I’m just a course! The UC transfer journey

Ensuring Transfer Success

September 2025

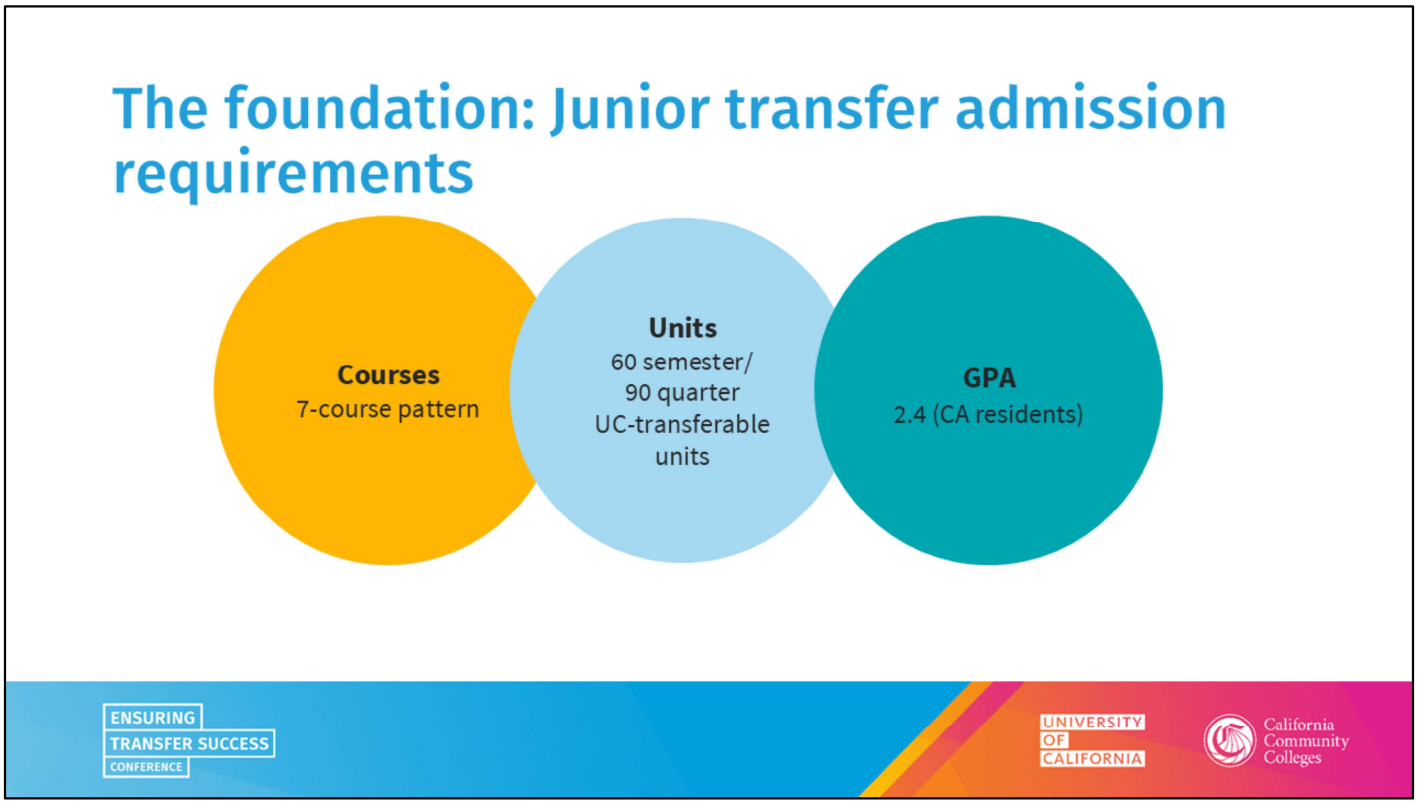
ENSURING TRANSFER SUCCESS CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

California Community Colleges

Agenda

I. A course and its multiple paths
II. How a bill becomes a law
III. Importance of a course's journey for UC transfer
IV. Working together
V. Resources



Transfer students must meet requirements in 3 areas to meet minimum UC transfer eligibility:

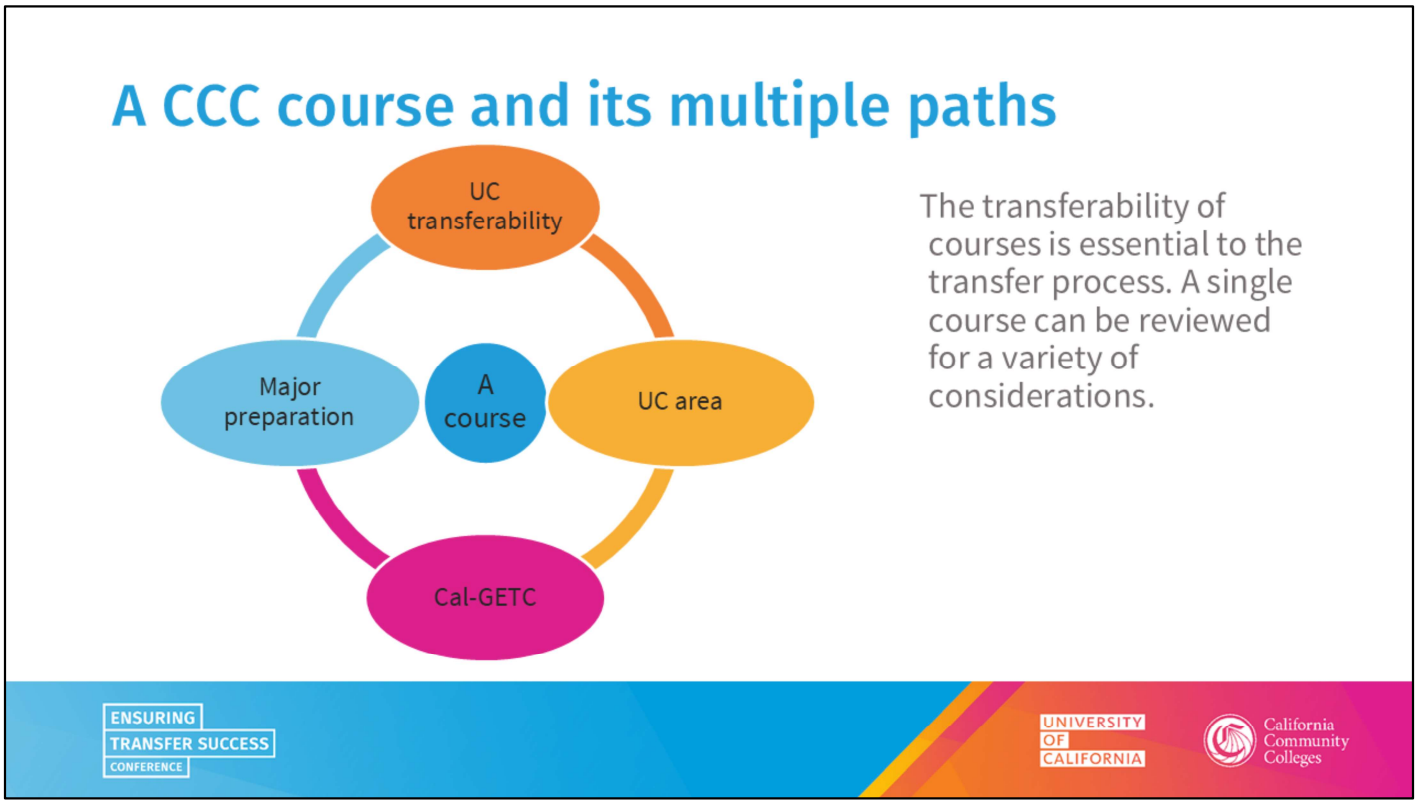
- Complete the **7-course pattern**.
- Complete at least **60 semester (90 quarter) units of UC-transferable credit**

- Earn at least a 2.4 GPA in UC-transferable courses (2.8 if they're a nonresident) but it is essential to note that some campuses and majors require a higher GPA for admission selection.

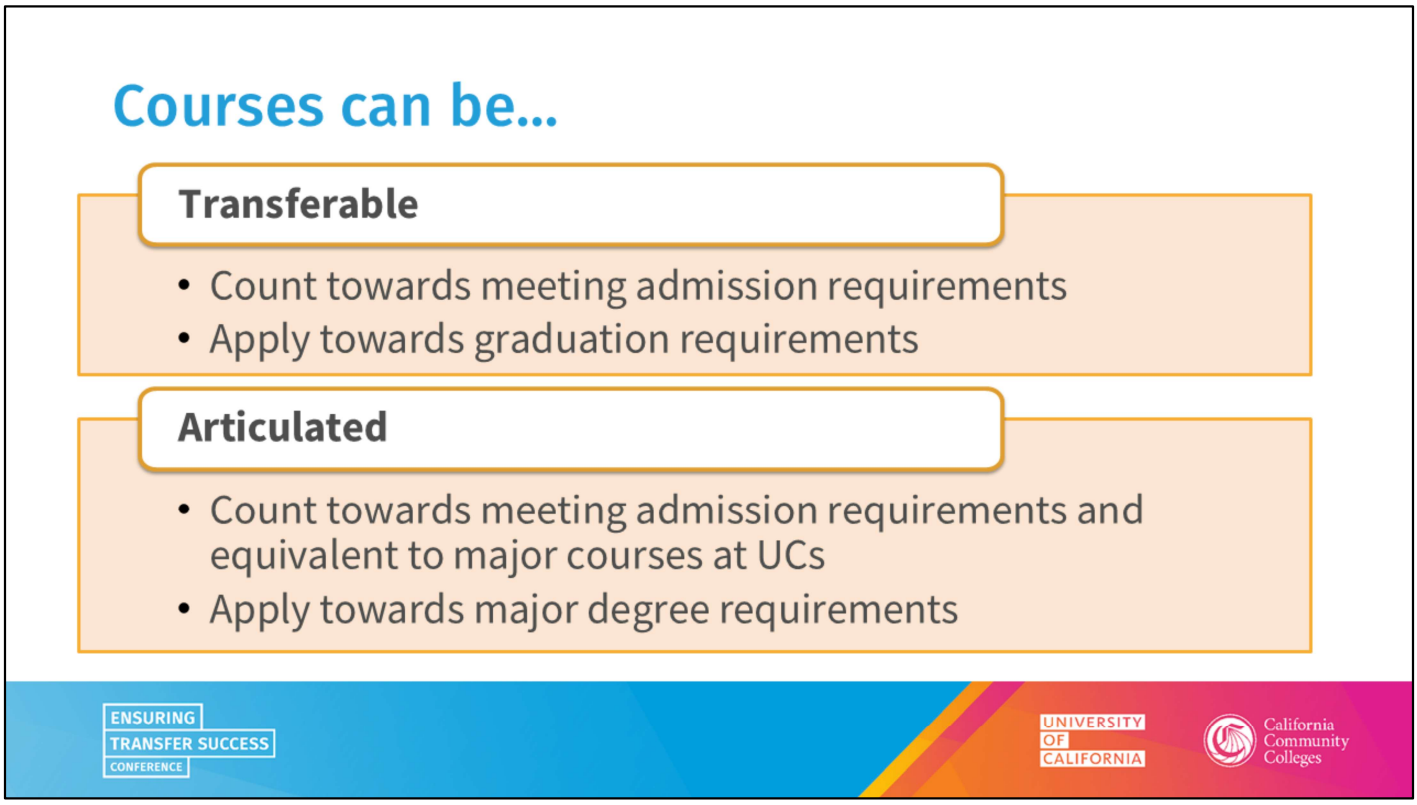
All requirements must be met by the end of the spring term prior to fall enrollment at UC.

It is important to note these requirements because these details are relevant and I will tie them back to the topics of course transferability and articulation.

We highlight these requirements because later in our slides we will highlight how to find these details on ASSIST.

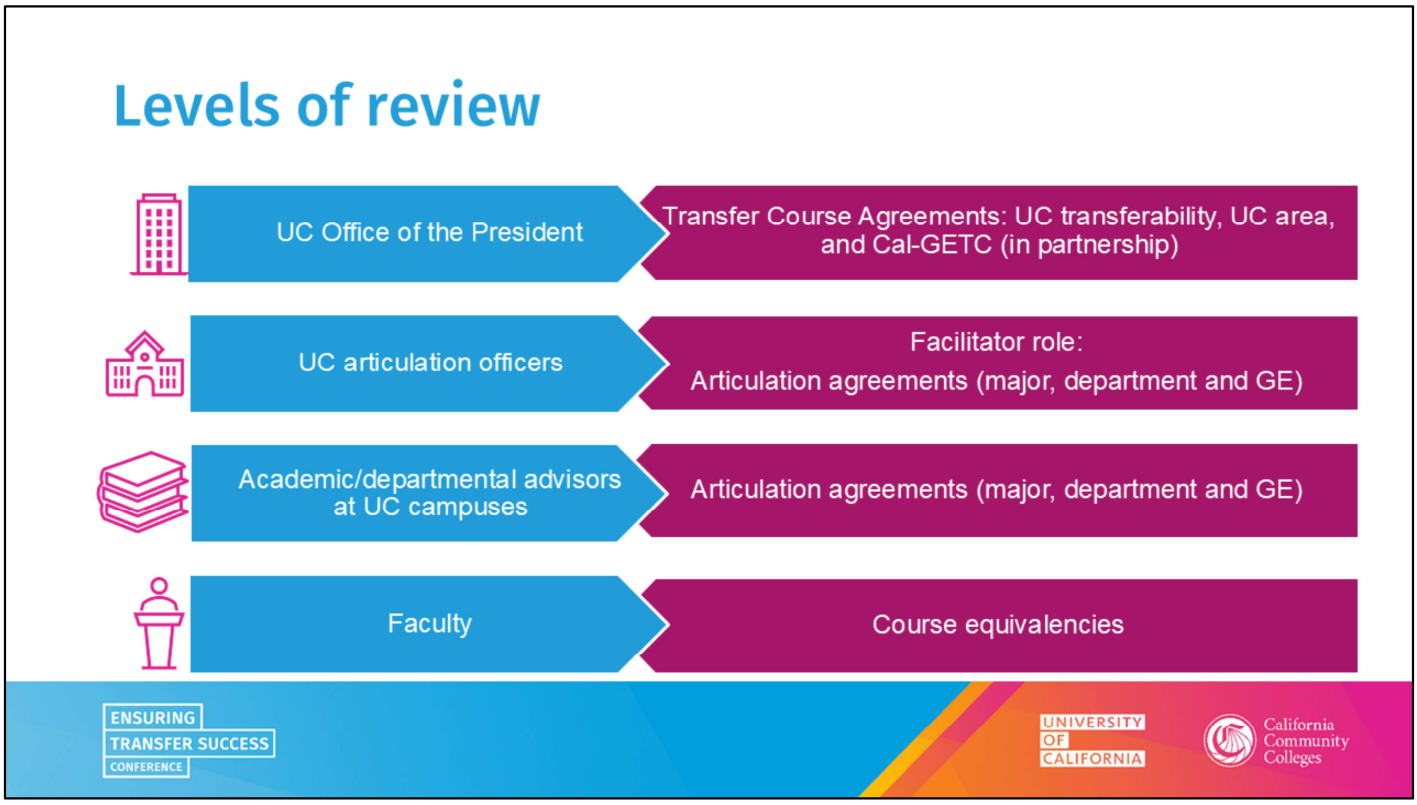


Our session today will focus on a CCC and its multiple parts. The transferability of courses is essential to the transfer process and a course may be reviewed for a variety of considerations.



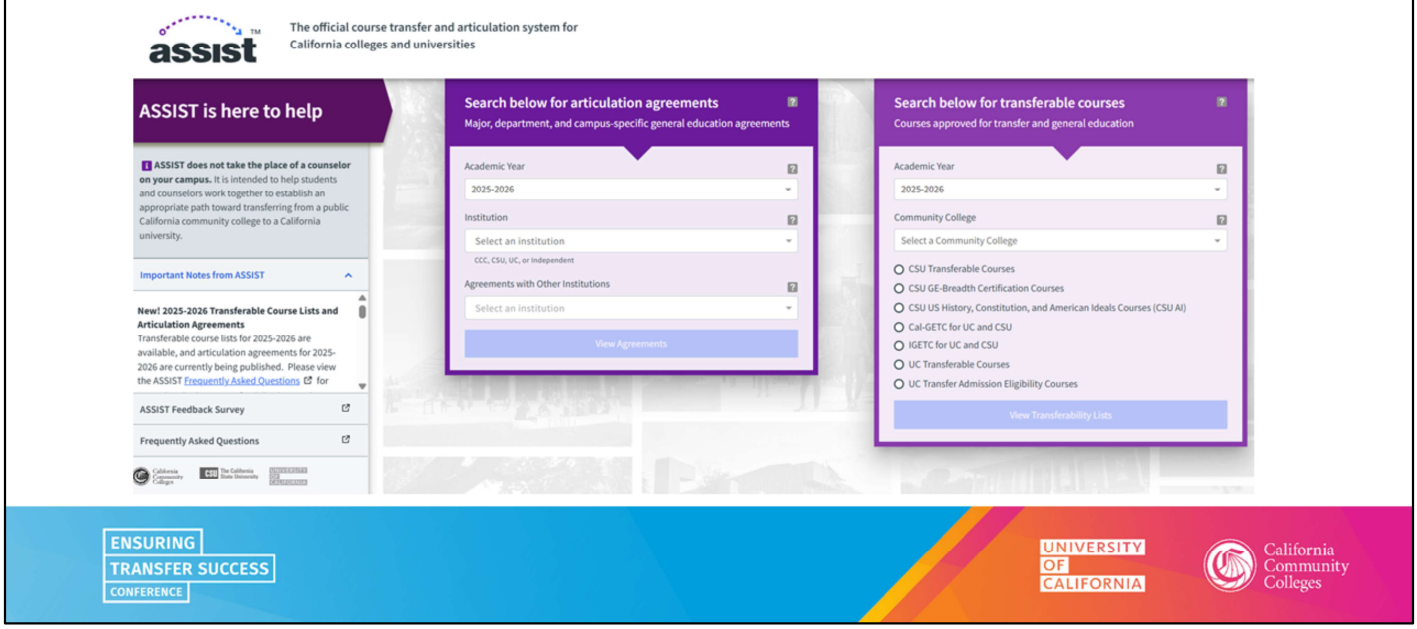
A transferable course is a course that counts for credit to meet admission requirements and provides credit once a student transfers and gets some sort of degree audit. These credits can apply towards GE or elective credits needed for graduation.

An articulated course is a course that has been determined by a college or university to be equivalent to, or an appropriate substitution for, a course at their campus. Articulation is very important when it comes to major preparation, as this is often very campus specific. Articulated courses will provide credit to specific major pre-requisite courses, which is part of their degree requirements.



There are various levels of review and many are involved to make this process as seamless as possible. CCC courses must be submitted by the CCC AO for review. Courses are then reviewed by UCOP to establish transfer course agreements (TCAs), Cal-GETC reviews happen later and in partnership with the CSUCO. Once TCAs are established, the courses can then go to UC campuses for review. At the UC, this process is facilitated by the campus articulation officer and depending on campus, other folks like academic/department advisors can also support. Ultimately faculty are the ones that determine course equivalencies.

It all comes together in ASSIST



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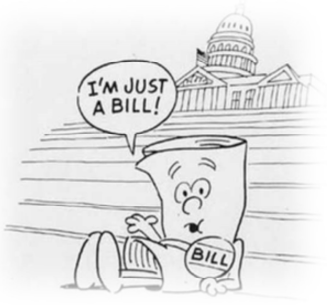
The end of this journey culminates in ASSIST. ASSIST serves as the official repository of transfer course and articulation information for Californias colleges and universities.



How a bill becomes a law

A course's journey

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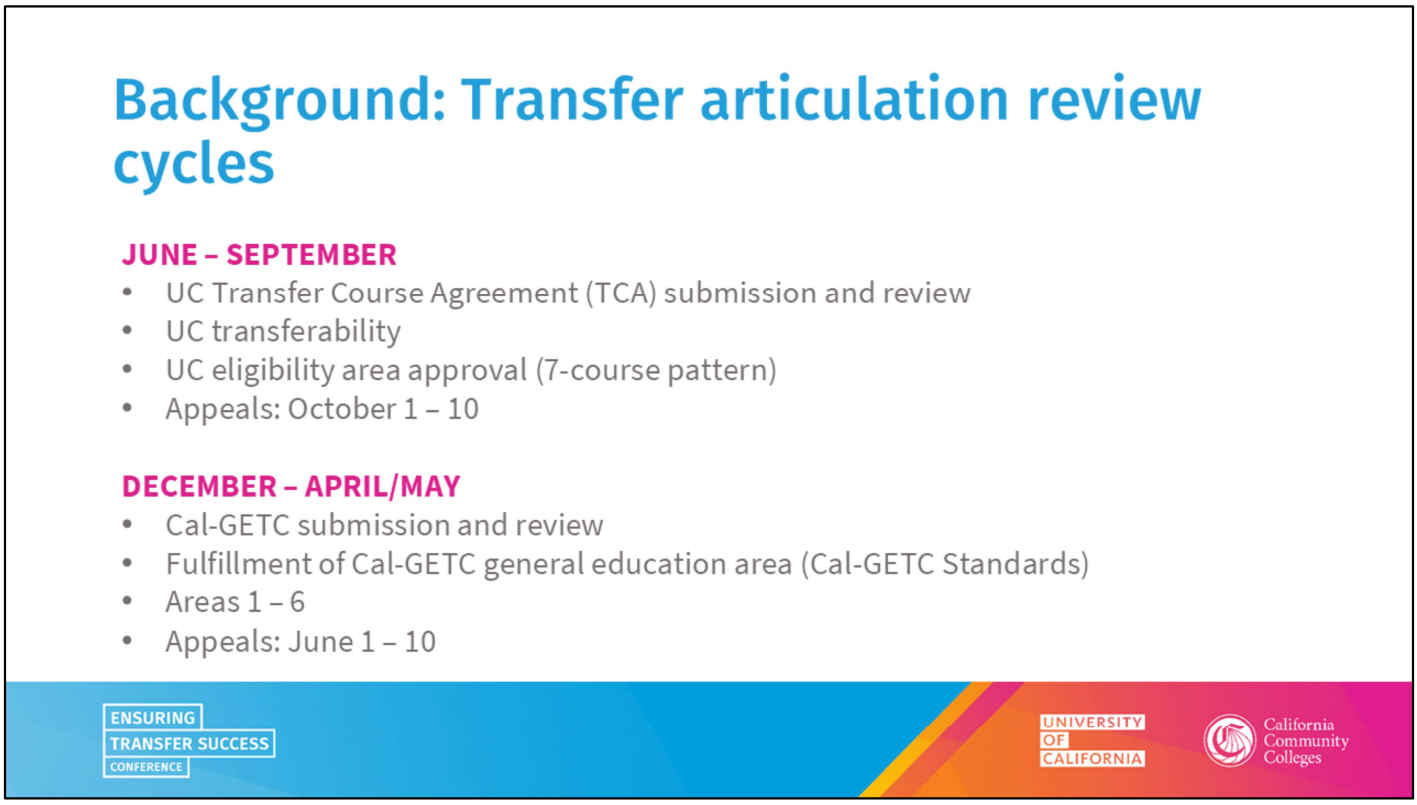
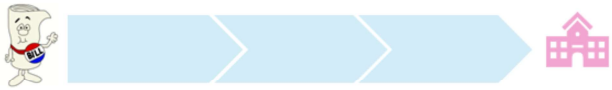


A bit of background; the systemwide transfer articulation process happens in distinct annual cycles – courses are reviewed by UC for baseline UC transferability and UC eligibility areas between June – September each year; and they are reviewed jointly with UC, CSU and CCC representatives for Cal-GETC approval between December – May each year.

The starting point: Course outline of record

The CCC articulation officer submits a **course outline of record (COR) which includes:**

a) Course identifiers
b) Dates or approval and effective term
c) Course description including lecture and/or lab hours, and prerequisites
d) Course objectives and course content
e) Methods of instruction and evaluation
f) Texts and readings
g) Assignments



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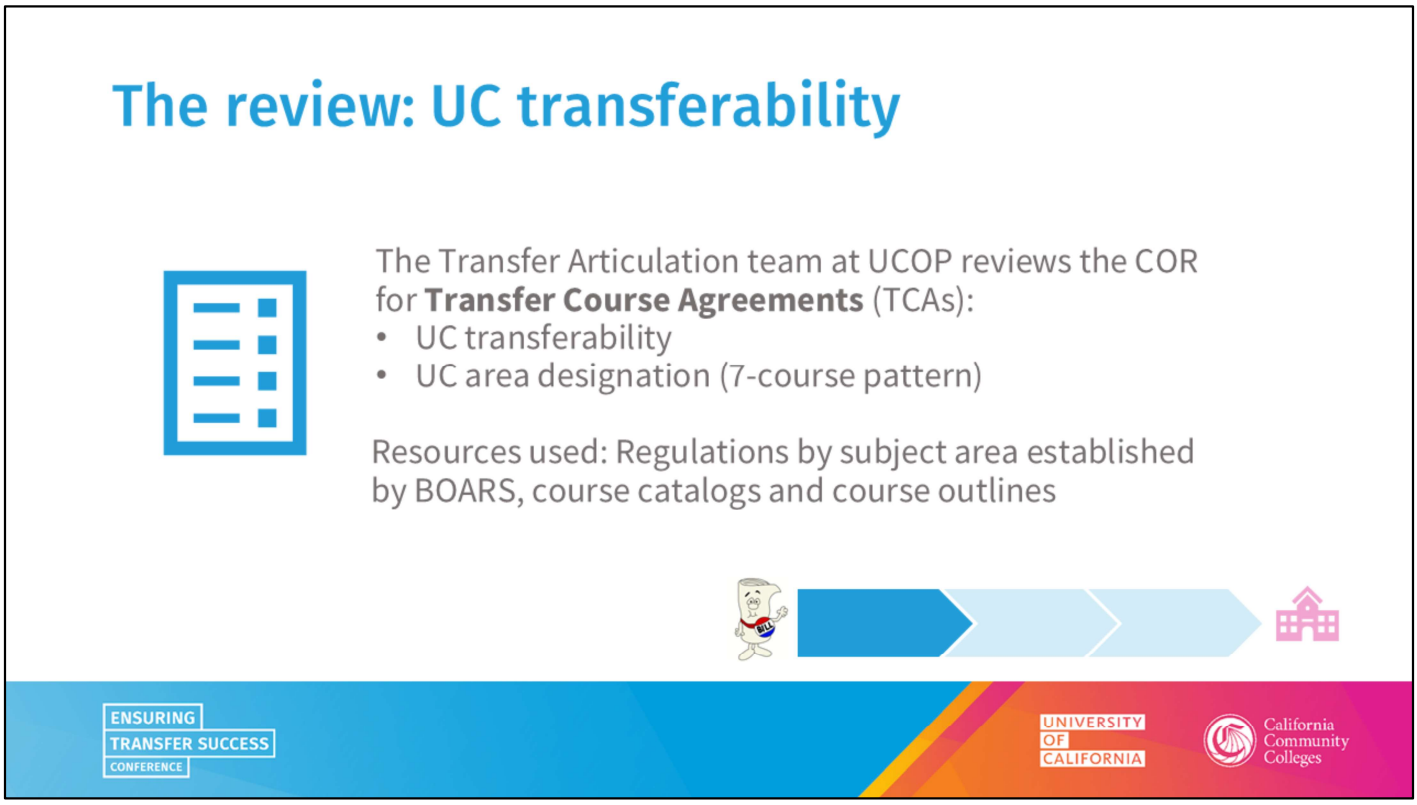
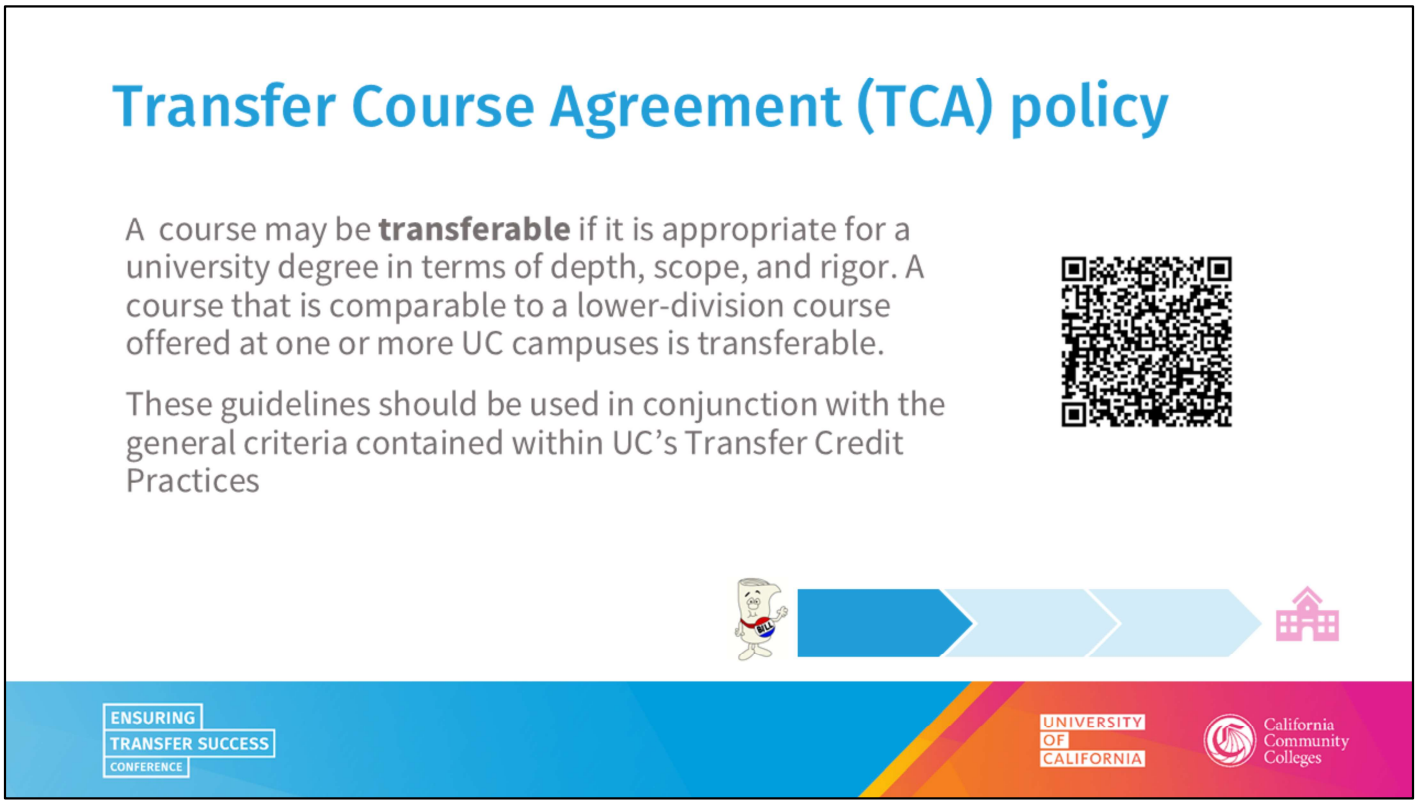
The CCC articulation officer submits a **course outline of record (COR):** The CCC AO prepares the course, usually supported by curriculum and faculty committees. The UCOP Transfer Articulation team review the outline of record. Utilizing the Regulations by Subject area, which are faculty criteria set by BOARS, the outline is reviewed.



UCOP oversees TCAs and UC eligibility areas.

TCAs are the baseline for establishing transferability of community college courses to UC. Courses approved for the TCA count as advanced standing elective credit toward an undergraduate degree at any UC campus and may also be submitted for campus-specific articulation or for Cal-GETC.

UC reviews and updates TCAs annually.



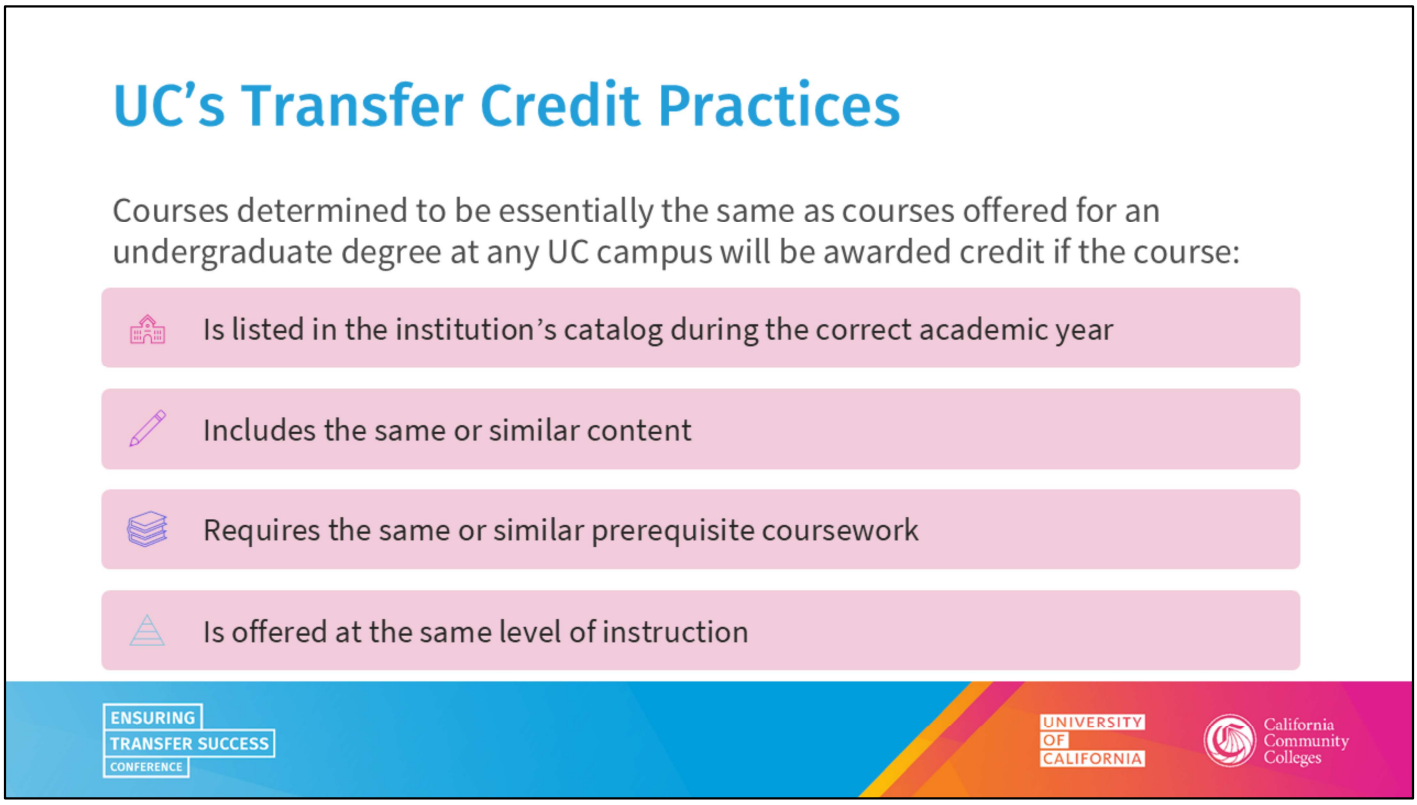
UC articulation analysts review TCA submissions in accordance with policies established by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) — a committee of the UC Academic Senate charged with developing undergraduate admissions requirements — and regulations governing the maximum amount of credit allowed in certain subject areas (e.g., Physical Education, English as a Second Language).

UC staff uses course catalogs, course outlines, regulations established by BOARS (and recommendations developed by UC faculty and deans.

BOARS policies determine which courses can be accepted for advanced standing elective credit toward a university degree.

- Guidelines pertain to lower-division courses being evaluated for transfer credit to the University of California.
- A course that is comparable to a lower-division course offered at one or more UC campuses is transferable. Alternately, a course may be transferable if it is appropriate for a university degree in terms of depth, scope, and rigor. the outline must show that the course is taught at the depth scope and rigor of a college level course. Articulation is an art, not a science and UC is looking for courses that teach theory over practical application. We refer to the subject areas a lot.
    - Depth: Intended function of the course. This would be somewhat recognizable as something that an undergrad would take (lower-div)
    - Scope: Demonstrably teachable within the timeframe
    - Rigor: Pre or co-requisites/course content

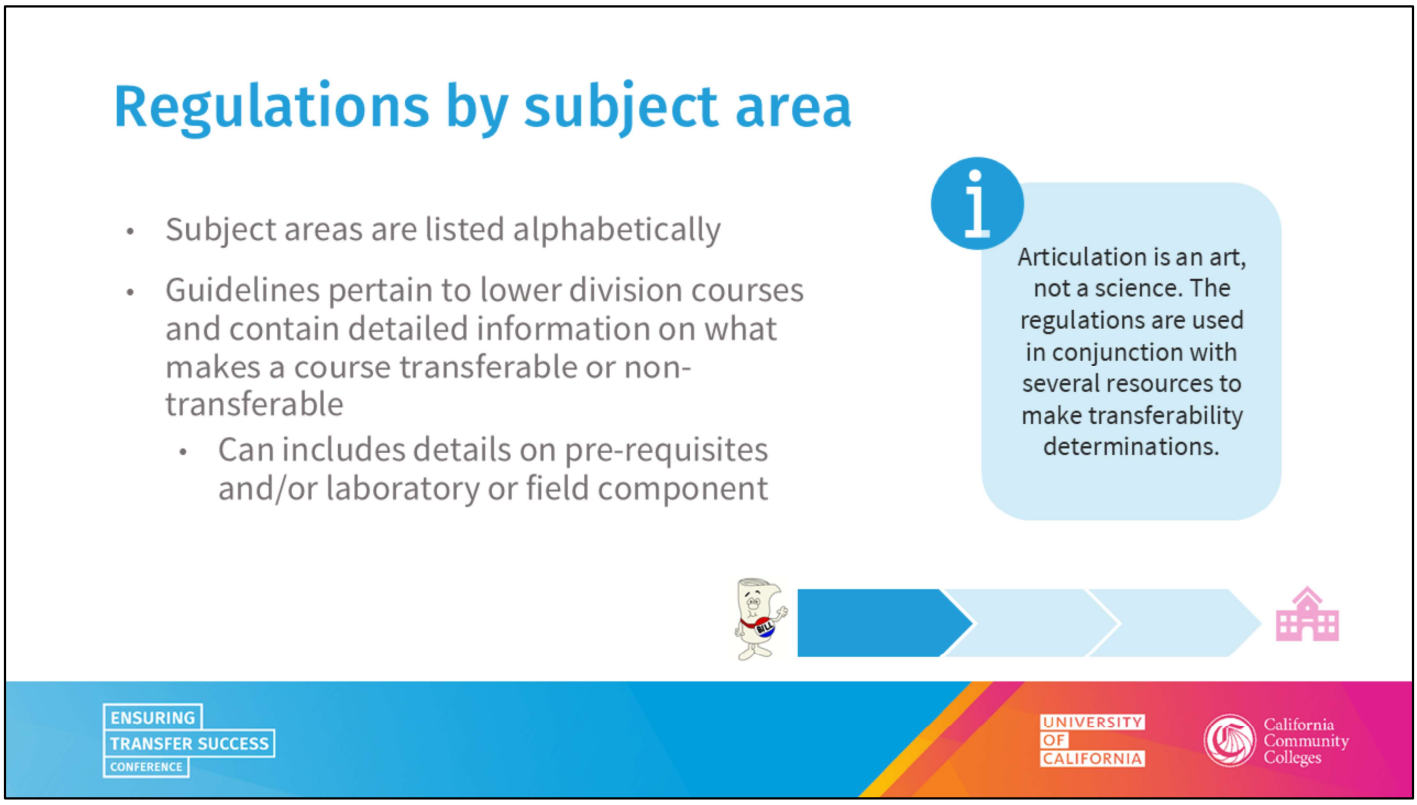
https://www.ucop.edu/transfer-articulation/transfer-course-agreements/tca-policy/index.html



The subject area regulations guidelines should be used in conjunction with the general criteria contained within UC's transfer credit practices:

- TCA Policy aligns with these credit practices
- While UC does not articulate coursework with any other college or university, these general guidelines can help determine UC-transferability

https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/preparing-transfer-students/transfer-credit-practice.html



Special regulations for courses in specific subject areas, listed alphabetically.
The guidelines pertain to lower-division courses being evaluated for transfer credit to the University of California.

https://www.ucop.edu/transfer-articulation/transfer-course-agreements/tca-policy/regulations-by-subject-area.html

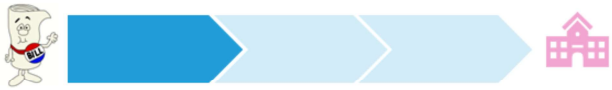
Slide 14

AM1 Is this written as you intend? What is Can? Or do you mean, can include details....
Angelica Moore, 2025-08-27T03:41:18.120

Regulation by subject area example: Social sciences

Transferable courses:

- Academic in content, focusing on research, theory, and analysis.
- Topics covered are integrated into the larger academic context of the course and do not simply consist of a list of isolated topics.
- Methods of assessment include a final exam or paper counting for a substantial part of the student's grade.



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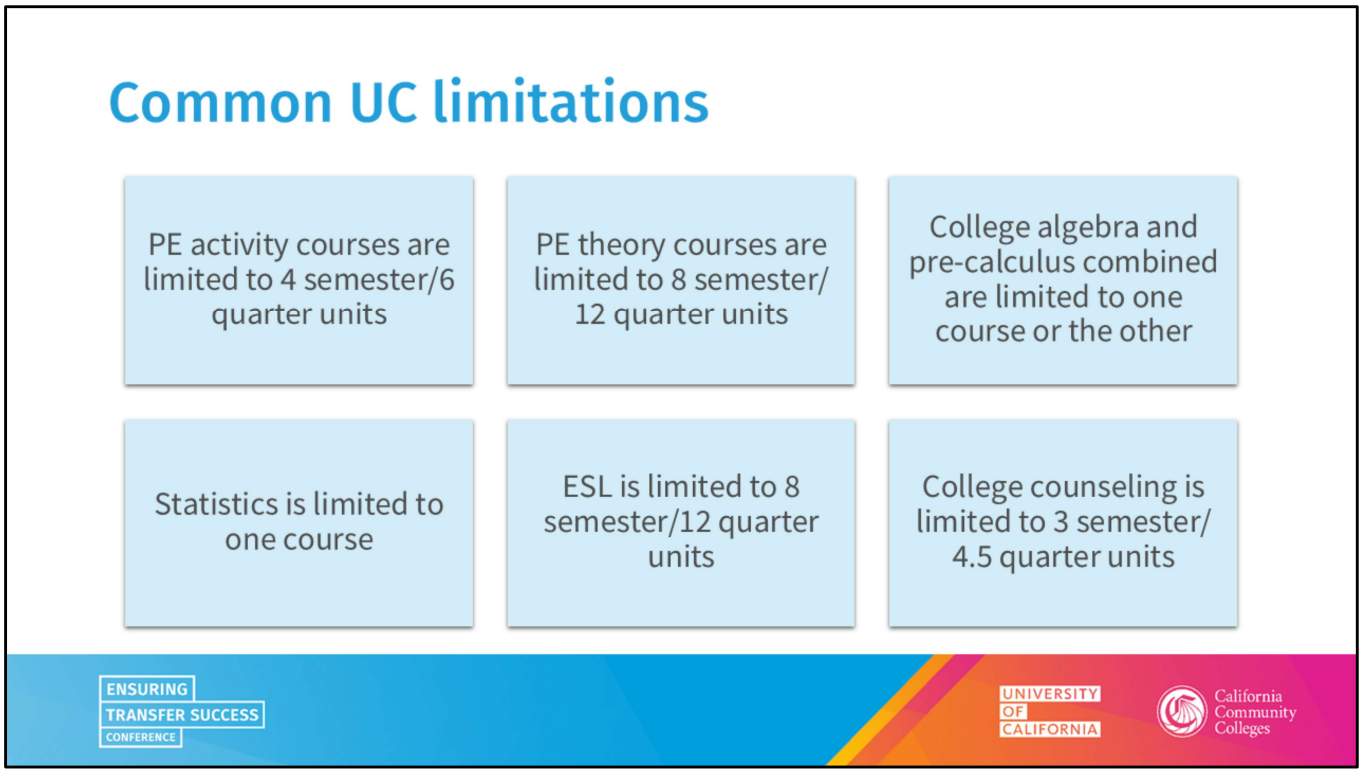
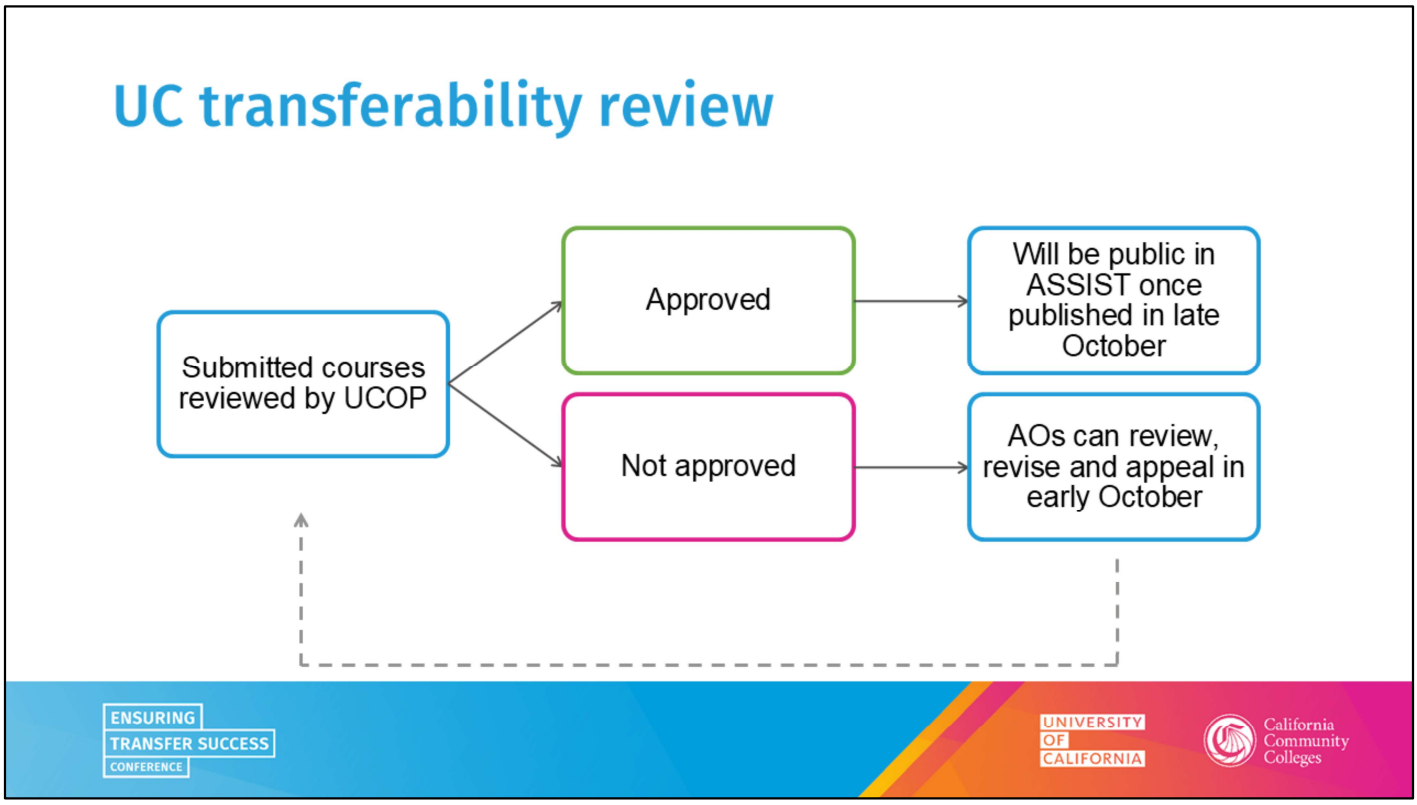
Each regulation area provides details on what makes courses transferable. There may also be specific guidance on non-transferable courses. There may also be details on acceptable course examples and limits on credits. Science courses with lab must include a lab manual or other specific textbook requirements.



We wanted to highlight common UC credit limitations since we mentioned that these are considered in the review process.



Courses denied transferability will show in workflow with a brief explanation of the reason for the denial (e.g. "no comparable course" or "textbooks must be no more than seven years old").

The review: Cal-GETC

- Standards include details on courses that can be used for Cal-GETC
- Courses must be both CSU and UC transferable
- Section 9 provides details on subject areas and course guidelines

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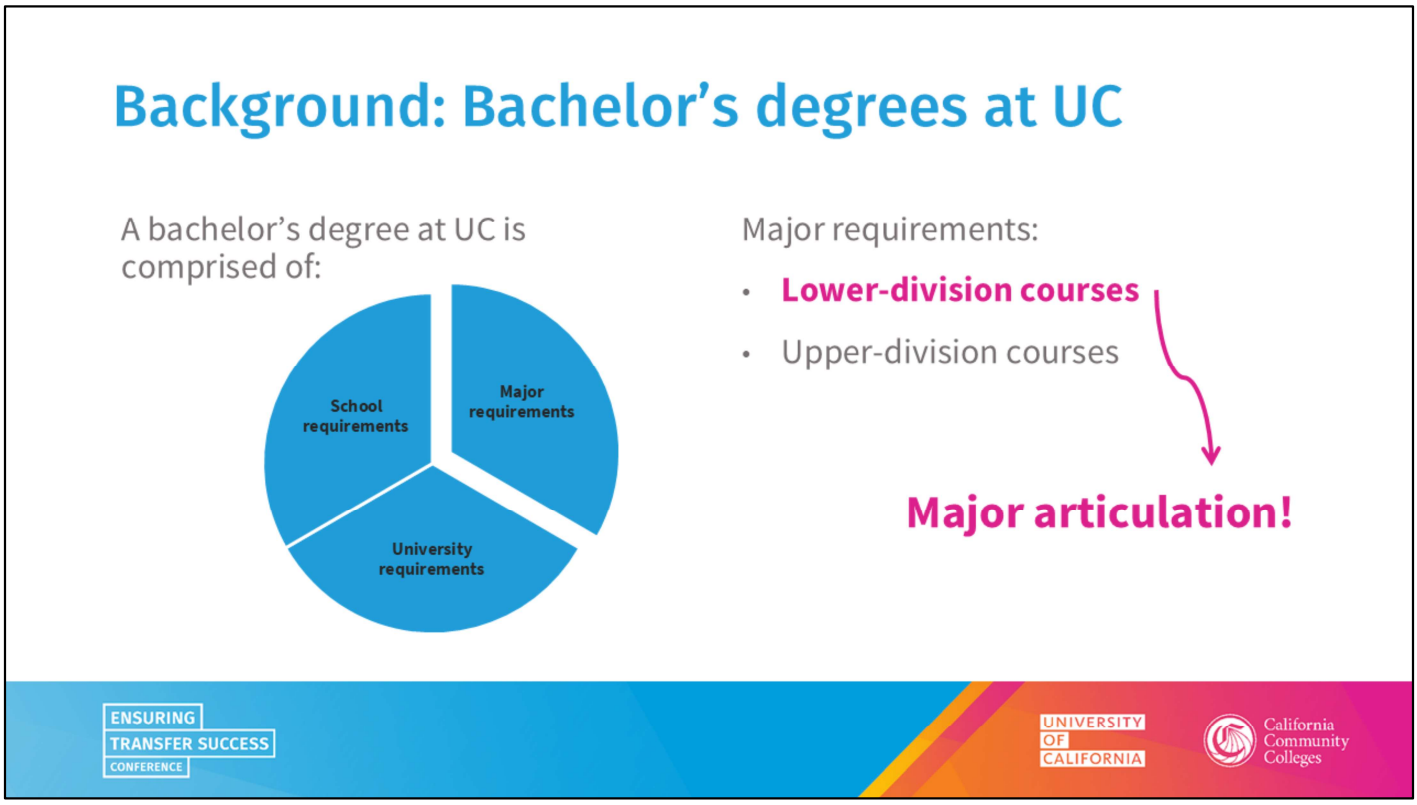
Cal-GETC review happens separately and courses must be approved for the TCA to be considered for Cal-GETC. All Cal-GETC courses are therefore UC-transferable, but not all Cal-GETC courses will have a UC area designation (7-course pattern).

During this time UCOP is a partner in CalGETC review with the CSUCO.

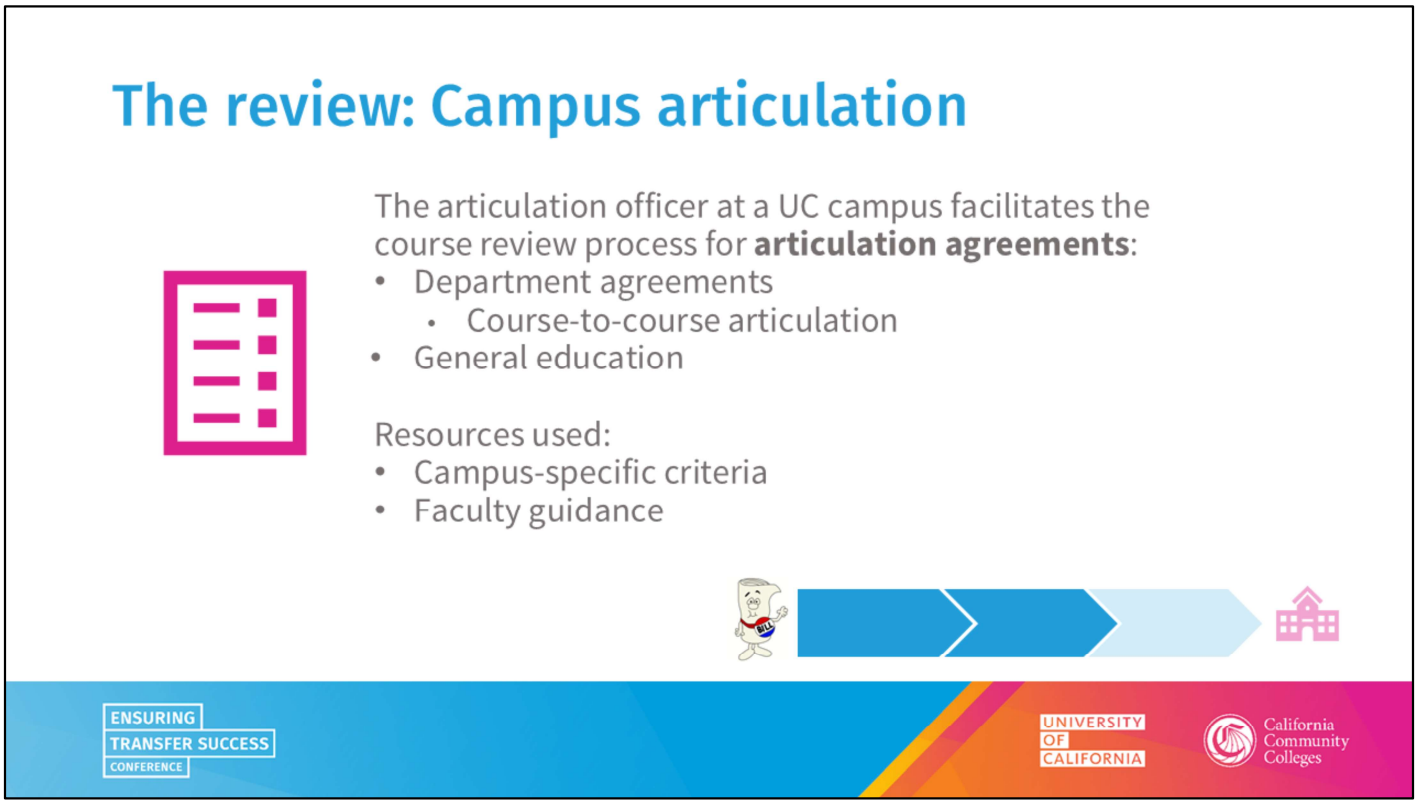
The Cal-GETC Standards are essential in this process. The Standards are developed by the Intersegmental Council of the Academic Senates (ICAS) with representation from CSU, UC and the CCCs. These standards dictate what courses can be used to satisfy Cal-GETC areas.

Section 9 of the Standards provides details on subject areas and course guidelines.



A bachelor's degree at UC is comprised of:

- School requirements (GE)
    - Each undergraduate student must satisfy the degree requirements for the major and, if applicable, the minor or concentration selected.
- University requirements
    - The Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) is a graduation requirement for the University of California. Every undergraduate must demonstrate proficiency in writing. The Entry Level Writing requirement may be satisfied prior to enrollment.
    - American History and Institutions
    - Units
    - Grade requirements (2.0)
    - Residence requirement – a minimum number of units completed at the UC campus.
        - For example, at UCI at least 36 of the final 45 units completed by a student for the bachelor's degree must be earned in residence at the UCI campus and 50% or more of the total quarter units must be earned at UCI.
- Major requirements
    - Lower and upper division courses



All articulation agreements begin as department agreements. That is the way the ASSIST platform is built. Then, for a given major, wherever that university course is utilized for major prep, that department articulation agreement will appear. The articulation agreements are not major specific, they **are department specific and apply broadly to all majors that use those same university courses as part of the major prep**.

A collaborative process

CCC articulation officer

UC articulation officer

Campus departments

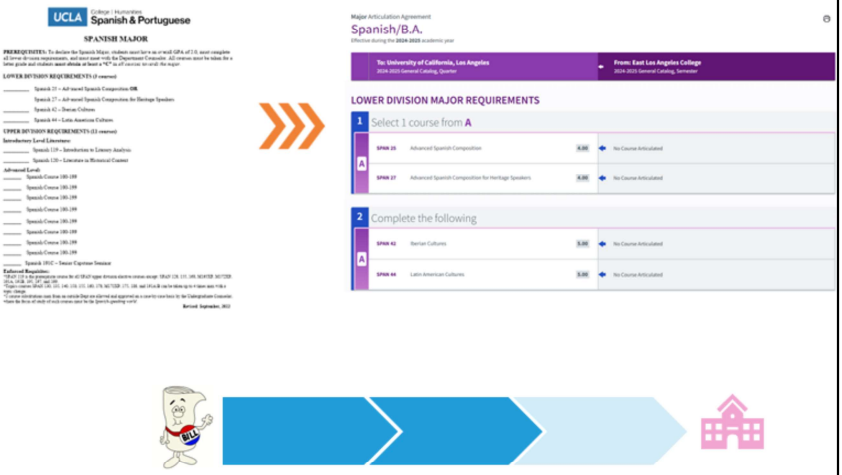
Academic advisors

Faculty

Major articulation baseline

Articulation officers utilize the lower-division major courses to establish articulation agreements.

- Required or recommended for admission
- Degree requirements to graduate



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Articulation officers utilize the lower-division major courses to establish major preparation agreements.

Courses may be required for admission, some may be recommended for admission. Regardless, they are requirements for the major that must be completed for the degree.

UC-transferable but not articulated

Simply put, faculty have reviewed the course and do not see it comparable to the courses they are teaching at their campus.

It's possible you'd see courses that seem like they would be sufficient, but the authority rests with faculty.

The end point: ASSIST

Transfer Course Agreements and **articulation agreements** provide students and counselors essential information for UC admission.

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Our course tracker is complete! Transferable course information and articulation agreements live in ASSIST.

Importance of a course's journey for UC transfer

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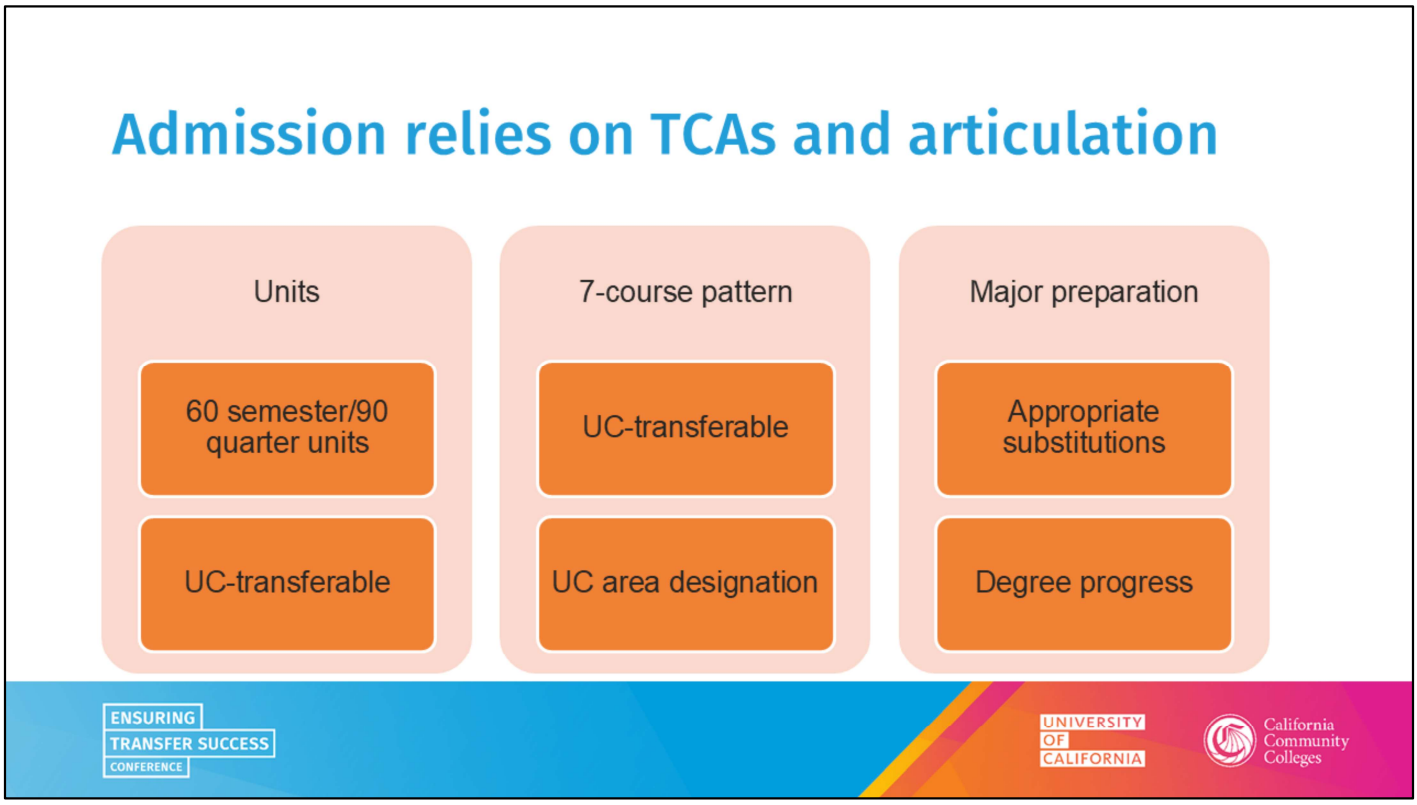
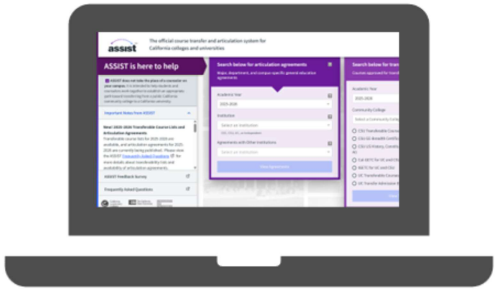


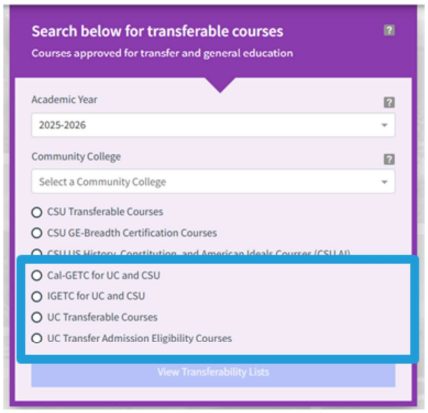
Successfully meeting admission requirements can only be achieved if students are taking UC-transferable courses, and of those courses, enough that meet the 7-course pattern. Our unit requirement is also specific to UC-transferable units, being aware of units being awarded (along with any limits to those units) is important. For transfer students, major preparation is essential to transfer, sometimes specifically required. Taking properly articulated courses for major preparation is important for admission but also for timely degree progress. Major preparation courses may or may not be required for admission, but they are courses that students will eventually need to take for their degree.

ASSIST as a resource

- A central source and a wealth of information
- Very important for the transfer process
- Imports transferability information into the **UC Transfer Admission Planner** (UC TAP) and the **UC application**



UC-transferable course details on ASSIST



- Courses and intersegmental GE patterns at each community college that are UC-transferable
- Important for meeting systemwide requirements
  - 7-course pattern
  - UC-transferable units
- Lists managed by Transfer Articulation at UCOP

Many options exists under the “transferable course” menu.

UC Transfer Course Agreement details

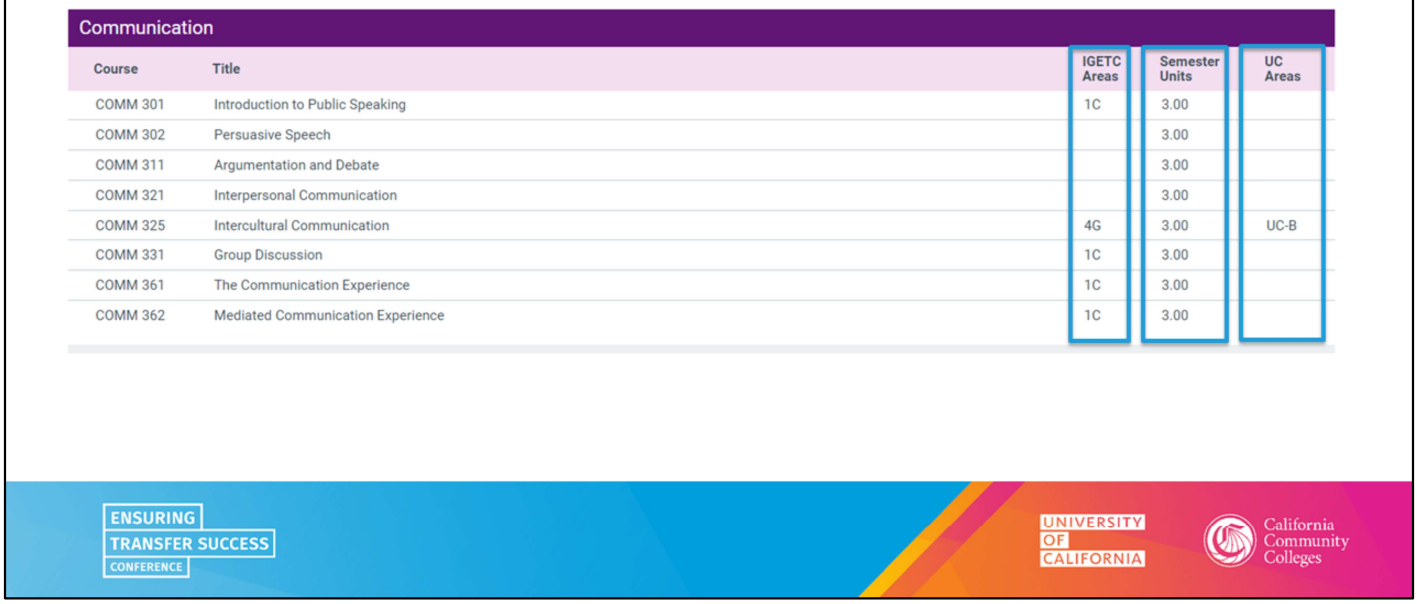
Once you select the department or prefix, further information will appear in your search result. The details here are important and appear with every list.

First, we want to highlight that the agreement will show courses transferable for unit credit at ALL UC campuses.

Then, we see that there is reference to meeting UC's 7-course pattern.

And last, there is other information displayed that is important to keep in mind. Typically, these details are about credit limits and repeatability.

UC Transfer Course Agreement – IGETC, units and UC area



Communication

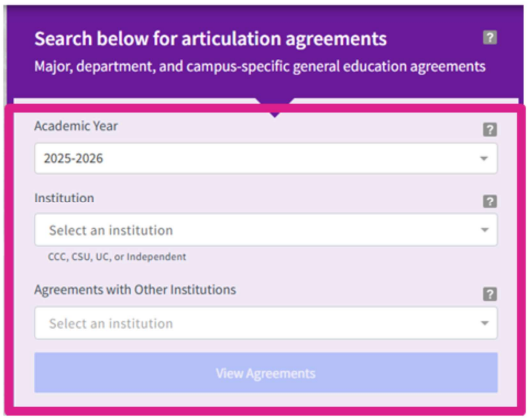
Course	Title	IGETC Areas	Semester Units	UC Areas
COMM 301	Introduction to Public Speaking	1C	3.00	
COMM 302	Persuasive Speech		3.00	
COMM 311	Argumentation and Debate		3.00	
COMM 321	Interpersonal Communication		3.00	
COMM 325	Intercultural Communication	4G	3.00	UC-B
COMM 331	Group Discussion	1C	3.00	
COMM 361	The Communication Experience	1C	3.00	
COMM 362	Mediated Communication Experience	1C	3.00	

Once you select your search, in this example we selected the Communication department at this college, you will see the full list of UC-transferable courses at the college. If a course is not listed here, then it means it is not UC-transferable. On the right-hand side of the search results, we see three columns that contain helpful information. First, the search results display whether a course meets an IGETC area, how many units it is worth, and if it meets a UC area, or part of the 7-course pattern.

This is a good example of a department that has a good amount of UC-transferable courses, but if you notice, only one of these courses can meet part of the 7-course pattern. If you are working with a student that wants to take these courses, just be aware that while most of these courses grant units to reach the unit requirement, they should have other courses in their schedule that meet the rest of the 7-course pattern.

Note: This report currently shows IGETC areas and there are plans for Cal-GETC areas to be displayed here in the future. For now, to review Cal-GETC lists, click on the Cal-GETC report option.

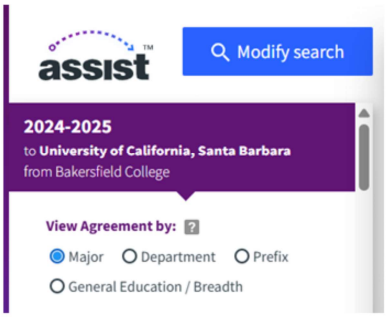
Articulation agreements on ASSIST



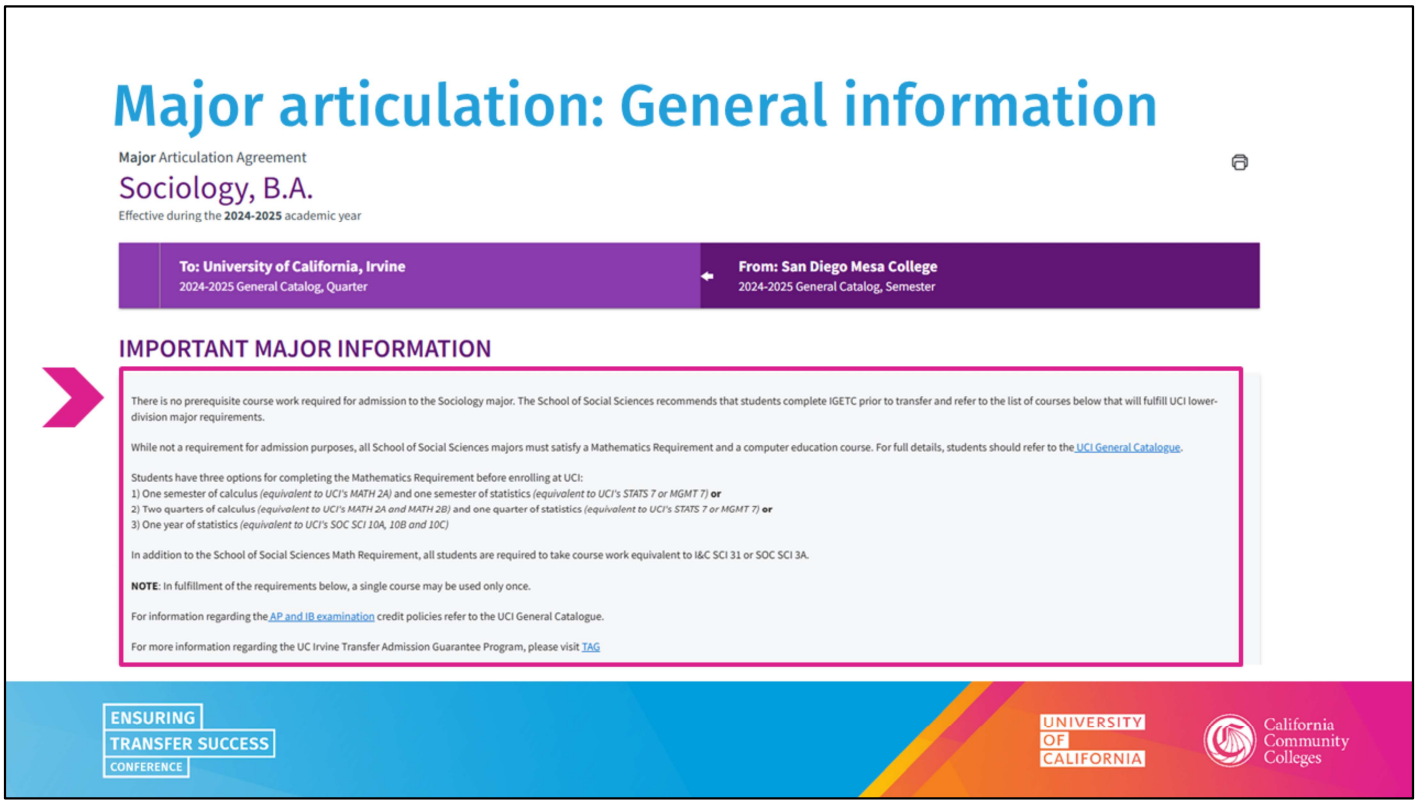
- Specific to the CCC and a UC
- Important for reviewing campus-specific articulation
  - Major
  - Department
  - General education
- Lists managed by each campus through their articulation officer

Many choices, which to choose?

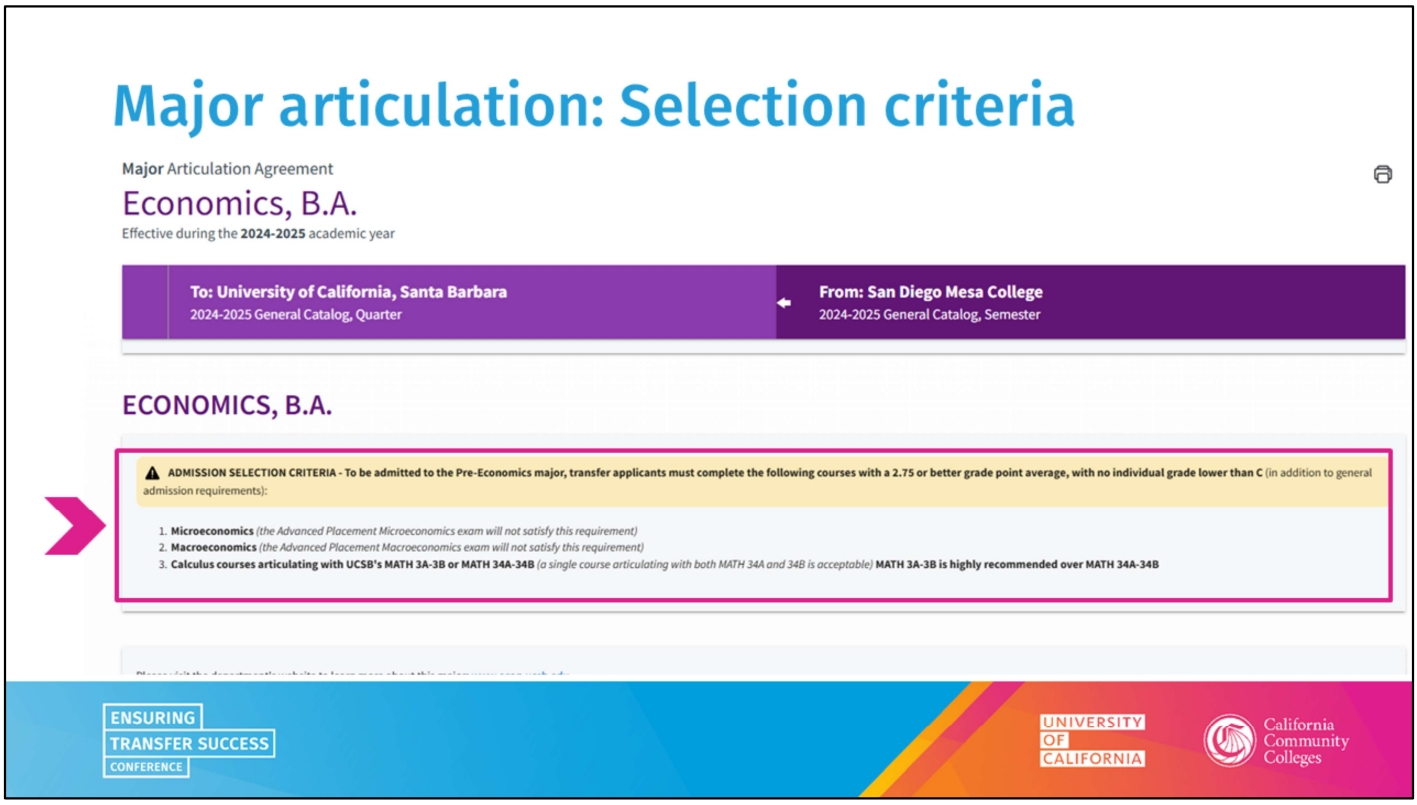
- **Major**: Major preparation, or CCC courses that will satisfy major requirements
- **Department**: Course-to-course articulations or series articulations
- **Prefix:** A preference! Will also display course-to-course articulations or series articulations
- **General education**: Not all campuses have GE information, but can be helpful for students looking to meet campus-specific GE



Users can view articulation agreements through various options. The choice may come down to purpose or preference.
Users can now also filter based on the CCC course, but they must be in the “department” radio button to access that feature.



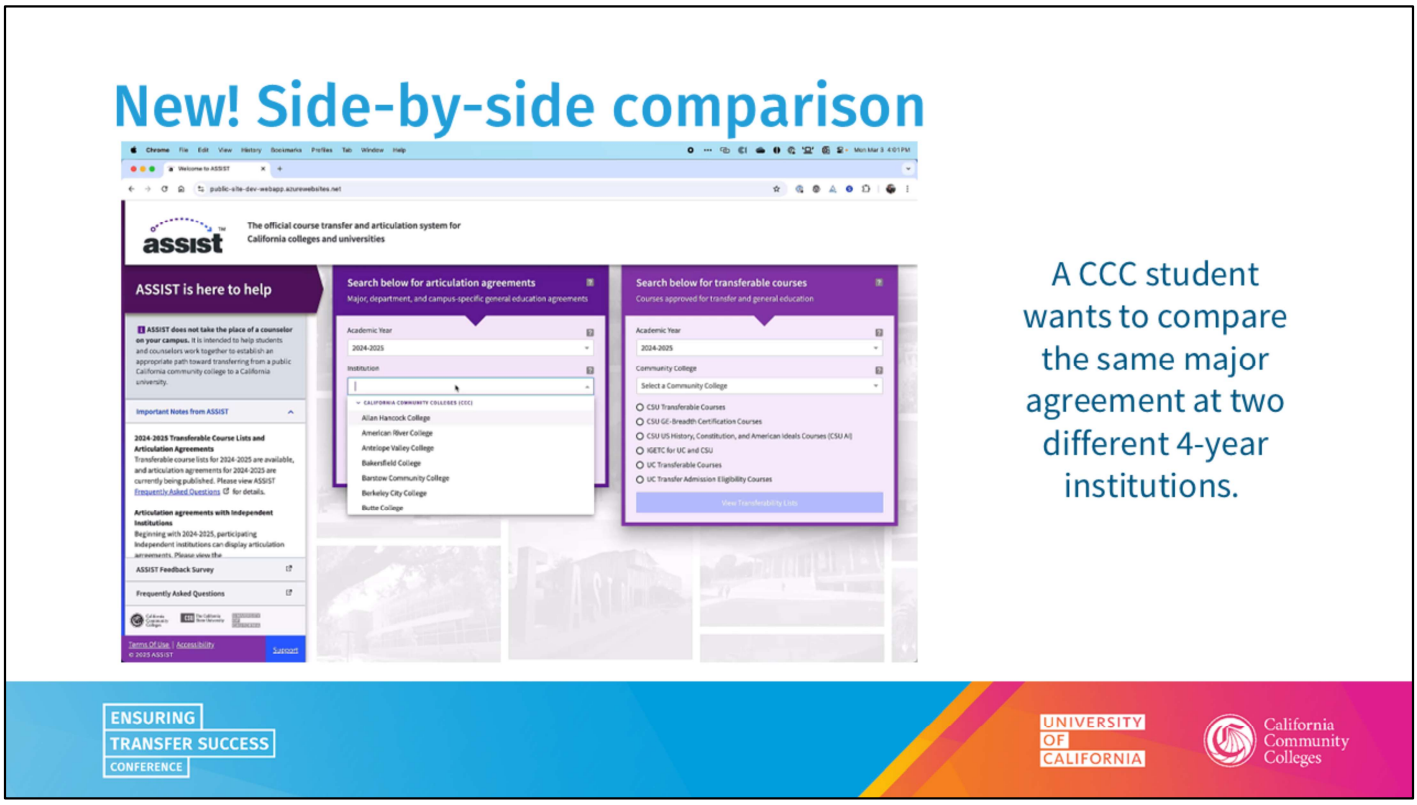
It's important to read the details provided. While they may be called "general information" or "Important major information" these are the details UC campuses want students and counselors to review. By not reading these details, you may miss important context. For example, the first thing noted is that for this major "There is no prerequisite course work required for admission to the Sociology major....."



Campuses may also highlight admission selection criteria, which indicate when a course is required for admission consideration. For example, here we see a major articulation agreement between San Diego Mesa College and UC Santa Barbara for the economics major, “To be admitted to the Pre-Economics major, transfer applicants must complete the following courses with a 2.75 or better grade point average, with no individual grade lower than C….”

Preparation for the major = courses that may be able to be completed at a CCC

- Usually listed in UC course titles and numbers
- Articulation agreement will display appropriate course options, if articulated.



Let’s see this new option in action.

A CCC student attending Bakersfield College

Is interested in the Aerospace Engineering major

Wants to compare the agreements at UC Irvine and UC Berkeley to determine the best option

The Agreement Comparison option will display in any solo agreement > notice the blue "compare with another agreement" button in the upper right-hand corner

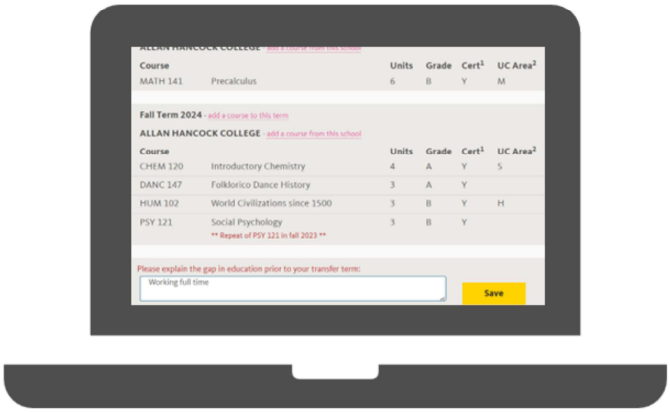
When selected, a second agreement search box opens, functioning in the exact same way as the one on the assist.org landing page

Selecting a second agreement to view places both agreements side by side to be scrolled and compared

You can modify the search from either agreement to compare either agreement with another or return to single course search

UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP)

- Academic history:
  - Schools attended
  - Coursework
- UC TAP uses **ASSIST verified** information to calculate:
  - UC-transferable units
  - UC GPA
  - Completion of the 7-course pattern



The UC Transfer Admission Planner is UC's online resources to help transfer students plan and track their transfer. Information from ASSIST is used to provide students accurate academic information.

UC application

- The UC application uses ASSIST verified information which helps students enter academic information with ease.
- UC TAP import allows students to import UC TAP academic history into the UC application.

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The UC application uses ASSIST verified information which helps students enter academic information with ease. This allows students to enter academic information accurately and leave less room for error.

If students have a UC TAP account, then there is also an import allows students to import UC TAP academic history into the UC application.

Working together

A collaboration between CCCs, UCOP and campuses

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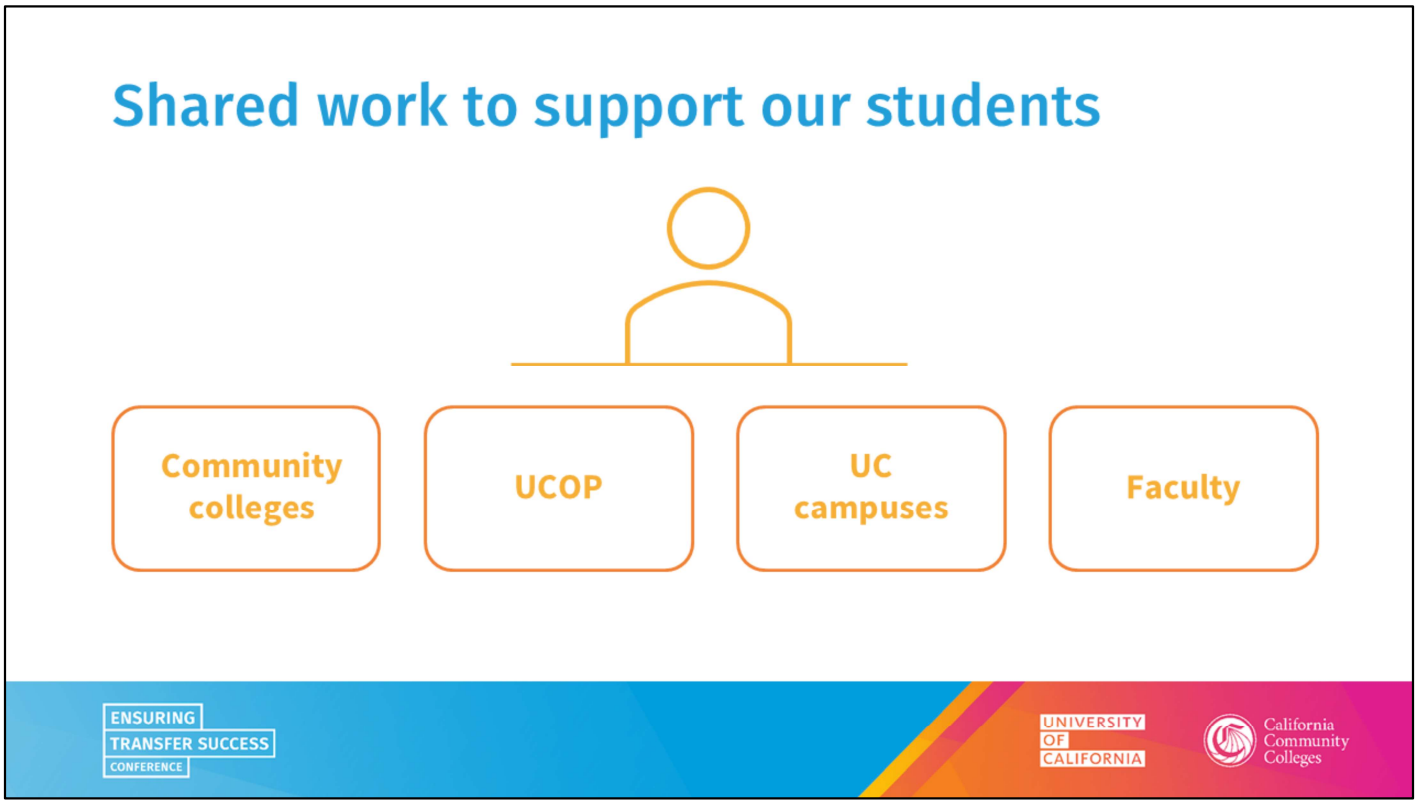
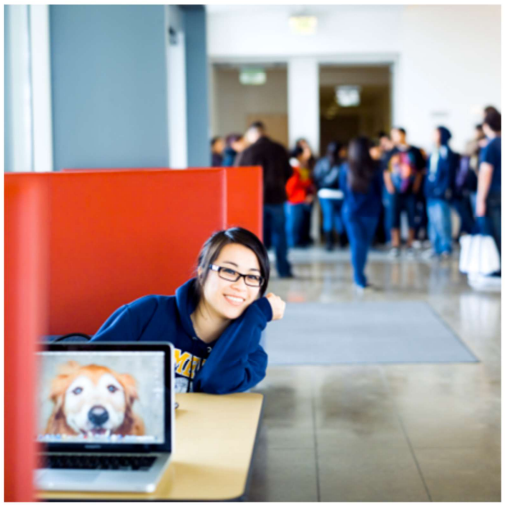


As you can see, this work is important, and this work is collaborative.

How TCAs support UC transfer

- CCCs offer a large variety of courses, but not all courses are UC-transferable
- Of those UC-transferable courses, not all will meet the 7-course pattern
  - Beyond the 7-course pattern, units can come from major prep, GE or both!
- Footnotes remind us if there are limits on credits
- Taking the correct courses help students meet UC junior transfer admission requirements



How articulation agreements support UC transfer

- Comprehensive review for transfer students draws heavily from academic factors
- Major preparation is one of the most important academic factors
- UC campuses determine their own articulation agreements
- UC campuses have admission representatives that can answer specific questions about articulation agreements

Resources

Point of contact for questions about…

Type of issue or question	Who to contact	How to contact
Technical issues	ASSIST team	help@assist.org
Transfer course lists: Footnotes, courses, general information	Articulation officer at the CCC in question	Email articulation officer
Major preparation	UC campuses directly (start with Admissions)	Email or “contact us” form
UC admission policy	UCOP Admissions	AskUC@ucop.edu

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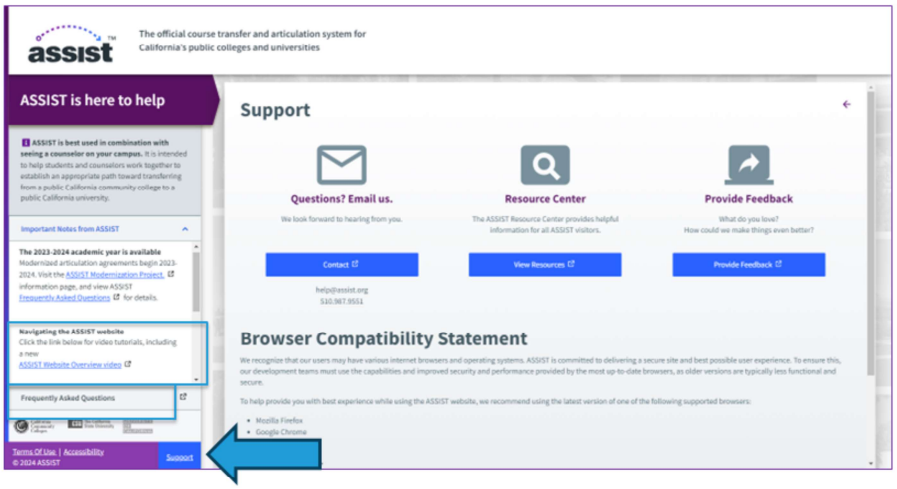
As a counselor you might have questions about the information you find on ASSIST. Depending on your question, there is a specific team available to help you, so you want to be sure to reach out to the correct team……..

ASSIST resources

- help@assist.org
- resource.assist.org
  - FAQs
  - Video tutorials
  - Campus ASSIST managers
- Provide feedback



Counselor webpage: admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors
Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions: admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/_files/documents/quick-reference-guide-to-uc-admissions.pdf
ICAS: https://icas-ca.org/
Counselors and Advisers Bulletin: admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/connect-to-resources/counselors-and-advisers-bulletin.html

Slide 45

JR1 Missing ICAS URL in notes
Jayne Reimel, 2025-08-26T22:51:10.502

Questions?

Thank you!

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