



Tab 12

Amendments to Administrative Rule on Residency and Transfer

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
June 5, 2019

BACKGROUND

Senate Bill 997, passed into law in 2016 and now part of state law at §§ 178.785-178.789, RSMo, establishes the Higher Education Core Curriculum Act. The act directs the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to develop a lower-division core curriculum of at least 42 credit hours that transfers seamlessly between all public colleges and universities in Missouri. This core curriculum is now commonly known as CORE 42. CORE 42 specifies the basic competencies and knowledge areas that all students completing degrees at a Missouri public institution of higher education must satisfy. In addition, CORE 42 supports Blueprint Goal 1.1 of increasing educational attainment by expanding agreements to support the seamless transfer of academic credits.

Several sections of the administrative rule on residency and transfer (6 CSR 10-3.020) must be amended to reflect accurately the requirements and language of §§ 178.785-178.789, RSMo, while others need to be updated or are no longer pertinent. This agenda item reports on proposed amendments to the administrative rule.

CURRENT STATUS

Staff from the Office of Academic Affairs drafted the initial revisions to 6 CSR 10-3.020 based primarily on the language in §§ 178.785-178.789, RSMo. This draft was vetted through the Core Curriculum Advisory Committee (CCAC), which the act also established. A second draft was vetted by both the Council of Chief Academic Officers (CCAO) and the Committee on Transfer and Articulation (COTA). A revised draft reflecting the input provided by the CCAO and COTA was then submitted to the chief academic officers of all public and independent institutions for review and comment. The proposed amendments as presented in the attachment to this agenda item incorporate feedback received from the larger academic community. The proposed amendments fall into three categories:

1. Revision of general transfer policy and appeals procedures
2. Addition and/or clarification of definitions
3. Technical/editorial updates

NEXT STEPS

Upon CBHE approval, MDHE staff will begin the rulemaking process with the Secretary of State's office to amend the existing residency and transfer rule and will report to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) that the revision is in process. The rulemaking process, which typically takes about six months to complete, includes opportunity for additional public comment and input.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Coordinating Board for Higher Education approve the amendments to 6 CSR 10-3.020 as presented in the attachment and direct the Commissioner of Higher Education to take all appropriate action to ensure the changes become effective as soon possible.

ATTACHMENT

- Amended Administrative Rule on Residency and Transfer (6 CSR 10-3.020)

Tab 12 Attachment

Amendments to Administrative Rule on Residency and Transfer

**Title 6—DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHER EDUCATION
Division 10—Commissioner
of Higher Education
Chapter 3—Residency and Transfer**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

6 CSR 10-3.020 Guidelines for Student Transfer and Articulation Among Missouri Higher Education Institutions

*PURPOSE: ~~The purpose of this rule is to establish guidelines to promote and facilitate the transfer of students between institutions of higher education within the state.~~ **This amendment sets forth the revised guidelines to promote and facilitate the transfer of students between public institutions of higher education in Missouri.***

(1) Introduction. The Coordinating Board for Higher Education is required by statute to “establish guidelines to promote and facilitate the transfer of students between institutions of higher education within the state.” This rule sets forth those guidelines and is intended to assure that a student with a clear educational objective may complete a degree program in the shortest possible time, whether the student remains in one institution or transfers to another. The coordinating board recognizes that each Missouri college and university has a responsibility for establishing and maintaining standards of expectations for students completing courses, programs, certificates or degrees. It also recognizes that for effective and efficient transfer of credits between and among these colleges and universities, it is necessary to exercise this responsibility within the context of a statewide system of ~~baccalaureate~~ **postsecondary** education. Effective articulation is based upon interinstitutional communication, a mutual respect for institutional integrity, a high degree of flexibility, procedures for identifying problems and a mechanism for implementing appropriate solutions. Harmonious and equitable consideration of any problem which a student may encounter in moving from one college to another is an ultimate objective of these transfer guidelines.

(2) Definitions.

(A) Guidelines as used in this rule means the expected course of action or set of circumstances that apply to decision making in which transfer of credit is involved.

(B) Commissioner means the Commissioner of Higher Education as appointed by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

(C) Coordinating Board means the Coordinating Board for Higher Education ~~established by section 173.005.2, RSMo~~ **created by article IV, section 52 of the Missouri Constitution.**

(D) Semester credit hour ~~means an institutional activity as defined in 6 CSR 10-4.030(1)(H).~~ **refers to a metric derived from the Carnegie Unit and based on the number of contact hours students spend in class per week in a given semester.**

(E) Lower division means courses at a level of comprehension usually associated with freshman and sophomore students and offered during the first two (2) years of a four (4)-year baccalaureate degree program.

(F) Upper division means courses at a level of comprehension usually associated with junior and senior students and offered during the last two (2) years of a four (4)-year baccalaureate degree program.

(G) Junior standing means the student level attained upon satisfactory completion of at least half of the credit hour requirements for completion of a bachelor’s degree, usually at least sixty (60) but less than ninety (90) student credit hours.

(H) Degree or certificate means an award or title conferred upon an individual by a college, university or other postsecondary education institution as official recognition for the successful completion of a program or course of study.

(I) Bachelor's degree or baccalaureate degree means ~~any earned academic degree carrying the title of bachelor, normally requiring at least four (4) but not more than five (5), years of full-time equivalent college-level work.~~ **an award that normally requires no more than 120 semester credit hours except as may be necessary for accreditation or licensure.**

(J) Major means a prescribed course of study which constitutes an area of specialization leading to a recognized certificate or degree.

(K) Baccalaureate degree program means the major required for the awarding of a bachelor's degree.

(L) General education program means a prescribed course of study as defined by institutional faculty and validated by the institution's administration or governing board, distinct from a program major, required of all graduates and intended to ensure that all graduates possess a common core of college-level skills and knowledge.

(M) Institution of higher education as used in the context of this rule means an educational institution under either public or private control which provides a postsecondary course of instruction at least six (6) months in length leading to or directly creditable toward a degree or certificate and which is accredited ~~either by the Commission in Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools or another regional accrediting association.~~ **Higher Learning Commission.**

(N) Transfer student means a student entering an institution for the first time with academic credit earned at another institution which is applicable for credit at the institution the student is entering.

(O) Sending institution means the institution of higher education of most recent previous enrollment by a transfer student at which transferable academic credit was earned.

(P) Receiving institution means the institution of higher education at which a transfer student currently desires to enroll and to have previously earned credit applied toward a degree program.

(Q) Native student means a student whose initial college enrollment was at a given institution of higher **education following high school graduation, and excluding the summer immediately preceding fall enrollment after high school graduation**, and who has not transferred to another institution of higher education since that initial enrollment, **or who has earned 11 or fewer academic credits.**

(R) **Higher Education Core Transfer Curriculum (CORE 42) refers to a standard core curriculum and common course numbering equivalency matrix for lower-division courses to be used at community colleges and other public (and participating independent) institutions of higher education to facilitate student transfers as provided under sections 178.785 to 178.789 RSMo, effective August 1, 2018.**

(S) **Core Curriculum means the basic competencies to be met, which shall include communicating, higher-order thinking, managing information, valuing, and includes the knowledge areas of social and behavioral sciences, humanities and fine arts, mathematics, life and physical sciences, and communications.**

(T) **Faculty Member refers to a person who is employed full time by a community college or other public or participating independent institution of higher education as a member of the faculty whose primary duties include teaching, research, academic service, or administration.**

(U) **Core Curriculum Advisory Committee refers to an advisory committee established by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education with primary responsibility for assuring course equivalencies and maintaining the core transfer curriculum (CORE 42) and corresponding courses, and shall be comprised of faculty members from Missouri public institutions and participating independent institutions of higher education.**

(V) **Committee on Transfer and Articulation refers to an advisory committee established by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education with responsibility to oversee the implementation of the transfer guidelines and appeals process as set forth in this rule.**

(W) **Common Course Number Equivalency Matrix (Missouri Transfer Number or "MOTR" Number) refers to the statewide number assigned to the core transfer curriculum courses to promote consistency in course designation and course identification across individual institutions. This designation is to be used only for courses originating at a Missouri institution and reviewed by a faculty discipline group comprised of faculty from Missouri public and/or participating independent higher education institutions.**

(X) Independent Institution refers to an approved private institution of higher education meeting the requirements of section 173.205(2) RSMo, provided it is also either accredited or a candidate for accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission and provided it offers a postsecondary course of instruction at least two (2) years in length leading to the conferral of a degree. Participating independent institutions are those who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to participate in the CORE 42.

(Y) Faculty Discipline Group refers to review panels comprised of faculty from Missouri's public and independent institutions and established to review courses submitted by Missouri institutions for inclusion in the Higher Education Core Transfer Curriculum (CORE 42).

(3) Applicability of Guidelines. These transfer guidelines are applicable to course credits and related matters for undergraduate students who wish to transfer between Missouri public colleges and universities. The coordinating board also recommends these guidelines to Missouri independent institutions. All Missouri independent institutions choosing to participate in the CORE 42 will be required to follow the same guidelines required of Missouri public institutions, as a condition of their participation.

(4) Transfer Policy.

(A) Baccalaureate Degree Program.

1. Determination of the course requirements of the major for a baccalaureate degree, including introductory and related courses, is the prerogative of the four (4)-year institution. The catalog of each four (4)-year institution will state clearly the requirements for each degree program. When required, specific prerequisites will be designated and will be noted in conjunction with the course description. Transfer students who have completed prerequisites will not be required to duplicate study in the area. **Courses taken as part of the Higher Education Core Transfer Curriculum (CORE 42) will transfer seamlessly to all public two-year and four-year institutions and participating independent institutions and will count toward completion of general education. And, if a specific course designated as part of the CORE 42 serves as a prerequisite to another course, or fulfills major or graduation requirements for native students, it shall serve that same role for the purpose of transfer.** The catalog will specify any restrictions or limitations for additional major requirements.

2. A baccalaureate degree program or major consists of a coherent grouping of courses or subject area requirements in a specific discipline or program field. Generally, the number of credit hours required for a major extends from thirty to forty-eight (30—48)-semester credit hours but there may be exceptions to this in the case of highly specialized professions or disciplines, interdisciplinary studies or majors in general liberal arts studies.

(B) General Education.

1. A student's first two (2) years in college may include introductory courses and other courses which permit the student to explore areas of specialization that can be pursued at a later time at the baccalaureate level. In a two (2)-year college transfer program, the courses should be adequate in content to be counted fully toward the baccalaureate degree for transfer students continuing in a particular field.

2. Each institution of higher education in Missouri fosters a program of general education. These general education programs typically follow one (1) of three (3) models, that is, competency-based programs; topical or thematic programs; or distributional programs. Among Missouri's higher education institutions, especially in the public sector, virtually all general education programs are currently distributional in character and consist of a set of courses composed of a specific number of semester credit hours within a pattern of curricular areas of study.

3. Although the general education requirement may vary from institution to institution, it represents an institutional statement, developed by the faculty and given ultimate validation by the college's administration or governing board, about the general body of knowledge and skills which should be possessed by the recipient of that college's degree.

4. Consistent with its mission, each public higher education institution in Missouri shall develop and shall promulgate a program of general education. After a Missouri institution of higher education has developed and published its program of general education, the integrity of that program will be recognized by other institutions within the state. ~~However,~~

5. For the purpose of facilitating transfer between institutions in the state, institutions shall accept in transfer a general education program of at least thirty-nine (39) semester credit hours the Missouri Higher Education Core Transfer Curriculum (CORE 42), a general education program comprised of at least forty-two (42) semester credit hours which shall consist of, but not be limited to, the distribution of courses specified in subparagraphs

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(4)(B)5.A.–E. and which shall satisfy section 170.014 **178.785-178.789**, RSMo. ~~(With the exception of laboratory courses, all references to courses are assumed to be those which entail a minimum of three (3) credit hours on a semester basis.)~~ Such a distribution of courses shall be deemed as meeting the general education requirements of the receiving institution. ~~This basic program~~ **The framework for Missouri's CORE is designed for students to obtain the basic competencies of Valuing, Managing Information, Communicating, and Higher-Order Thinking through the completion of at least 42 semester credit hours and** shall consist of college-level (nonremedial) course work or its equivalent **distributed across** each of the following ~~curricular knowledge~~ **areas:** ~~(See acceptance of pass/fail credit, credit by examination, advanced placement credit and credit for experiential learning.)~~

A. ~~Communication skills in the English language, three (3) courses at least two (2) of which must be written; one (1) oral communication course is recommended;~~ **a minimum of nine (9) semester credit hours are required, with a minimum of six (6) semester credit hours in written communications and a minimum of three (3) semester credit hours in oral communications;**

B. ~~Humanities and Fine Arts, three (3) courses from at least two (2) disciplines;~~ **a minimum of nine (9) semester credit hours are required, from at least two (2) disciplines and no more than three (3) credit hours of performance courses that can be applied to the Humanities and Fine Arts Knowledge Area and to the total CORE 42;**

C. ~~Physical and/or biological sciences~~ **Natural Sciences, two (2) courses a minimum of seven (7) semester credit hours are required, from at least two (2) disciplines,** including at least one (1) with a laboratory component;

D. ~~Mathematics, one (1) course college algebra, an alternative course that includes a significant component of college algebra, or a course which has college algebra as a prerequisite and;~~ **Mathematical Sciences, a minimum of three (3) semester credit hours are required. Mathematical Sciences courses that use one of the pathway courses as a prerequisite will meet the general education credit for mathematical sciences. For example, Calculus meets the general education math requirement since Pre-Calculus Algebra is a prerequisite.**

E. ~~Social and Behavioral Sciences, three (3) courses from at least two (2) disciplines~~ **a minimum of nine (9) semester credit hours are required, from at least two (2) disciplines, and including at least one Civics course.**

6. All institutions shall recognize the validity of other institutions' general education requirements when the minimum requirements as specified in subparagraphs (4)(B)4.A.–E. are met. However, some foreign language and/or upper division general education courses or upper division graduation requirements may be required by the receiving institution whenever all native students are obligated to satisfy the same requirements.

7. ~~Baccalaureate Professional schools or programs, may specify exceptions to the credit hour and course distribution minimums established in this section by promulgating these exceptions and by establishing specialized articulation programs related to associate of science degrees as detailed in paragraph (4)(C)2. of the college transfer guidelines. In these instances, transferring students are not exempted from satisfying the specialized lower division requirements of departments or divisions of an institution into which a student wishes to transfer.~~ **because of licensure and accreditation requirements, are exempt from formulating general education programs according to the distributional requirements established within this rule. However, institutions are encouraged to establish specialized articulation programs. In these instances, transferring students are not exempted from satisfying the specialized lower division requirements of departments or divisions of an institution into which a student wishes to transfer.**

8. Students who have completed all of the requirements for completion of a general education program shall have their transcript notated as "General Education Complete" or "CORE 42 Complete."

(F) Associate Degrees.

1. Associate of Arts Degree.

A. An associate of arts degree (AA) is a two (2)-year degree which indicates the completion of a student's lower division general education requirements. It is also a specific transfer degree for entry, at the junior level, into the general range of baccalaureate degree programs offered by a four (4)-year college.

B. The receiving institution is not obligated to accept transfer credit which exceeds the minimum number of credits the sending institution has established for awarding the associate level degree. This degree is not normally awarded in a program area.

2. ~~Associate of Science Degree.~~ **Other associate degrees. All other associate degrees will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis.**

~~A. An associate of science degree (AS) is a specialized degree which is intended for transfer into a preprofessional program. It should result from careful planning and agreement between specific two (2)-year and four (4)-year institutions.~~

~~—B. These programs will be developed by consultation between sending and receiving institutions on a program-by-program basis. This may involve changes in general education requirements. The following factors should be recognized:~~

~~(I) Junior standing is guaranteed to the transfer student only if curricular details have been agreed upon by the sending institution and the receiving institution, and junior standing can be guaranteed only if the student has received the appropriate AS degree; and~~

~~(II) Students who receive a specialized AS degree do not automatically qualify for junior standing in any other program. If these students enroll in any other degree program, they may have to take additional general education courses. In evaluating the students' transcripts, the receiving institution will make every attempt to avoid duplication of effort and the imposition of unnecessary burdens upon the students.~~

~~3. Associate of Applied Science Degree. An associate of applied science degree (AAS) is the main occupationally oriented degree. The primary purpose of this degree is to prepare a student for entry into a particular occupation upon the completion of the degree. It is not intended as a transfer degree into a four (4)-year program and contains courses which are not primarily designed for transfer. Students should expect a receiving institution to evaluate course credits on the basis of applicability of each course to the requirements of the student's major field of baccalaureate study. Each four (4)-year institution is encouraged to develop admission policies which will facilitate the transfer and consider all factors indicating the success of transfer students who have the AAS degree or a certificate. It is anticipated that the AAS degree will be the main degree used by colleges to describe nontransfer vocational program.~~

~~(G) Transfer Without a Degree. Course-By-Course Transfer.~~ After an institution of higher learning in Missouri has developed and published its program of general education, the integrity of the program will be recognized by the other institutions in Missouri. Once students have been certified, ~~at the request of the receiving institution or~~ **and the transcript notated, that** the student ~~as having~~ **has satisfactorily** completed the prescribed general education program ~~of not fewer than thirty-nine (39) or CORE 42, as specified in this document,~~ no other **public or participating** institution of higher learning in Missouri will require further lower division courses in their general education program except as provided in subsections (4)(B) and (E). **However**, students transferring without completing the prescribed general education program shall be subject to the general education requirements of the receiving institution at the time of their admission to that institution. **For students transferring with courses that have been assigned a Missouri statewide transfer number (MOTR number), the following rules apply pursuant to section 178.785-178.789, RSMo:**

1. MOTR courses taken as part of CORE 42 will transfer as equivalent to all Missouri public two-year and four-year institutions and participating independent institutions of higher education and will count toward completion of general education; and

2. If a specific institution's course designated as a MOTR course serves as a prerequisite to another course, or fulfills major or graduation requirements for native students, it shall also serve in that same role for the purpose of transfer.

3. Transfer students must meet the same institutional requirements as native students in regard to institutional admission, program admission, transferability of credit, and transferability of course grades in accordance with subsections (4)(E), (F), (I), and (J) of this rule.

(H) Institutional Admission.

1. The core of any orderly transfer process is the mutual acceptance of the nature and purpose of the associate of arts degree. This degree shall be transferable upon—

A. Completion of a minimum of sixty (60) semester hours of college-level work oriented toward a baccalaureate degree;

B. Completion of an institutionally approved general education program of not fewer than ~~thirty-nine (39)~~ **forty-two (42)** semester hours **or the CORE 42 general education program**, as defined in subsection (4)(B); an

C. Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.0 (A = 4.0, B = 3.0, C = 2.0, D = 1.0, F = 0.0) provided that only the final grade received in courses repeated by the student shall be used in computing this average.

2. Students holding associate of arts degrees oriented toward the baccalaureate degree with a grade point average of 2.0 or above, as validated by a regionally accredited associate degree granting institution, are admitted to a baccalaureate degree granting institution, but not necessarily to a program (see subsection (4)(F)), as

A. Having junior standing; and

B. Having fulfilled lower division general education requirements. However, this does not exempt the student from meeting the specialized lower division requirements of departments or divisions of the school to which a student transfers provided such exceptions to the basic general education **and CORE 42** requirements have been promulgated in accordance with subsections (4)(B) and (C).

3. Students transferring without the associate of arts degree must meet the admission requirements of the receiving institution.

4. If any institution of higher education finds it necessary to select from among qualified transfer students, its criteria for admission will be stated in its official publications. These publications will be on file with the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

(I) Program Admission. Transfer students will be admitted to programs based on the same criteria established for the native students of the receiving institution. Admission to a specific baccalaureate degree program may result in a different computation of the grade point average (GPA).

(J) Catalog.

1. Transfer students shall be subject to the same regulations regarding applicability of catalog requirements as native students. ~~For example, if native students of the receiving institution are governed by the catalog in force at the time of their initial enrollment, provided subsequent enrollment is continuous, then the catalog of the receiving institution in effect at the time of the transfer student's initial enrollment in the sending institution will govern that student's degree requirements, provided that the student has had continuous enrollment and remains in the same degree program. If continuous enrollment has not been maintained, or if the student changes his/her program objective, the catalog in effect at the time of the student's most recent continuous enrollment in the sending institution or admission to the receiving institution, as applicable, shall be followed. If the receiving institution states that native students shall be governed by the catalog in effect at the time they are formally admitted to a degree program or at the time they achieve upper division status, then the same regulations shall apply to transfer students.~~

2. Pursuant to section 178.786.2, RSMo, each Missouri public two-year and four-year and participating independent institutions will, in order to facilitate the seamless transfer of the Higher Education Core Transfer Curriculum (CORE 42) and associated courses, include in its catalog listings the applicable course numbers from the common course numbering equivalency matrix (MOTR number).

(K) Change in Major. When students initiate changes in their stated major or degree objectives, those students assume full responsibility for meeting the specified new degree and/or major requirements. Students contemplating transfer from a two (2)-year vocational/technical program into a baccalaureate program in the same field of study should expect additional major and degree requirements and should not expect automatic junior standing in the major. Students planning to transfer into a different field of study should seek pretransfer counsel from the sending or receiving institution regarding required courses in the program which they plan to pursue and the evaluation of credits already earned, as they apply to the particular baccalaureate program to be pursued.

(L) Transfer of Credit. Credit earned in or transferred from a community college shall normally be limited to approximately half the baccalaureate degree program requirement, and to the first two (2) years of the undergraduate educational experience.

(M) Transfer of Grades. The academic record at a given institution will include all courses attempted. Grades of "D" or better earned in college-level work at an accredited or approved institution of higher education should receive full credit when transferred to another college or university. However, the receiving institution will treat all grades on courses attempted on the same basis as that of the native student. For example, if the native student is required to repeat a "D" grade in a specified course, a transfer student will also be required to repeat the "D" grade in the same course.

(N) Credit by Examination, Experiential Learning and Pass/fail Credit.

1. Pass/fail credit will be transferred and treated by the receiving institution in the same way pass/fail credit is treated for native students.

2. Advanced placement, credit by examination and credit for experiential learning will be transcribed and clearly defined. Course equivalency for credit by examination may be listed as desired. The receiving institution shall transfer and treat credit earned through advanced placement, credit by examination and credit for experiential learning in the same manner as it would for native students except that the integrity of the associate degree will not be invalidated.

3. The policies for awarding credit by examination and nontraditional learning vary from one institution to another. Each institution will publish information about its policies for awarding credit by nontraditional modes, including name of tests which are used to assess credit, cut-off scores, deadline dates for submission of scores to the receiving institution and restrictions on the time interval permitted to receive current credit for a course taken some years previously.

(O) State Certification or Statutory Requirements. In the process of earning a degree, students must complete requirements for that degree and sometimes, as in the case of teacher education programs, must also meet state certification requirements. If certification or statutory requirements change and additional requirements become effective during the time a student is enrolled in a program, the new requirements take precedence over previously existing degree or certification standards.

~~(5) Committee on Transfer/Articulation.~~

~~(A) The Coordinating Board for Higher Education hereby establishes a committee on transfer/articulation, consisting of seven (7) members, with responsibility to oversee the implementation of the guidelines as set forth in this rule.~~

~~(B) The committee on transfer/articulation will be composed of six (6) members appointed by the commissioner and shall consist of two (2) representatives from the public two (2)-year college sector and one (1) representative from each of the following higher education sectors: independent two (2)-year college; independent four (4)-year college; public four (4)-year college; and University of Missouri. In addition, the commissioner or a designated representative will sit as an ex-officio voting member of the committee and shall serve as chairperson.~~

~~(C) The committee on transfer/articulation is encouraged to seek the counsel of faculty and other institutional representatives in the performance of its functions. Those functions shall include:~~

~~1. Conducting a continuing review of the provisions of the college transfer guidelines and recommending such revisions as are needed to promote the success and general well-being of the transfer student;~~

~~2. Reviewing and making recommendations concerning transfer issues brought before it by institutions;~~

~~3. Recommending modifications of institutional policies and procedures which, in the committee's judgment, would enhance and facilitate the transfer of students;~~

~~4. Studying nontraditional credits and developing transfer guidelines for them;~~

~~5. Systematically soliciting suggestions and data from administrators, faculty and students concerning matters of transfer;~~

~~6. Developing a job description for the articulation officer's position. After the job description has been developed, the president of each institution will appoint an articulation officer and inform the commissioner of higher education;~~

~~7. Developing a statement of student transfer rights and responsibilities;~~

~~8. Monitoring both the sending and receiving institutions to determine whether they are informing transfer students of their rights and responsibilities;~~

~~9. Reviewing and recommending resolution of individual cases of appeals from students who have encountered difficulties in transferring from one (1) Missouri postsecondary institution to another and who have exhausted all local remedies;~~

~~10. Preparing and submitting to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, for such action and distribution as the coordinating board deems appropriate, an annual report of committee meetings, actions and recommendations, including a report of student appeal cases. The chairperson must convene the committee at least once a year; and~~

~~11. Establishing committee rules of procedure and meeting on call of the chairperson as is necessary to perform its functions.~~

(5) General Transfer

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(A) Each receiving institution of higher education shall have an internal process of appeal available to transfer students for purposes of challenging institutional decisions on the acceptance of the students' credits in transfer. The process shall include no more than three (3) levels of appeal. The receiving institution shall publish in its catalog or otherwise provide to each transfer student a statement of appeal rights and procedures internal to the institution. A copy of that formal statement shall be furnished to the committee on transfer/articulation. If a transfer student's appeal challenge is denied by the institution after all appeal steps internal to the institution have been exhausted, the institution shall advise the student in writing of the availability and process of appeal to the committee on transfer/articulation.

~~(B)~~1. Appeal to the committee on transfer/articulation shall be by the following procedures:

A. Appeal to the committee on transfer/articulation is to be initiated by the affected student only after all other remedies have been exhausted without resolution of the issue at the receiving institution. The appeal process is initiated when the student informs the committee on transfer/articulation in writing of the reason for the appeal;

B. The committee shall promptly notify the chief executive officer of the relevant institution(s) of higher education of the appeal and invite the institution(s) to submit documentation for the decision being appealed by the student. Documentation shall be submitted by the relevant institution(s) within fifteen (15) days of notification by the committee;

C. The chairperson of the committee shall convene the appeals committee within thirty (30) days, if possible, but in no event later than ninety (90) days, of the receipt of an appeal for the purpose of considering the information presented by the student and the institution(s). Both the student and the institution(s) shall be notified of the committee's meeting time and location. The student and the institution(s) will have the opportunity to make an oral presentation to the appeals committee if either desires to do so;

2. In the event an appeal is filed involving a campus represented on the committee on transfer/articulation, the commissioner shall, for the purpose of considering the appeal, appoint an interim member of the committee from the same sector;

3. The committee's consideration of the appeal shall include, but not be limited to, the institution(s)'s compliance with the guidelines set forth in this rule, the student's compliance with the guidelines set forth in this rule and the student rights and responsibilities statement;

4. The committee chairperson shall inform the chief executive officer of the relevant institution(s) and the student of the committee's determination and recommend that the institution(s)'s chief executive officer implement the committee's recommendation;

5. The institution(s)'s chief executive officer shall inform the chairperson of the appeals committee within thirty (30) days of the action taken in regard to the committee's recommendation; and

6. The committee's recommendation and the action taken by the institution(s) shall be reported to the coordinating board by the commissioner on higher education.

(B) Core Transfer Curriculum (CORE 42) and MOTR Courses

1. Pursuant to section 178.788, RSMo, if a Missouri public institution of higher education (or participating independent institution) does not accept MOTR course credit earned by a student at another Missouri public or participating independent institution of higher education, that institution shall give written notice to the student and the other (sending) institution that the transfer of the course credit is denied within ten (10) business days of the denial of credit. When sending notification of denial of credit, institutions must include standard information which is available on the Missouri Department of Higher Education's website. The standard information requires at a minimum: student identification information, course identification information, the reason why the course did not transfer, and the institutional internal appeal process.

2. Each public institution of higher education shall have an internal process of appeal available to transfer students for purposes of challenging institutional decisions on the acceptance of the students' credits in transfer. The process shall include a minimum of two (2) levels of appeal but not to exceed more than three (3) levels of appeal. The process of internal appeal shall be decided upon by the institution. The institution shall publish in its catalog and place in a student accessible area on the institution's website the statement of appeals rights and procedures internal to the institution. A copy of that formal statement shall be furnished to the committee on transfer/articulation. The institution's internal appeals policy shall include the process for transfer appeal.

3. The two institutions and the student shall attempt to resolve the transfer of the course credit dispute in accordance with these rules.

A. If the transfer dispute is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student or the institution at which the credit was earned within forty-five (45) business days after the date the student received written notice of the denial, the institution that denies the transfer of the course credit shall notify the commissioner of higher education of its denial and the reasons for the denial. The student and sending institution shall also be copied on the notification sent to the commissioner of higher education.

4. Review by the commissioner of higher education or his or her designee shall be by the following procedures:

A. Review by the commissioner of higher education is initiated by the institution that denies the transfer of the course credit after all other remedies have been exhausted without resolution of the issue at the receiving institution. This must be done by the institution that denied the transfer of credit within forty-five (45) business days after the date the student received written notice of denial. The institution shall submit any documentation for the reason of the denial of course credit with the appeal.

B. The commissioner of higher education or his or her designee shall promptly notify the chief academic officer of the relevant institution(s) of higher education of the appeal and the involved student and invite the institution(s) and student to submit documentation for the decision being appealed. Documentation shall be submitted by the relevant institution(s) and student within fifteen (15) business days of notification by the commissioner of higher education or his or her designee.

C. The commissioner of higher education or his or her designee shall make the final determination about a dispute concerning the transfer of course credit and give written notice of the determination as to the involved student and institutions within thirty (30) business days of the documentation deadline.

D. The commissioner's or his or her designee's consideration of the appeal shall include, but not be limited to, the institution(s)'s compliance with the guidelines set forth in this rule and the student rights and responsibilities statement and the receiving institution's compliance with its own transfer policies.

E. The commissioner of higher education or his or her designee shall inform the chief academic officer of the relevant institution(s) and the involved student of the commissioner's determination and recommend that the institution(s)'s chief academic officer implement the commissioner's recommendation.

F. The receiving institution(s)' chief academic officer shall inform the commissioner within thirty (30) business days of the action taken in regard to the commissioner of higher education's recommendation.

G. The coordinating board shall collect data on the types of transfer disputes that are reported and the disposition of each case that is considered by the commissioner of higher education or the commissioner's designee.

H. The coordinating board for higher education, in consultation with the advisory board, shall develop criteria to evaluate the transfer practices of each public institution of higher education in this state and shall evaluate the transfer practices of each institution based on this criteria.

(6) **Data Collection.** In accordance with section 178.788.1, RSMo, the coordinating board for higher education, in consultation with Core Curriculum Advisory Committee, shall develop criteria to evaluate the transfer practices of each public institution of higher education (and participating independent institutions) and shall evaluate the transfer practices of each institution based on the established criteria.

(7) Committees

(A) **Committee on Transfer and Articulation (COTA).** The Committee on Transfer and Articulation was established by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education in 1987. COTA consists of twelve (12) members, with responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the guidelines as set forth in this rule.

1. COTA is comprised of twelve (12) members appointed by the commissioner of higher education, one of which shall serve as chairperson of the committee. Membership shall consist of four (4) representatives from the public two year colleges and four (4) representatives from the public four-year colleges and universities, one (1) of which must be from the University of Missouri and one (1) of which must be from the other public four-year institutions; one (1) representative from independent two-year colleges or proprietary institutions; two (2) representatives from independent four-year colleges and universities and one (1) at-large position. In addition, the commissioner or a designated representative will sit as an ex-officio voting member of the committee.

2. COTA is encouraged to seek the counsel of faculty and other institutional representatives in the performance of its functions. Those functions shall include:

A. Conducting a continuing review of the provisions of the college transfer guidelines and recommending such revisions as needed to promote the success and general well-being of the transfer student;

B. Reviewing and making recommendations concerning transfer issues brought before it by institutions;

C. Recommending modifications of institutional policies and procedures which, in the committee's judgment, would enhance and facilitate the transfer of students;

D. Studying nontraditional credits and developing transfer guidelines for them;

E. Systematically solicit suggestions and data from administrators, faculty and students concerning matters of transfer;

F. Maintaining a job description for the articulation officer's position. The chief academic officer of each institution will appoint an articulation officer and inform the commissioner of higher education or his or her designee;

G. Developing a statement of student transfer rights and responsibilities;

H. Monitoring both the sending and receiving institutions to determine whether they are informing transfer students of their rights and responsibilities;

I. Preparing and submitting to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, for such action and distribution as the coordinating board deems appropriate, an annual report of committee meetings, actions and recommendations. The chairperson must convene the committee at least once a month; and

J. Maintaining committee rules of procedure and meeting on call of the chairperson as is necessary to perform its functions.

(B) Core Curriculum Advisory Committee (CCAC). The Core Curriculum Advisory Committee was established in 2016 in accordance with section 178.786, RSMo, with responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the guidelines as set forth in this rule.

1. In accordance with section 178.786, RSMo, the CCAC is to be composed of representatives from each Missouri public two-year and four-year institution of higher education. Membership also includes one representative from each Missouri independent institution participating in the CORE 42 and one (1) two-year representative and one (1) four-year representative from the Missouri Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

2. A majority of the membership of the CCAC shall be faculty members from Missouri public institutions of higher education, and participating independent institutions.

3. Committee Responsibilities include:

A. Developing a recommended lower division core curriculum of at least forty-two (42) semester credit hours, including a statement of the content, component areas, and objectives of the core curriculum (CORE 42).

B. Developing a common course numbering equivalency matrix for the forty-two (42) semester credit hours (Missouri Transfer Number or "MOTR") at all institutions of higher education in the state to facilitate the transfer of those courses among institutions of higher education by promoting consistency in course designation and course identification.

C. Serve as the steering committee for oversight of the framework and review of courses.

D. Develop MOTR courses and consider issues involved in the interpretation of the core curriculum framework.

E. Develop processes and procedures for the establishment of MOTR courses, identification of additional MOTR courses, the submission of new institutional courses for review, MOTR course updates, and establishing MOTR course competencies.

F. CCAC faculty members will serve as the chair of their respective faculty discipline group and the CCAC will provide general oversight over all faculty discipline groups.

G. May assist in resolving equivalency issues and provide assistance to COTA and the MDHE as necessary to resolve transfer appeals.

*AUTHORITY: **section 178.785-178.789, RSMo 2016**; section 173.005.2(6), RSMo 1986.* Original rule filed July 15, 1987, effective Oct. 12, 1987.*

**Original authority: 173.005.2(6), RSMo 1973, amended 1983, 1985, 1999.*