

• **STATEWIDE REVERSE TRANSFER ARTICULATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN**

THE FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM

AND

THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA

A Statement of Philosophy and Intent

The State of Florida, long a national leader in higher education, has given broad policy directions to the system of postsecondary education with regard to articulation between and among two- and four-year institutions. Section 1007.23, Florida Statutes, provides for the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education to enter into a statewide articulation agreement to establish an effective and orderly transfer process for students entering a Florida college, completing an associate in arts degree, and transferring to a state university.

The State University System (SUS) is established in Article IX, section 7 of the Florida Constitution with a purpose of achieving excellence through teaching students, advancing research, and providing public service for the benefit of Florida's citizens, their communities and economies. Its 12 member institutions are identified in section 1000.21, Florida Statutes. The Board of Governors governs the SUS, and boards of trustees administer each university ("SUS institution").

The Florida College System (FCS) is established in Article IX, section 8 of the Florida Constitution with a purpose of providing access to undergraduate education; to originate articulated pathways to a baccalaureate degree; to ensure superior commitment to teaching and learning; and to respond quickly and efficiently to meet the demand of communities. Its 28 member institutions are identified in section 1000.21, Florida Statutes. The State Board of Education supervises the state college system, and district boards of trustees administer each college ("FCS institution").

The purpose of this reverse transfer articulation agreement is to set forth the conditions regarding statewide reverse transfer between the SUS and the FCS, and to provide the procedures whereby member institutions of the FCS and SUS must participate. It is intended to increase the options available for students enrolled at an SUS institution who have transferred credit from an FCS institution to earn an associate in arts degree from their former college.

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to facilitate the implementation of reverse transfer to assist former FCS students who have transferred to a SUS institution to complete an associate in arts (AA) degree at an FCS institution. The Agreement applies to SUS students who have completed more than 30 credits at an FCS institution but who transferred to an SUS institution before earning an AA degree.

II. GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

- A. Pursuant to s. 1007.23, Statewide articulation agreement: “The [statewide] articulation agreement must specifically provide for a reverse transfer agreement for Florida College System associate in arts degree-seeking students who transfer to a state university before earning an associate in arts degree. Students must be awarded an associate in arts degree by the Florida College System institution upon completion of degree requirements at the state university if the student earned more than 30 credit hours toward the associate in arts degree from the Florida College System institution. State universities must identify each student who has completed requirements for the associate in arts degree and, upon consent of the student, transfer credits earned at the state university back to the Florida College System institution so that the associate in arts degree may be awarded by the Florida College System institution.”
- B. State University System institutions must comply with Board of Governors Regulation 8.007, Articulation, which addresses reverse transfer. Specifically:
- “(3)(g)(2) Associate in arts degree awarded to FCS transfer students by the awarding FCS institution through the reverse transfer to credit earned at the SUS institution:
- a. SUS students who transfer more than 30 semester hours from a single Florida College System institution are notified about being eligible to receive an associate in arts degree at their home FCS institution if the student has earned at least a combined total of 60 semester hours, including the 30 or more semester hours from the home FCS with an overall cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher.

- b. SUS institutions must notify transfer students meeting the requirements of subsection (3)(g)(2) and of their possible eligibility to receive an associate in arts degree from their home FCS institution. Students must consent to the sharing of information from the SUS institution to their home FCS institution regarding this option. If consent is given, SUS institutions must inform the appropriate FCS institution about the student's interest in receiving an AA degree and provide any applicable information.”
- C. Rule 6A-10.024, Florida Statutes, Articulation Between and Among Universities, Florida Colleges, and School Districts, implements the statewide articulated acceleration mechanisms of s. 1007.23.
- D. Statewide and institutional policies/procedures must be in compliance with the standards of accreditation set forth by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) or the respective regional accrediting body.
- E. All student information shared between and among institutions to facilitate reverse transfer awards must be in compliance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requirements in 20 USC section 1232g and applicable Florida statutes, rules and federal regulations pertaining to privacy of student information.
- F. The Articulation Coordinating Committee may adopt additional guidance in cooperation with the Board of Governors and State Board of Education to assist institutions in implementing the provisions of this Agreement.

III. PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

All SUS and FCS institutions identified in s. 1000.21, are required to participate in reverse transfer under this Agreement. Participation under the reverse transfer statewide articulation agreement supersedes existing local, regional or consortia arrangements.

IV. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to participate in the reverse transfer process, a student must meet the following requirements:

- A. Be currently enrolled in a state university;
- B. Earned more than 30 hours of college credit at a single FCS institution;
- C. Transferred to a state university before earning an AA degree;
- D. Not previously earned an AA degree from the state university;
- E. Completed a minimum of 60 hours of college credit;
- F. Completed general education requirements of either the home FCS institution or the SUS institution;
- G. Not earned a baccalaureate degree;

- H. Be in good academic standing and be current with financial obligations at the SUS institution;
- I. Be in good academic standing and be current with financial obligations at the awarding FCS institution;
- J. Have met the civic literacy requirement per section 1007.25(4), Florida Statutes;
- K. Have met college-level communication and computation competency per SBOE Rule 6A-10.030, Florida Administrative Code;
- L. Demonstrate competency in a foreign language per s. 1007.25(8);
- M. Consent to allowing the SUS institution to transmit the necessary information to the FCS institution; and
- N. Meet any other associate in arts degree graduation institutional requirement of the degree-granting FCS institution.

If a reverse transfer candidate attended more than one FCS institution prior to transferring to an SUS institution, the degree-granting institution will be the FCS institution where the student earned the most credits, provided the student earned more than 30 credits at that institution. In the event the student has earned the same number of credits and meets the degree requirements at two or more FCS institutions, the FCS institution that the student attended most recently will be considered as the degree-granting institution.

To adhere to the FERPA requirements, the student must actively affirm and agree (“opt in”) to the exchange of course histories and/or official transcripts among all the institutions attended. The SUS institution must obtain written consent (e.g., hard copy, electronic consent) from those students who appear to have the credits for associate degree completion prior to sending information to the FCS institution. Non-responding students will be considered to be non-consenting and will not be eligible. Students who do not consent shall not be considered further for reverse transfer in subsequent terms, unless the student initiates a request for reverse transfer. Institutions may obtain consent at the time of student admission, transfer, or notification of eligibility to participate in the reverse transfer process.

V. REVERSE TRANSFER PROCESS

1. Annually, SUS institutions shall determine which students meet the eligibility criteria outlined above to identify potential degree candidates.
2. Once potential degree candidates are identified, each SUS institution shall provide notification to potential candidates about the reverse transfer provision of the statewide articulation agreement. This notification must:

- a. Specify that “opting in” does not guarantee the student will automatically be awarded the AA; it simply means the FCS institution will evaluate the student’s transcript to determine if they are eligible for the degree.
 - b. Include the statement of purpose, the name of the FCS institution to which the student’s information will be sent, and instructions for opting out of the process at any time.
3. Upon consent by the student, the SUS institution will transmit transcripts or academic data files for potential candidates to the FCS institution with a notation that the student has indicated that they intend to seek a reverse transfer.
4. The FCS institution will conduct a degree audit to determine whether the potential candidates meet all eligibility criteria, including criteria specified in subsection IV.
5. A student who intends to seek an AA degree under the terms of this Agreement will be governed by the graduation requirements set forth by the FCS institution.
6. Upon the successful completion of the degree audit described and, if applicable, the successful completion of any additional procedures or requirements, the FCS institution will confer the AA degree during the semester in which the audit was successfully completed. The FCS institution will notify the student of the award of the AA degree. The student’s transcripts will be updated accordingly to reflect the awarding of the AA degree.
7. The FCS institution will inform students who are not eligible to be awarded a degree what course(s) and/or other requirement(s) remain to be completed. Students shall be afforded due process under the appeals process and procedures outlined in the catalog at the degree-granting FCS institution.
8. The FCS institution will notify the registrar at the SUS institution regarding the outcomes of the degree audits.

VI. INSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATIONS

- A. Each SUS and FCS institution will designate an institutional staff person to provide oversight for the reverse transfer program.
- B. Each SUS and FCS institution will create a webpage containing information about the reverse transfer program.
- C. Each SUS and FCS institution will provide academic counseling to students.
- D. Each SUS and FCS institution will ensure that all educational records created, disclosed, or maintained pursuant to the terms of this articulation agreement are confidential and shall be created, disclosed, and maintained pursuant to the requirements of FERPA and applicable state laws.
- E. Each SUS institution will maintain records on the number of students who met the eligibility criteria and the number of transcripts sent to FCS institutions.

F. Each FCS institution will maintain records on the number of students evaluated, the number of students who were awarded an AA degree, and the number of students who were not awarded an AA degree.

VII. INSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- A. Each institution reserves the right to add, discontinue or modify its institutional policies at any time.
- B. Each institution reserves the right to establish data sharing agreements with other institutions related to the transmittal of student records, which must comply with the requirements of FERPA and the implementing federal regulations.

VIII. REPORTING

FCS and SUS institutions will submit any data or reports that might be required by the Office of the Board of Governors for the State University System of Florida or the Department of Education’s Division of Florida Colleges.

This Statewide Reverse Transfer Articulation Agreement is entered into this ____ day of _____, 2021, by and between the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors on behalf of the Florida College System and State University System, respectively. This Agreement shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until terminated by either party. Any modifications, additions, or deletions to this Agreement must be in writing and signed by both parties.

By: _____

By: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Chair, State Board of Education

Chair, Board of Governors