



UNC Common Numbering System

February 15, 2022

North Carolina Education Cabinet

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Why a Common Numbering System?

- The number of students enrolling at a UNC institution with transfer credit will continue to increase, and their success is critical to the overall success of the system.
- Transfer comes in many forms; existing statewide policies, particularly the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA), focus on transfers between NCCCS and UNC.
- Credit loss is more prevalent for students who transfer coursework without an associate degree (including UNC to UNC transfer), where there are fewer rules governing transferability.
- NC Transfer Policies are primarily focused on NCCCS to UNC for students who have earned the AA/AS.

Credit loss can lead to stop-out or extended time to degree

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Policy Recommendation from TAC

- The UNC-NCCCS Transfer Advisory Committee (TAC), which is charged with oversight of the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) and making recommendations leading to optimal transfer, included the following in their 2020 annual report:
- “TAC continues to promote ongoing support of the following efforts: Technological and operational solutions that create greater continuity, clarity, accessibility, and transparency for advising and the processing of transfer students and informing course, program, and institution selection (e.g., a **common course-numbering or common course equivalency system**, the electronic transfer of transcripts, etc.) among the NCCCS and UNC System institutions.”

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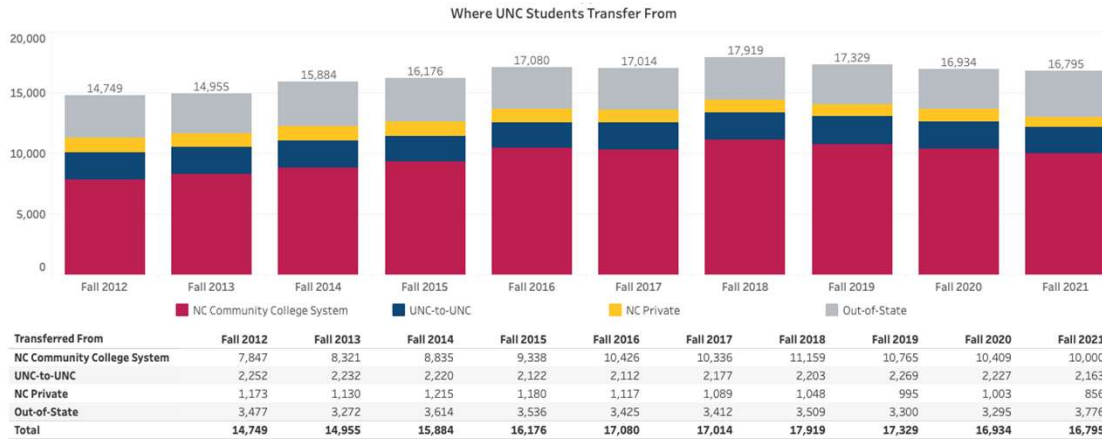
National Policy Recommendations

Education Commission of the States (ECS) identified four statewide policies intended to enhance the seamless transfer of college credits:

| Policies | North Carolina |
|---|---|
| Transferable Core of Lower-Division Courses | Universal General Education Transfer Component (UGETC): a set of general education courses that are transferable for lower-division credit at UNC universities with a grade of C or higher. |
| Guaranteed Transfer of Associate Degree | Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) guarantees transfer of AA/AS earned at NCCCS to UNC (and junior standing). |
| Reverse Transfer | Transfer students who do not complete an AA/AS <i>prior</i> to transferring but earn sufficient credit to qualify for an AA/AS <i>after</i> transferring receive an award. |
| Common Course Numbering/Coding | A uniform numbering convention used at all public postsecondary institutions for lower-division courses. |

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Information on UNC Transfer Students



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BOG Action

- UNC Policy 400.1.5, Policy on Fostering Undergraduate Student Success, amended 12/17/2020
- *The UNC System Office shall, in consultation with faculty and staff from the constituent institutions, establish and maintain a common course numbering system for undergraduate lower division courses, which shall be mapped to the unique course numbers used at each respective institution of higher education. The president shall approve regulations to describe and implement this common undergraduate course numbering system, which shall be established and operational by the 2022-23 academic year.*

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Understanding the UNC CNS

What it is

- The CNS is a special group of courses with a common number that indicates direct equivalency at all UNC institutions that offer the course
- The CNS includes lower-division undergraduate courses most often transferred between the UNC System schools and North Carolina Community Colleges
- Classification System based on NCCC numbering system
- Three-digit prefix and Three-digit course number (UNC to UNC 4 digit)



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What it's not

- Not a common course catalog
- Not a unilateral guarantee of transfer credit

How were Courses Selected?

- Looked first at the most often transferred courses between the North Carolina Community Colleges and UNC System institutions
- Began with courses in the NCCCS Common Catalog that the TAC has identified as Universal General Education Transfer Courses (UGETC) and other General Education Courses – ultimately identified 156 courses from this set as the initial list
- Brought faculty and academic leadership from the 16 UNC System institutions together to determine course equivalencies

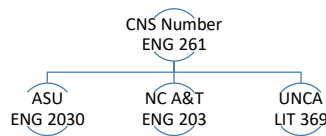


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How does the Common Numbering System Work?

- UNC CNS courses have a unique three-letter prefix and three-digit course number that represents the direct course equivalency at any UNC institution that offers the course.
- Each UNC institution retains its original course catalog, but uses the CNS to indicate system-wide commonality



ASU, NC A&T, and UNCA all agree that these courses match

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Project Progress and Next Steps

- Completed adoption of implementing regulation (Section [400.1.5.1\[R\]](#) of the UNC Policy Manual)
- Identified initial set of courses and equivalencies
- Searchable database in development, which will provide info on CNS courses as well as all identified transfer equivalencies
- Developing student and advisor facing infographic, video, and website
- Phase 1 launch targeting June 2022

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Emerging Opportunities

- Need to spend time aligning course content and structure between the UNC CNS and the NCCCS Common Course Catalog APKO
- Identify structure for ongoing review and coordination between different educational systems
- Need significant investment in data system technologies – seamless electronic movement of student transcripts and course history

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QUESTIONS?

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Slide 11

APKO I wasn't quite sure what's meant here; the courses identified thus far for CNS are transferable (UGETC), so I wouldn't want the audience to misunderstand this as implying there isn't alignment now. Does this suggest that better alignment of content and structure would lead to even better prepared transfer students?

Andrew P. Kelly, 2022-02-15T03:21:18.893