

## **Academic Affairs Policy 2.25 Universal Transfer Pathways**

### **1. Purpose**

Act 308 of the Louisiana Legislature 2022 Regular Session, which provides the requirements for student transfer at the state's public postsecondary institutions, requires the creation and implementation of statewide transfer pathways from two-year associate degree programs into four-year baccalaureate degree programs. This policy, governed by the Board of Regents in collaboration with the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council (SATC), outlines the requirements for the establishment and implementation of these pathways.

### **2. Creation and Maintenance of Statewide Transfer Pathways**

All transfer pathways shall be established by a committee of faculty that includes one representative from every institution in the state that will offer either the first half or second half of the pathway and approved by each institution according to the standard curriculum review and approval process. Representatives may be selected by each institution. These committees will be facilitated by Board of Regents staff. All institutions shall honor the first 60 hours of the transfer pathway as agreed upon by the faculty committee. All four-year institutions shall provide the remaining degree requirements for transfer pathway students.

Transfer pathway agreements must include:

- Standardized statewide 60-hour curriculum for the first two years including course-specific grade requirements where applicable.
- Remaining curriculum required to complete the bachelor's degree from each participating institution.
- Common course name and description of major courses included in the pathway that are added to the course articulation matrix.

Changes to existing transfer pathways requires the approval of a committee of faculty that includes one representative from every institution in the state that will offer either the first half or second half of the pathway. Each pathway must be reviewed by the appropriate faculty committee at least every five years.

### **3. Pathway Structure and Curriculum**

Statewide transfer pathways will include 60 credit hours of coursework that will directly transfer into a specified bachelor's degree program at a four-year college or university. These 60 hours may be awarded according to Regents Policy AA 2.23 Prior Learning Assessment. Four-year institutions will provide the remaining courses required for pathway students to complete the bachelor's degree. The total number of hours required for transfer pathway students to complete the bachelor's degree shall not exceed the total number of hours required for the degree minus the 60 hours completed in the pathway. All pathways must include:

- a) **39 hours General Education:** All transfer pathways must include the complete 39-hour Board of Regents General Education curriculum. These courses must appear on the statewide transfer articulation matrix. General education course requirements may be prescribed or flexible as defined by the faculty transfer pathway committee. Course requirements should remain flexible whenever possible. Prescribed courses must clearly align with the degree subject area. All transfer pathways must align with statewide math pathways standards.
- b) **21 hours Major Requirements:** All transfer pathways must include 21 hours of courses that will fulfill that number of required major courses at the receiving four-year institution. These courses will appear on the statewide transfer articulation matrix and must be honored according to the statewide common course identified in the matrix. Major course requirements may be prescribed or flexible as defined by the faculty transfer pathway committee.
- c) **Remaining Major Requirements:** The remaining major course requirements to complete the bachelor's degree shall not exceed the total number of hours required for the degree minus the 60 hours completed in

the pathway. Four-year institutions may determine these requirements independently, but they must be clearly stated as part of the pathway.

Students who complete the full 60-hour pathway curriculum and meet all pathway requirements and institutional residency requirements shall be awarded the Associate of Science Louisiana Transfer (ASLT) or Associate of Arts Louisiana Transfer (AALT) in the transfer pathway subject area.

#### **4. Student Transfer**

Students may complete all or part of the first 60 hours of a transfer pathway and may or may not have been awarded an associate degree. Regardless, four-year institutions must honor all courses in partially and fully completed pathways for transfer into the pathway's corresponding bachelor's degree program.

#### **5. Additional Institutional Requirements**

Institutions may not require substitutions for the agreed upon curriculum in the first 60 hours of the transfer pathway.

Institutions may not establish requirements for transfer pathway students that exceed those required of current students. Students must be able to complete the bachelor's degree on time with no extra course requirements. Specific general education and major course requirements, and requirements imposed by national accreditors must be built into the transfer pathway curriculum by the transfer pathway committee.

#### **6. Advising**

All institutions participating in a transfer pathway must have a designated advisor on campus for that pathway. This person may be a faculty or staff advisor. Institutions must ensure that the advisor contact information is clearly posted on relevant institutional websites and materials. It is the responsibility of each institution to maintain current pathway contact lists.

Degree audits, curriculum maps, and other documents relating to the pathway must clearly identify program requirements and ensure students clearly understand the processes and procedures for completion and transfer of the pathway.

#### **7. Fees**

Institutions may not charge transfer pathway students fees that exceed standard application fees for all admitted students.

#### **8. Data**

Institutions shall annually submit data to the Board of Regents relating to transfer pathways at the institution in the manner prescribed by the Board. The Board shall annually analyze and report on the data to ensure compliance with the policy and inform continuous improvement efforts.