

## Session 2.4

---

# Transfer Articulation 411: MACRAO Dictionary for New Professionals

Pat Cygnar, Eastern Michigan University

Kathleen Owens, Grand Rapids Community College

# DEFINITIONS

---

## **Articulation**

The concept of communicating between educational institutions so that students may progress from one level to the next, in a seamless manner, without losing credit or duplicating coursework.

## **Articulation Agreement**

A formal signed document that allows students to transfer from a specific program at one school into a specific program at another school so that students can earn both an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree without losing credits or repeating coursework.

# DEFINITIONS

---

## **Transfer Guide**

A document published by one school (usually a 4-year college) that lists courses from another school, that transfer and are applicable to a specific major or program at the receiving school.

## **MACRAO Agreement**

A state-wide transfer agreement between participating Michigan colleges that transfers 30 semester hours from the two-year colleges to fulfill all or most of the general education requirements at the four-year colleges. (Does not waive major requirements)

# DEFINITIONS

---

## **Provisos**

Requirements made by some participating 4-year colleges that must be satisfied when using MACRAO. (e.g. a math requirement or a multicultural course)

## **Limitations**

Some colleges have limitations placed on the use of the MACRAO agreement. (e.g. minimum of credits that must be completed at the community college toward MACRAO)

# MACRAO Agreement Distribution

---

## Minimum Credit Requirements:

- ❖ English Composition - 6 credits
- ❖ Humanities - 8 credits (minimum of 2 subject areas)
- ❖ Social Science - 8 credits (min. of 2 subject areas)
- ❖ Science and Math - 8 credits (min of 2 subject areas including one lab science)

# Community College's Role

---

- ❖ Determine courses used to complete MACRAO
- ❖ Evaluate students' transcripts for MACRAO
- ❖ Design associate degrees that include MACRAO
- ❖ Provide clear information about MACRAO to students
- ❖ Educate faculty & staff about MACRAO

# Four-Year Colleges' Role

---

- ❖ Clarify what gen ed is satisfied and any provisos
- ❖ Include MACRAO in transfer guides and articulation agreements
- ❖ Indicate "MACRAO satisfied" on student transcript
- ❖ Train faculty and staff
- ❖ Provide feedback to community colleges

# Problems with MACRAO

---

- ❖ Some schools don't clearly identify general education
- ❖ Some schools make too many provisos or limitations
- ❖ Doesn't work well with some curriculum such as engineering

# Problems with MACRAO

---

- ❖ Not all Michigan schools participate
- ❖ No current regulatory processes for disagreements between institutions
- ❖ Lack of understanding of MACRAO at both community colleges and 4-year colleges

# Benefits for Students

---

- ❖ Flexibility in meeting general education as it applies to multiple institutions
- ❖ May reduce number of courses needed for general education (may transfer more electives or technical credits)
- ❖ May reduce redundancy of course work

# Benefits for Colleges

---

- ❖ Encourages institutions to collaborate in curriculum development
- ❖ Supports collegial faculty relationships between 2 and 4 year institutions
- ❖ If done well, makes it easier to advise students
- ❖ Great for articulation agreements