



Michigan Transfer Agreement Fall 2015 Implementation Update

The Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA), which went into effect in the fall 2014 term for all new students, was developed as a consensus agreement between Michigan colleges and universities. The intent of the MTA is to facilitate the transfer of core college courses from one institution to another. Students may complete the Michigan Transfer Agreement as part of an associate's degree or as a stand-alone package. To date, all of Michigan's public colleges and universities and a significant portion of the independent institutions have signed on to the MTA. Detailed information about the MTA can be found on the website of the Michigan Association of Registrars and & Admissions Officers (MACRAO): <https://www.macrao.org/Publications/MTA.asp>.

As the MTA was developed in 2013 and implemented in 2014, several complex issues were excluded from the initial agreement to ensure that timelines for the task force laid out in the enabling legislation could be met. These issues include the consistent treatment of credits earned through exams, AP/IB, dual enrollment, military services, prior learning assessments, and the like. The 2014 launch of the MTA focused on traditional vertical transfer from a community college to a university. Another complex issue initially tabled was how the MTA would be applied to students transferring laterally from one community college to another, from one university to another, or from a university to a community college. Given the mobility of students among postsecondary institutions, it was always the legislature's intent that the MTA would be applied to these situations as well.

To examine these outstanding issues, MACRAO, in partnership with the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) and the Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU – formerly the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan), created the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) 2.0 Ad Hoc Committee consisting of community colleges and public and private university representatives. The goal of this group is to continue to enhance credit transferability for the Michigan college students we all serve.

As part of this work, the MTA 2.0 Committee has examined the webpages, bulletins, catalogs and other materials related to the MTA of all participating institutions as a review and evaluation of the MTA's implementation. Overall, the committee is pleased with the progress that has occurred in the first year of implementation. However, in keeping with the spirit of the agreement and to promote uniformity throughout the state (especially with the increase of swirling students), the committee identified the following concerns with MTA implementation at one or more institutions.

Sending Institutions - Community Colleges (organized by the MTA distribution of courses):

English Composition/Communications

- Foreign language courses are not applicable to the Communications option of the MTA (they are applicable to the Humanities area)
- If two composition courses and a speech course are required for the associate's degree, consider using the speech course as a humanities

Mathematics

- As per the thoroughly vetted decisions made by the MTA Math taskforce, discipline-specific mathematics courses are not approved to fulfill any of the MTA Mathematics pathways. This includes courses like Math for Elementary Teachers, Statistics for Psychology, etc. These courses may still transfer as major requirements or otherwise but would not fulfill the MTA Mathematics distribution. For more details, please see <https://www.macrao.org/Publications/MTA%20Final%20Math%20Recommendations.pdf>
- Elementary and Intermediate Algebra are not applicable to the MTA (MTA Final Math Recommendations)

Social Sciences

- When there are general education degree requirements that are in addition to the MTA (i.e. Cultural Diversity, Political Science), attempt to double count with MTA requirements (i.e. Political Science in the Social Science section) and make the option clear to students

Humanities and Fine Arts

- Humanities oriented courses cannot consist of performance or studio-based courses (i.e. choirs, singing, acting, painting, sculpting, crafts, drawing, etc.)
- Only one foreign language regardless of the discipline may apply to the Humanities category

Natural Sciences

- Science lab courses that do not occur in college setting and/or under the direction of the instructor (i.e. workplace skills laboratory) are not MTA applicable

General Comments/Observations

- Business courses are not applicable to the MTA
- Physical Education courses are not applicable to the MTA
- Technical and Trade oriented courses are not applicable to the MTA
- The old MACRAO Transfer Agreement sunsets summer 2019
- The residency requirement for MTA certification does not require that an MTA oriented course be taken it must however be at least a one-credit college level course

Receiving Institutions - Universities:

General Comments/Observations

- Accept the distribution requirements established by community college partners
- Students may find a bridge handout very useful (see UM-Flint example)
- Clearly and explicitly identify how the 30-credit hour "block" from MTA will be applied to core requirements as per the intent of the agreement
- Be sure to share a list of any new and or deactivated courses with your 2-year partners

Please review your institution's adoption of the MTA with regard to the issues noted above and be sure your policies are in line with the spirit of the agreement. In addition, please review your institution's MTA webpage, bulletin, catalog and other materials to ensure that the spirit of the agreement is being embraced and the information is clear and easy for students to find.

For universities, if your institution is in the process of updating, revamping or designing a MTA webpage, bulletin, catalog or other materials, we recommend that you look at the University of Michigan-Flint as an excellent example.

For community colleges, if your institution is in the process of updating, revamping or designing a MTA webpage, bulletin/catalog or other materials, we recommend that you look at Kirtland Community College, Mott Community College and North Central Michigan College as a few excellent examples. In addition, although not required, 13 community colleges have currently incorporated the MTA into their A.A., A.S., A.S.A. and several transfer oriented degree programs. This not only reduces potential confusion by the students, but will likely increase program completion directly or through reverse transfer.

As you consider this information, as previously mentioned, the MACRAO website has a specific webpage dedicated to the MTA providing a plethora of information should you need more details on anything you've read here (<https://www.macrao.org/Publications/MTA.asp>). You are also welcome to request assistance from this committee for MTA related questions, comments, or concerns by emailing us at michigantransferagreement@gmail.com. We are here to assist with the facilitation of transfer students and transfer issues throughout the state.

MACRAO MTA 2.0 Ad Hoc Committee

- Chair: John Meldrum, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Oakland University & MACRAO President
Co-Chair: Libby Bonnell, Assistant Director of Admissions, Grand Valley State University & MACRAO Vice-President
- Amy Fugate, Vice President, Academic Affairs, Mott Community College
- Katie Giardello, Director of Veteran and Transfer Initiatives, Michigan Center for Student Success, MCCA
- David Johnson, Manager, Undergraduate Degree Programs, Central Michigan University & MACRAO College Articulation Committee Co-Chair
- Laurie Kattuah-Snyder, Associate Dean of Advising & Partnerships, Schoolcraft College
- Stephen Linden, Registrar, Oakland Community College
- Rhonda Longworth, Associate Provost, Eastern Michigan University
- Christopher Marx, Director of Transfer Articulation, Davenport University & MACRAO College Articulation Committee Chair
- Bob Murphy, Director of University Relations & Policy, Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU)
- Kim Rotundo, Registrar, Northern Michigan University
- DeeDee Stakely, Transfer Services Center Director, Ferris State University & MACRAO Legislative Issues Committee Chair