etc.)
- b) Improve retention, transfer, and completion to ensure that all students get the reward of their educational efforts
- c) Research, understand and address the opportunity gaps experienced by our students and from different ethnic/racial, economic and gender groups and revise policies and practices that have a disparate impact on those students.

The CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment Policy will assist in retaining students within CSCU System institutions, decrease the risk of excess credits hours, and simplify academic planning from CT State to CSCU four-year institutions. The CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment Policy will provide transparency and clear guidance on application of general education requirements regardless of when a student decides to transfer. By providing consistent practices and increasing transparency throughout the CSCU System, this policy will guide students toward academic success regardless of where they start their journey.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION FOR FULL BOARD**

**Resolved:** That the Board of Regents for Higher Education formally adopts the CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment Policy.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This staff report:

- Describes how current practice for application of general education credits from CT State to CSCU four-year institutions is complicated and time intensive.
- Explains how current practice is not inclusive of a majority of vertical transfer students.
- Demonstrates how the policy will not change each institution’s method for adhering to NECHE standards for general education requirements.
- Describes how this policy will reduce the risk of lost credit and eliminate variances associated with course transferability and application toward a degree.
- Provides examples of the work accomplished to date and how the courses are currently being adopted and seamlessly integrated into the CSU and COSC general education curriculum.
- Documents the process by which the CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment Policy was created.

**STAFF REPORT** **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**CSCU GENERAL EDUCATION TRANSFER CREDIT ALIGNMENT**

**Current practice:**

*Academic Planning and Advising:*

Current practice for students completing general education requirements for the purpose of transfer is complicated and labor intensive for both students and advisors. Each institution has its own method of meeting [NECHE's standard for General Education](#). This creates discrepancies that are difficult to navigate if a student is unsure of their transfer destination. Faculty and Staff advising students do not have appropriate resources required to assist with guiding students toward courses that will be accepted and applied toward degree completion. This results in time lost in researching course equivalents rather than discussing student success.

*Limited Application of Guarantee:*

Currently, students must complete a Transfer Ticket, pathway associate degree, to be granted any guarantees for application of general education courses to the receiving institutions program. According to the Fall 2021 Where did they go report, only 42% of students who transferred from a CSCU Community College matriculated to a CSCU four-year institution. Of those students, 76% did so without the completion of an Associate Degree.

As a best practice for transfer, students will continue to be encouraged to earn a credential that provides the best pathway to the completion of a bachelor's degree. We must also recognize students that are taking courses for the purpose of transfer and do not intend to earn an associate degree. This policy is inclusive of both populations and reduces the risk of lost credits for all transfer students.

*Oversight:*

Currently, the Framework Implementation and Review Committee (FIRC) has been charged with the oversight and assessment of the FW30. This was needed at the time to create a consistent general education requirement for all transfer degrees for all 12 independent institutions. Starting in Fall 2023, CT State has adopted 21 to 31 credits of the Framework30 as the general education requirement for all degrees. A General Education Committee has recently been added to the governance structure at CT State and will be responsible for assessment and oversight of general education for their institution.

**Value Proposition:**

*Reducing Confusion:*

The CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment Policy will provide transparency on how CT State General Education requirements will be applied to a CSCU four-year institutions degree. Each course that a student uses to complete a General Education requirement at CT State will be applied to meet a General Education requirement at the receiving institution (or, in rare cases, progress a student toward completion). By mapping CT State General Education categories directly to General Education requirements at the CSCU four-year institutions will eliminate any guess work associated with course transferability and application toward a degree. Allowing any course in a particular FW30 category to meet the requirement of the reciprocal category at the receiving institution will simplify advising and reduce risk of lost credits. CT State Faculty and Staff can be assured while assisting students that they are not guiding them toward excess credit hours.

*Simplifying Academic Planning:*

Category-to-Category alignment based on similar outcomes will provide students, faculty, and staff the information necessary to select courses that meet general education requirements throughout the CSCU System. Based on Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), each Framework30 (FW30) Category will be evaluated to identify similarities and be paired with a comparable category at the CSCU four-year institutions. Therefore, all courses vetted for a particular FW30 category and will seamlessly transfer to its associated category at the receiving CSCU four-year institution. Mapping will also demonstrate how courses

from the CSCU four-year institution may be applied in a reciprocal approach to the FW30.

Upon implementation of this policy, students, faculty, and staff will be provided flexibility in creating academic plans while providing more time for students to determine a CSCU transfer destination. With the variation in general education throughout the system, advising is based on a particular transfer destination. If a student changes their transfer plans, this may have an impact on the coursework completed and how it will be applied to other institutions. This policy will allow students, faculty, and staff to provide advising based on general education requirements that will keep students on track to graduation, regardless of where they decide to transfer to within the CSCU system.

*Continued Faculty Oversight:*

A standing body of faculty with the sole purpose of addressing issues related to transfer of general education requirements will not only ensure the success of the CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment Policy, but will also allow provide a method to address other issues related to concerns regarding this area of curriculum.

This committee of faculty from all CSCU institutions will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following:

1. Develop a comprehensive implementation guide that includes procedures for the continuous review and adjustment of General Education requirements across CSCU institutions, ensuring alignment with this Policy and adherence to relevant accreditation standards. This encompasses updates to General Education Core categories, SLOs, and the roster of approved courses.
2. Regularly report on Policy implementation progress to the CSCU Provost or other designee, CSCU Transfer Council, and the Board of Regents Academic and Student Affairs Committee, as appropriate.
3. Maintain records of current General Education categories and approved courses throughout all CSCU institutions, promoting transparency and accessibility, including, but not limited to, making any revisions to the CSCU General Education Category-to-Category Alignment Template (Exhibit A) as needed.
4. Convene routinely to deliberate on matters related to credit transfer in accordance with this Policy.
5. Promptly identify and report to the Transfer Council and the CSCU Provost or other designee any deviations from the Policy, ensuring swift resolution and compliance.

***Policy Creation Process***

Safe Course Task Force

- Charged: Spring of 2022, the Safe Course Task Force was charged by CSCU Provost and Senior VP of Academic and Student Affairs
- Convened April 2022 to March 2023
- Submitted Recommendation to CSCU Provost March 2023  
Action by CSCU Provost
- Recommendation submitted to CSCU four-year institution Provosts for initial review and feedback: Sent Monday, October 23
- Request the submission of “CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment Provost Report” by Friday, November 10, 2023
- Summary of Feedback:
  - Charter Oak: Resolved that the Charter Oak State College Academic Council approves the CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment with the edit in Appendix B noted above.

- Central Connecticut State University
- Eastern Connecticut State University: Due to the upcoming changes in the Liberal Arts requirements at Eastern, the fall 2023 equivalencies will become an outdated equivalency tool. Beginning fall 2024, students will move forward with Eastern's Liberal Arts Core (ELAC), which will fully replace the Liberal Arts Core (LAC) that is currently in place. Thus, at this time, it does not make sense for governance bodies like the Liberal Arts Program Committee, Curriculum Committee, or Academic Affairs Committee to review how Framework 30 equivalencies align with a curriculum that will soon be superseded.
- Southern Connecticut State University: This request was received at SCSU on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> and assigned to Dr. Carrigan Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. This allowed for less than 12 working days to collect feedback. Dr. Carrigan was the co-chairperson of the Safe Course Task Force and Attorney Badr was co-chairperson of TAP-FIRC. Dr. Carrigan and Atty. Badr had already begun communicating these ideas in appropriate subcommittees at the beginning of the fall semester. Even with that head start, this is an untenable timeline to fully educate faculty of a proposal of this magnitude and collect meaningful feedback. **This report is therefore incomplete, and we request more time, as we do not yet accept the language used above or within either Appendix.**
- Western Connecticut State University: We affirm that the map to the current general education curriculum is accurate and that the pending general education revision is as described (though not yet approved through governance at WCSU). Most importantly, students will have 30 credits from the CC applied to Gen Ed
- Edits to the Draft Policy based on CSCU four-year institution's feedback
  - More detail was provided to the charge of the oversight committee that will be charged to include:
    - *To ensure sustained adherence to this Policy and to manage its ongoing evaluation, a dedicated Oversight Committee ("Committee") will be established as a standing subcommittee of the CSCU Transfer Council. The Committee will be comprised of faculty and staff representatives from CT State Community College and each CSCU Four-Year Institution. Appointed by and reporting directly to the CSCU Provost or other designee, the Committee will:*
      - *Develop a comprehensive implementation guide that includes procedures for the continuous review and adjustment of General Education requirements across CSCU institutions, ensuring alignment with this Policy and adherence to relevant accreditation standards. This encompasses updates to General Education Core categories, SLOs, and the roster of approved courses.*
      - *Regularly report on Policy implementation progress to the CSCU Provost or other designee, CSCU Transfer Council, and the Board of Regents Academic and Student Affairs Committee, as appropriate.*
      - *Maintain records of current General Education categories and approved courses throughout all CSCU institutions, promoting transparency and accessibility, including, but not limited to, making any revisions to the CSCU General Education Category-to-Category Alignment Template (Exhibit A) as needed.*
      - *Convene routinely to deliberate on matters related to credit transfer in accordance with this Policy.*
      - *Promptly identify and report to the Transfer Council and the CSCU Provost or other designee any deviations from the Policy, ensuring swift resolution and compliance.*

**Safe Course Task Force Recommendation:**

In Spring of 2022, the Safe Course Task Force was charged by CSCU Provost and Senior VP of Academic and Student Affairs. The Task Force was charged to:

The Safe Course Task Force (SCTF) will work to increase transparency and reduce barriers in respect to course and credit transfer associated with general education requirements. A “safe course” list based on similar general education category to category orientation will provide students, faculty, and staff the information necessary to select courses that meet general education requirements throughout the CSCU System. Based on Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), each Framework30 (FW30) and Additional General Education Category will be evaluated to identify similarities and opportunity to be paired with a comparable category at the CSUs/CO. For example, identify courses in Social and Behavioral Sciences (Framework30) that meet the requirements for SA II Social Science (CCSU), T1 Social Sciences (ECSU), Social Structure, Conflict and Consensus (SCSU), Gen Ed Elective/Exploration (WCSU), Social/Behavioral Science (COSC). The “safe course” list will consist of FW30 vetted courses that will transfer seamlessly to its associated category at the receiving CSCU institution. The SCTF will also recommend how courses from the CSUs/CO may be applied in a reciprocal approach to the FW30 and Additional General Education categories. The committee will be supported by the CSCU Office of Transfer and Articulation.

The SCTF will be tasked with:

- Comparing current General Education models and SLOs at the CSUs, CO, and proposed requirements for the FW30 and Additional General Education Categories
- Matching parallel categories within the FW30 and Additional General Education Categories
- Identifying courses in each FW30 and Additional General Education category that can meet a specific general education requirement at each CSU/CO. For example, identify courses in Social and Behavioral Sciences (Framework30) that meet the requirements for SA II Social Science (CCSU), T1 Social Sciences (ECSU), Social Structure, Conflict and Consensus (SCSU), Gen Ed Elective/Exploration (WCSU), Social/Behavioral Science (COSC).
- Identify how students transferring from the CSUs/CO can apply general education courses from categories included in the safe course list to the FW30 and Additional General Education categories
- Exploring transfer based on outcome rather than course for course equivalency
- Communicating the progress of the Safe Course Task Force with constituencies on their perspective campus and relaying questions and concerns from their campus to the Safe Course Task Force
- Creating an implementation plan to execute and promote recommendations
- Providing recommendations for governance and oversight of the outcomes submitted by this Task Force

*Proposed Membership:*

- Co-Chair: 2yr (selected from membership below; one Co-Chair must be Faculty)
- Co-Chair: 4yr (selected from membership below; one Co-Chair must be Faculty)
- 3 CC Faculty (one from each region)

- 1 CC FIRC Representative
- 1 CSCC General Education Task Force Member
  - 5 CSU/CO Faculty (one from each institution and actively involved with transfer and general education)
- 2 Registrars (one from 2yr and one from 4yr)
- 4 Advisors (two from 2yr and two from 4yr)
- 1 Member of the Institutional Research Council
- Student participation to be determined by the Task Force at the First meeting
- Non-voting: Director of the Office of Transfer and Articulation
  - 1 Staff member with expertise in Banner Transfer Bank functions

*Participating Group Members:*

- Sarah Selke (Faculty, TRCC, Co-Chair); Braxton Carrigan (Faculty, SCSU, Co-Chair); Joseph Berenguel (Faculty, ACC); Steve Mendes (Staff, NCC); Justine Gamache (Staff, CCSU); Kristina Kosnoff (Staff, MCC); Lindsay O'Grady (Staff, COSC); Edward Moore (Faculty, CCSU); Mark Lynch (Faculty, GCC); Amy Royal (Faculty, NVCC); Christopher Paulin (Faculty, MCC); Jeffery Buskey (Staff, ECSU); Kelly Pittman (Staff, TXCC); Francine Rosselli-Navarra (CSCU); Steve Marcelynas (CSCU)

*Scope of work:*

From April 2022 to March 2023, the Task Force convened eight times to discuss the following:

- A. *Alignment of Connecticut State Community College Framework30 (FW30) categories with general education requirements at the CSCU four-year institutions based on learning outcomes.*
- B. *Documented verification of the completion of the Framework30 posted on students' transcripts.*
- C. *Automatic Acceptance to any four-year CSCU institution with the completion of the Framework30 and an overall GPA of 2.5 or higher.*
- D. *A sub-committee of the CSCU Transfer Council should be created to provide oversight of CSCU General Education alignment*

In March of 2023, the Task Force voted to send a recommendation to the CSCU Provost. The recommendation was then reviewed by the CSCU Provost and distributed to all institutional Provosts for review. In November of 2023, each Provost was asked to submit a Provost's Report for the CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment Policy. The intent of the report was to solicit feedback from a small group of subject matter experts from each institution. The feedback from that report would then be used to further edit the recommendation into a draft policy.

**Proposed Changes:**

*Improving Academic Planning and Advising:*

Category-to-Category alignment based on similar general education outcomes will provide students, faculty, and staff the information necessary to select courses that meet general education requirements throughout the CSCU System. Based on Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), each Framework30 (FW30) Category will be evaluated to identify similarities and opportunity to be paired with a comparable category at the CSCU four-year institutions. For example, based on the SLOs for Social and Behavioral Sciences (Framework30) all courses vetted for that category will

**STAFF REPORT**

**ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

meet the requirement for SA II Social Science or SA III Behavioral Sciences (CCSU), T1 Social Sciences (ECSU), Social Structure, Conflict and Consensus (SCSU), Gen Ed Elective/Exploration (WCSU), Social/Behavioral Science (COSC). Therefore, all courses vetted for that particular FW30 category and will seamlessly transfer to its associated category at the receiving CSCU four-year institution. Mapping will also demonstrate how courses from the CSCU four-year institution may be applied in a reciprocal approach to the FW30.

Each Institution will be required to complete a CSCU General Education Category-to-Category Alignment Template. The template will document how each course in the FW30 will be received and applied to the CSCU four-year institution’s general education requirements.

<b>Framework30</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>[CSCU 4yr Institution]</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Written Comm I	3		
Written Comm II	3		
Arts and Humanities <sup>1</sup>	3-4		
Social and Behavioral Sciences	3		
Historical Knowledge	3		
Scientific Reasoning <sup>2</sup>	4		
Scientific Knowledge and Understanding <sup>2</sup>	3-4		
Oral Communication	3		
Continued Learning and Information Literacy	3		
Quantitative Reasoning <sup>3</sup>	3		

*Continuing with Faculty Oversight:*

With the sunset of FIRC, there will need to be a new process for sharing information on general education requirements to include, but not limited to; student learning outcomes, course information, and assessment data. Information related to general education should be reviewed by Faculty and Faculty will be responsible to ensure compliance of the CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment Policy.

**New requirements:**

By July 2024, each CSU and COSC Provost will be required to complete and submit the CSCU General Education Category-to-Category Alignment Template to the CSCU Provost.

Each institution will be required to accept all courses in the designated FW30 category to the reciprocal category as designated by the CSCU General Education Category-to-Category Alignment Template. Courses in the FW30 categories will be coded (i.e. course-to-course equivalency or assigned attribute) to meet the requirement for the general education category at the CSU or COSC.

A standing body of CT State and CSCU four-year institution Faculty will be charged to provide oversight, coordination, and compliance to the CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment Policy. This group will be charged by the CSCU Provost to, but not limited to:

- Report to the CSCU Transfer Council

**STAFF REPORT****ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- Meet regularly to discuss transfer as related to the CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Policy
- Develop an implementation guide for practices on, but not limited to, how to:
  - Review any changes to a CSCU institutions' general education requirements to include; but not limited to; category changes, student learning outcomes, and vetted courses to ensure compliance with the CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment Policy
  - Maintain an accurate list of general education categories and vetted courses within each general education category at the CSCU institutions
  - Report any issues of non-compliance to the CSCU Provost

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is the recommendation of the System Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs that the Board of Regents consider the adoption of the proposed CSCU General Education Transfer Credit Alignment.



**SOURCES****POLICY****[Board of Regents Transfer and Articulation Policy](#)**

Comprehensive policy describing the parameters for pathways to transfer from the community colleges to the state universities and Charter Oak State College within the CSCU system.

**[Board of Regents Policy Statement on Associate Degrees](#)**

Description of the types of associate degrees at the community colleges – career, transfer, and general – within the CSCU system based on system mission and state statute. Requires clear information be provided about the purpose of each associate degree.

**[Transfer and Articulation name and local status of pathway transfer degrees](#)**

Describes the name of the TAP degrees; addresses management of these degrees at each college. TAP transfer degrees can be combined with existing career degrees or aggregated with other TAP degrees for purposes of viability and/or review.

**[Framework for Community College Designated Transfer Degree Program Requirements \(Framework30\)](#)**

Agreed upon framework for 30 credits of general education required of all TAP degrees specifying eight required categories (section A, 24 credits)) and two categories (section B, 6 credits) that are chosen from a specified list by each college. This framework will be revisited as part of the consolidation of the community colleges into a single community college.

**APPENDIX****[Framework 30 Student Learning Outcome Categories](#)****[Composite Common Packages](#)****[Appendix A](#)****[Appendix B](#)****[Transfer Council](#)****[FIRC Information](#)****[Fall 2021, Where did they go report DSIR](#)****[Safe Course Task Force Charge](#)****[Safe Course Task Force Recommendation](#)****[All Provost Recommendation Reports](#)**