Florida's 2 + 2 Articulation System

Florida has long been considered a national leader in developing highly effective articulation at the State and local levels between and among institutions and sectors. The Articulation Coordinating Committee, which serves as the State unit for addressing K-20 assessment, alignment, and articulation issues, has representatives from the State University System and the Community College System, as well as representatives from the public school, workforce development, and the independent sectors.

Florida has a Statewide Course Numbering System that is designed to improve program planning, increase communication among all postsecondary delivery systems, and facilitate the transfer of students. All public universities, community colleges, postsecondary vocational-technical centers, and some private postsecondary institutions use this numbering system. Courses with similar designations have been judged by faculty discipline committees to be equivalent and are guaranteed to transfer if the receiving institutions offer the courses.

The State has a general education agreement so that universities cannot require students to take additional general education courses if they already have successfully completed a general education sequence at a community college. Courses have been identified that will meet general education requirements within the subject areas of communications, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. Faculty committees representing both the community colleges and the universities also have identified common prerequisite courses for more than 600 university baccalaureate majors across all public institutions.

Students with Associate in Arts degrees from Florida's Community College System are guaranteed a place in the State University System. Before graduating from community colleges or universities, students must demonstrate mastery of college-level competencies in communication and computation via the *College Level Academic Skills Test* or its equivalent.

A joint electronic student advising system, known as *Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students* (http://www.FACTS.org), has been developed to provide on-line information to potential and enrolled community college and university students regarding degree program availability, transcript displays, and local institutional graduation audits. Flexibility has been built into the system to allow for expansion to cover functions such as admissions applications, financial aid, registration, career advisement, and fee payments.

Many other programs, systems, and activities have been developed that enhance the two-plustwo articulation system and take advantage of resources across educational sectors. An increasing number of institutions are entering into agreements regarding the concurrent use of facilities. The State also has a library automation program that permits students to share access to all libraries on the campuses of the 39 public postsecondary institutions.

A Statewide Articulation Agreement has been developed that focuses on AS-to-BS articulation. In addition to the Statewide efforts, comprehensive local interinstitutional articulation agreements have been reached that include area high schools, community colleges, and

universities. Each postsecondary institution has a designated articulation officer. Local articulation councils have been formed, and these councils have the potential to serve as local K-20 councils, with broad representation from all appropriate sectors.

Florida's 2+2 articulation system includes:

- A Statewide articulation agreement (<u>Section 1007.23</u>, Florida Statutes)
- Common course numbering (Section 1007.24, Florida Statutes)
- Common pre-requisites (<u>Section 1007.25</u>, Florida Statutes)

Other relevant legislation and rules include:

- Section <u>1007.22</u>, Florida Statutes Articulation; postsecondary institution coordination and collaboration
- Section <u>1007.235</u>, Florida Statutes District interinstitutional articulation agreements
- <u>6A 10.024</u>, Florida Administrative Code (FAC) Articulation Between Universities, Community Colleges and School Districts

Articulation responsibilities for the Florida Board of Governors are outlined in <u>Article IX</u>, Section 7, of the Florida Constitution.