

# **UNIVERSAL UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT TRANSFER AGREEMENT (UCTA)**

Between

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM (UWSA)**

and

**THE WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS)**

## **INFORMATION FOR FACULTY AND STAFF**

### General Structure

- The Universal Undergraduate Credit Transfer Agreement between the University of Wisconsin (UW) System and Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) satisfies the requirement expressed in Wisconsin Statutes, § 36.31(2m). Enacted on July 1, 2013.
- The effective date of the agreement is July 1, 2014.
- There are two sets of terms within the agreement. The terms outlined in Section III relate to the general agreement. The terms outlined in Section IV relate exclusively to the details of the 14/15 AY agreement. Section IV may change from academic year to academic year.
- Section contains the course subject sets organized around a common curricular area and level of study (e.g. Introduction to Sociology). A course subject set is comprised of a set of courses offered at each the sending institution that are transferable to all other WTCS and UW institutions.
- The terms of the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement do not supersede or negate any currently published program-to-program transfer agreements established under UW System ACIS 6.0 or ACIS 6.2.

### Maintenance of the Agreement

- UWSA and WTCS System Office will form a cross-system/cross-institution work group. The group will be charged to establish routines to maintain, review, modify, assess, and update this agreement.
- Additional courses may be added to Section IV (Table 2) of this agreement, at any time, upon agreement of all UW and WTCS institutions, using the routines established in Section III(D)(1) of the agreement.
- Modifications to Section IV (Table 2) of this agreement that will result in the elimination of a course subject set from the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement (see Table 1) may not be made during the academic year for which the agreement is in effect.

## Publishing of the Agreement

- UWSA will publish student friendly web resources on the TIS, by July 1, 2014.
- Upon approval by the UW System Board of Regents, policy information relating to the Universal Transfer Agreement will be located <http://www.uwsa.edu/acss/planning/UniversalTransfer.html>

## Student Communication

- Advise students to:
  1. Discuss career and academic programs plans, including transfer plans, with a UW or WTCS academic transfer advisor early in their academic studies.
  2. Utilize the UW TIS searchable database, <http://tis.uwsa.edu/>, to:
    - 1) View a larger set of transferable courses and course equivalencies within academic departments at each UW/WTCS institution.
    - 2) View transfer guides and articulation agreements that map out specific degree plans and course transfer plans for a range of majors and programs of study.
- The Academic Year 2014-2015 UW/WTCS Universal Transfer Agreement includes eleven (11) course subject sets.
- Each course subject set is comprised of fourteen (14) specific UW institution courses and one (1) systemwide WTCS course. The WTCS course title and number are common to all sixteen (16) WTCS campuses.
- Credits awarded to students who successfully complete the courses listed in Section IV, Table 2 will transfer for credit to all institutions within the UW System and WTCS.
- Specific information about how each course listed in Table 2 will transfer to a receiving institution and will satisfy general requirements may be accessed through the UW TIS transfer wizards (<http://tis.uwsa.edu/wizards/>).
- The courses represented in Table 2 may satisfy degree requirements differently for a student depending on the course requirements related to the major that the student declares.
- Some professional majors require students to complete a specific set of general education courses that do not exist on this list.

## TIMELINE

- July 1, 2013: Wisconsin Act 20 is published and enacts Wisconsin Statutes, § 36.31(2m).
- Summer 2013: University of Wisconsin System Administration (UWSA) conducts a preliminary review of UW System (UWS) and Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) course equivalency data. UWSA staff extracts lower-division course equivalency data stored in the UW System Transfer Information System (TIS) database in order to develop a set of course subject crosswalks.
- Fall 2013: Sr. VP Mark Nook meets with stakeholders within UW System (UWS) and WTCS to review and respond to the preliminary analysis.
- January/February 2014: Nook organizes the UWS General Education 30-Credit Transfer Committee and charged the group to provide UWSA and the Board of Regents with policy recommendations as to how the UW System will respond to Wis. Stats., § 36.31(2m).
- March/April 2014: The committee - comprised of 15 UW institutional faculty/staff members, one representative from UWSA, and chaired by UW Colleges Provost Greg Lampe - reviews and discusses course equivalency data reports and consults with institutional faculty/staff at each UW institutions to identify a set of courses that are highly transferable between institutions and commonly offered by all UW and WTCS institutions.
- May 2014:
  - The findings of the UW-System 30-Credit Transfer Committee are shared with UW System Faculty Representatives, Provosts, Chancellors, and with the BOR office.
  - UW System representatives meet with the WTCS Provost and Vice President of Student Success, Kathleen Cullen and representatives from the WTCS System Offices and institutions.
  - The Universal Credit Transfer Agreement between the UW System and the WTCS is drafted, drawing from the findings of the UW System 30-Credit Transfer Committee and incorporating the outcomes of discussions between UW System and WTCS representatives.
  - The agreement is reviewed and endorsed by UW System Legal and WTCS.
- June 2014: The agreement is presented to the Board of Regents Education Committee on June 5, 2014, and to the full Board on June 6, 2014.
- July 1, 2014: Wisconsin Statutes, § 36.31(2m) and the Universal Undergraduate Credit Transfer Agreements goes into effect.

## SUMMARY POINTS FOR EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

- The Universal Undergraduate Credit Transfer Agreement between the University of Wisconsin (UW) System and Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) satisfies the requirement expressed in Wisconsin Statutes, § 36.31(2m). Enacted on July 1, 2013.
- The statutory requirements will go into effect on July 1, 2014.
- The continued commitment and inter-institutional collaboration among the UW System and WTCS institutions to support credit transfer provided the foundation for development of this agreement. The agreement makes transparent what UW System and WTCS institutions have strived to do for decades; provide students with transfer options that best contribute to the student's academic and career goals.
- This agreement represents only a fraction the articulated UW/WTCS credit transfer agreements available to students. Currently, over 300,000 course equivalencies and hundreds of major specific articulation agreements are published in the UW Transfer Information System (TIS).
- Students should work with an advisor to select the transfer agreement that best meets their needs.
- The Academic Year 2014-2015 UW/WTCS Universal Transfer Agreement includes eleven (11) course subject sets. The total sum of transferable credits within the course subject sets ranges between 34-48 credits.
- Credits awarded to students who successfully complete the courses listed in Section IV, Table 2 of the agreement are transferable to all institutions within the UW System and WTCS.
- The transferred credits will satisfy a general education or general degree requirement at the receiving UW or WTCS institution and may include elective credit.
- General education, elective, and degree requirements provide value by preparing students for advanced coursework and provide students with a breadth of skills and knowledge that a student can apply to multiple academic and workplace settings.