Institutional Articulation and Transfer Policy

Purpose:

NorthWest Arkansas Community Colleges values partnerships with other institutions of learning and wants to create career pathways and reduce barriers to degree completion to students. The purpose of the policy is to specify consistent practices for accepting credit for undergraduate college level courses transferred into NorthWest Arkansas Community College, with the exception of courses that apply to the Arkansas Course Transfer System.

Definitions:

Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit. The Joint Statement on Transfer and Award of credit provides principles, criteria and guidelines for institutions to use in developing criteria, policies, procedures and practice in transferring and awarding credit. The statement was approved by the American Council on Education, the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation in 2001 and endorsed by the Higher Learning Commission in 2000, http://tcp.aacrao.org/misc/joint statement.php.

Articulation agreement. Articulation agreements are formal agreement between two or more educational entities to accept credits in transfer toward a specific academic program. Articulation agreements are generally for specialized professional or technical programs offered at a college.

Developmental course. A "developmental course" is a course designed to prepare a student for entry into college level courses. Developmental-level course credits shall not apply toward a certificate, diploma, or degree.

Regionally Accredited Institution. Colleges or Universities that are accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (www.chea.org).

Non-Regionally Accredited Institution. Colleges or Universities that are not accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (www.chea.org)

Determining Transfer Credits

NorthWest Arkansas Community College will determine if transfer credits apply to its academic program and graduation requirements using the following guidelines:

Determining Course comparability or equivalency. The course to be transferred must be comparable in nature, content and level to courses offered by NorthWest Arkansas Community College. In evaluating courses for transfer equivalency, the standard for review should be not less than 75 percent comparability of course content. For courses in sequence, students need sufficient preparation to succeed in the next course in the sequence.

Transferring Credits According to Articulation Agreements. NorthWest Arkansas Community College may enter into partnerships with other post-secondary institutions to create career pathways for students. The college is required to accept any credits in which a student earns a grade of C or higher defined

within formal articulation agreements it has with the sending institution. The college is only required to accept transfer credits according to the articulation agreements it has approved.

Transferring Credit Granted by a Regionally Accredited Institution. NorthWest Arkansas Community College will accept credits granted by regionally accredited institution for courses in which a student has earned a grade of 'C' or higher.

Transferring Credit Granted by a Non-Regionally Accredited Institution. NorthWest Arkansas Community College shall determine if it will accept credits granted by a non-regionally accredited institution through formal articulation agreements, by prior learning assessment or by examination.

The college may entered into articulation agreement with private career accrediting organizations recognized by the United States Department of Education.

Students may also provide documentation of courses completed to include, but not be limited to: transcript, course syllabus, catalog course description, a list of textbooks that were required and/or portfolio of accomplishments in the course. Credit will only be awarded for courses in which a student has earned a grade of 'C' or higher.

Transferring Credit Granted for Institutions Outside the United States. NorthWest Arkansas Community College shall determine if it will accept credits granted by institutions outside the United States on a case by case basis.

Developmental Courses. Developmental courses shall not be granted college-level credit and they shall not apply to a certificate, diploma, or degree program completion requirements. However, a developmental course appearing on a student's transcript shall be evaluated to determine the student's readiness for college level work at NWACC.

Evaluating Credit

NorthWest Arkansas Community College shall follow the recommendations of the Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit, 2001, in implementing its transfer policies and procedures.

General Education and elective credits have no transfer time limit. Occupational course credits earned more than five years prior to the time of request need program faculty approval for transfer.

Students must meet the minimum number of NWACC credit hours required for graduation from NWACC above any transfer credit awarded.