

UMBC PROGRAM ARTICULATION AGREEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

This guide is intended for use by UMBC faculty and staff and community college articulation representatives. The guide serves to provide a timely and comprehensive process for developing program to program articulation agreements. This process is in accordance with the [UMBC Policy on Approval of Written Academic Agreements](#) UMBC Policy # III 7.01.01.

STEP ONE: CONTACT THE PROGRAM ARTICULATION WORK GROUP

Contact the Articulation Work Group Chair (Nathan Fanning – nfanning@umbc.edu) to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposed articulation agreement. The meeting will typically include a discussion of the interest, program specifics, feasibility, promotion and direction of the program articulation.

STEP TWO: PROVIDE LETTER OF INTENT TO PARTNER AND ARTICULATION WORK GROUP

UMBC's Department Chair is to sign a formal Letter of Intent indicating the department's commitment to supporting the development of an articulation agreement. Information provided in the Letter of Intent should include a UMBC departmental contact(s) who will oversee the initiation, development and execution of the agreement, a commitment to the process of creating the articulation agreement as well as to the ongoing collaboration of the departments/programs included within the agreement, and an estimated timeline to execution of the agreement. The Letter of Intent should be provided to the partner institution and the Articulation Work Group for archiving. A template Letter of Intent is available from the Articulation Work Group.

STEP THREE: DEVELOP AND DRAFT THE PROPOSED PLANNING GUIDE AND PATHWAY

UMBC representatives, in collaboration with the respective community college representatives, and with assistance of the Articulation Work Group Chair, will arrange opportunities to discuss details of the proposed articulation agreement. The following documents are expected to reflect the collaborative efforts of representatives from both institutions.

1. [Equivalency and Planning Guide](#) *3-4 weeks estimated completion*
2. [4 Year Articulation Pathway](#) *3-4 weeks estimated completion*

Each document should be submitted to the Articulation Work Group Chair for review and approval upon completion. In addition to sharing their content knowledge, colleagues at the two- and four-year institutions should use this as an opportunity to develop deeper programmatic relationships.

The Articulation Workgroup has partnered with several community colleges within the state to develop a Master Articulation Agreement. The Master Articulation Agreement provides a foundation to which addendums containing the Planning Guide and Pathway can be added. This allows for a faster agreement development and execution process. For questions regarding the Master Articulation Agreement, please contact the Articulation Work Group Chair (Nathan Fanning – nfanning@umbc.edu).

For agreements to become effective for the fall semester, the suggested deadline for submission of a proposed Planning Guide and Pathway is **March 15**.

For agreements to become effective for the spring semester, the suggested deadline for submission of a proposed Planning Guide and Pathway is **October 15**.

STEP FOUR: INTERNAL REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT

The Articulation Work Group Chair will circulate a draft of the Planning Guide and Pathway internally to all persons involved including the relevant Department Chair and the Registrar's Office. The Articulation Work Group Chair will set a due date (typically 20 business days) for recommended revisions, etc., and will communicate the due date to those involved in the internal review. To expedite the review process, academic departments should solicit suggested revisions during this 20-day period.

STEP FIVE: FINAL INTERNAL DRAFT PREPARATION

Requested changes are reviewed and incorporated by the Articulation Work Group, if appropriate.

STEP SIX: EXTERNAL DRAFT REVIEW

The Work Group Chair will send the final draft of the articulation agreement to the partner institution for review and approval (with copy to UMBC academic department). The partner institution should respond to UMBC with requested revisions within 20 business days.

STEP SEVEN: UMBC REVIEW OF EXTERNAL REVISIONS

The Work Group Chair and the UMBC departmental contact will review the revisions requested by the partner institution. If the revisions are substantive, they will be circulated within UMBC for comment and review by those participating in STEP FOUR. Comments should be submitted within 10 business days. *(Note: Comments will be limited to only the revisions requested by the partner institution.)*

If the draft agreement is approved by the Articulation Work Group it is forwarded to University Counsel for approval. If the revisions are not approved, discussions will continue.

STEP EIGHT: REVIEW BY UNIVERSITY COUNSEL

All agreements that are not an addendum to a Master Articulation Agreement must be reviewed by University Counsel prior to execution. If University Counsel changes are substantive, the Work Group Chair will continue to facilitate discussions.

STEP NINE: SIGNING OF THE ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

For all agreements that are not an addendum to a Master Articulation Agreement, subsequent to counsel approval of the articulation agreement, the Chief Academic Officers, the College/School Deans, Department Chairs and Principals of both institutions will sign and execute the articulation agreement. For agreements that are an addendum to a Master Articulation Agreement, the Work Group Chair will facilitate the execution process using the appropriate addendum.

STEP TEN: ARCHIVAL PROCESS

A copy of the executed articulation agreement will be provided to the Chief Academic Officers at each institution. A copy will be provided to UMBC's Registrar and Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Orientation to be made available on the UMBC [website](#). Original documents will be held in the Office of Enrollment Management. The Work Group Chair will notify USM and MHEC of the new or updated articulation agreement.

STEP ELEVEN: PROMOTION AND MARKETING

The partner institution and UMBC will develop a strategy for promoting the newly executed agreement. UMBC's Office of Undergraduate Admissions will also have the agreement available on its website as well as during fall and spring Transfer Day events held at the partner institution.

STEP TWELVE: PERIODIC PROGRAM REVIEW

Agreements should be reviewed and updated every three years or whenever substantive changes in the program(s) occur at either UMBC or the partner institution.