ILLINOIS ARTICULATION INITIATIVE

To Facilitate Interinstitutional Transfer

IAI & iTransfer.org Updates – Spring 2018

<u>GECC Panel Updates</u>

- **Some Course Approval Criteria documents have been updated**. To view criteria for each GECC panel, visit the Panel Related Documents page of the website: <u>Panel Related Documents</u>. The updated criteria will show as being Spr 2018 documents.
- **New and Revised Descriptors –**
  - **Social and Behavioral Sciences** – 1) The descriptor for World Geography courses has been updated. In the past, these courses were approved under the Human Geography descriptor, <u>S4900N</u>, however the panel has determined these courses would be more appropriate for an actual World Geography descriptor, <u>S4906</u>. The panel will be reviewing World Geography courses approved with an S4900N descriptor in an attempt to do some clean up. However, you do not have to wait for the panel to make the recommendation to move the course. You can submit it as a new course to the new descriptor and we will end the course (with a matching end and start date) in the S4900N descriptor when the course has been approved. If you are offering or thinking of developing a World Geography course and would like IAI approval, please submit it to the panel.
  2) The panel also created a **new Interdisciplinary Social/Behavioral Science course descriptor**, <u>S9902D - The Study of Inequalities</u>. It is available for new course submissions this fall.
  - **Humanities and Fine Arts / Social and Behavioral Sciences** panels have very recently completed work in reviewing and updating wording to make their descriptions a little clearer. Please double check the IAI descriptions before submitting to these panels:
    - <u>Humanities</u>,
    - <u>Fine Arts</u>,
    - <u>Social and Behavioral Sciences</u>
  - **Mathematics** – 1) Descriptors <u>M1902</u> and <u>M1904</u> have been revised. 2) Check **Prerequisite language on the GECC Math courses** for M1901, M1902, M1904, and M1907. The panel updated the language to allow for more institutional flexibility in the fall of 2017.
  - **Life Sciences** – 1) Check the <u>L1904</u>/<u>L1904L</u> - Human Biology descriptor before submitting. The panel has made some changes that clarify the descriptor in recent years. Many courses have recently been returned because of missing topics that are now included in the current course description. 2) As a reminder, courses must include / demonstrate that there is a societal component integrated throughout the course. Ensure the exploration of societal components is clearly evident and referenced for every course submission. 3) We recommend checking **all descriptors for this panel** before submitting as they have all been updated in recent years.

- o Reminder: courses approved by the Biology major for a major sequence (BIO 910) automatically get GECC coding with the L1910L code for the GECC panel. The panel does not review these courses and the major panel review processes set review dates. Do not submit new courses under this GECC identifier.
- **Physical Sciences** – No changes to descriptors were made in the Spring '18 season.
- **ALL PANELS**: It is always a good idea to check descriptors and course approval criteria against institutional documents before submitting them.

Major Panel Updates

- **Some Course Approval Criteria documents have been updated**. To view criteria for each Major panel, visit the Panel Related Documents page of the website: [Panel Related Documents](). The updated criteria will show as being Spr 2018 documents.
- **Business panel** – The Business Statistics class is often cross-listed with the GECC Mathematics statistics course. The GECC Mathematics panel has expressed that as long as the examples for the exploration of the required topics are based on real-world/life situations it does not matter if the lens used is business based. Per the Business major panel, For business statistics ([BUS 901]()) courses the panel needs to see evidence of business applications integrated throughout the course (for example in the topical outline or assignments). Check the descriptor for a list of business applications needed in the course.
- **Early Childhood Education** – The GECC recommendations section has been revised for this major. Visit http://itransfer.org/courses/majors/ece.php to see recommendations.

Other Items

- **When resubmitting a course, use the same syllabus** whenever possible. Changing them, to a different document or instructor, opens the course up to the panels finding issues that were not present in the original syllabus (such as poor outlines, change in outcomes, texts, readings and assignments which creates a moving target for both the panel and the institution and delays approvals.)
  - o HIGHLIGHT CHANGES to syllabi in resubmission. This allows the panel to find new and added information easily when reviewing the document. It also prevents the panel from looking for issues they might have missed last time. We guard against that as much as we can but this is a huge help for you, the panels, and us.
- **As a reminder, participating institutions in IAI should be putting their courses that are IAI approved in their undergraduate catalogs with the codes for which the courses are approved**. The link below is the information regarding this policy from the most recent Policies and Procedures manual in the [IAI Polices and Documents]() section of the site. https://itransfer.org/downloads/CatalogInformationPoliciesandProceduresManual.pdf
- **IAI Audits of data,** ongoing review course responses and resubmissions, GECC package completeness, and other IAI information is ongoing. As a result, you may receive communications regarding actions and other issues found in these processes. Please be sure to work with IAI staff and inform appropriate staff at your institution if contacted about an issue discovered in the process. Be aware, a lack of assistance or response to fix issues could result in institutions losing their full participation status. This audit process will continue over the next year or more as it will be looking all aspects of data and course review, etc.
- **We are exploring** the possibility of calling courses for ongoing review one year in advance to allow institutions the opportunity to plan accordingly. This exploration includes best practices to help submitters send updated information rather than outdated syllabi that may not match up with revised IAI descriptions, etc. If you have thoughts, concerns, or other items you would like to volunteer as we move forward and consider this, please feel free to email us at

iai@itransfer.org or give me a call at 309-438-8640. We are trying hard to be thoughtful and do what is best for institutions, submitters, and the panels.

- **The preferred course submission deadline for fall 2018 is September 15. The official deadline is October 1 at 5:00 pm.** All courses received after October 1 will automatically be loaded for review during the spring 2019 session.
- **Course Approval Rates**:
  - Most panels are approving courses (including Conditional Approvals) at a greater than 60% rate. This is great for our transfer students and the participating institutions.
  - Many institutions have a greater than 60% approval ratio as well. Great work, everyone!
  - If you want specific details about course approval rates for a panel or your institution, please email Krista at iai@itransfer.org.
- **Training opportunities are available for faculty and staff working with panels and submitting to IAI.** If you want or need any training before the upcoming season, please feel free to contact Krista Jackson, the IAI Coordinator, to schedule one-on-one training to help you. She needs about an hour and half of your time for submitters working to submit syllabi to IAI and about an hour of time for panel members serving on panels. This time varies depending on questions and the individual's level of comfort with our web systems.
  - We continue to work to enhance our training sections on the iTransfer website. Thoughts and suggestions should be sent to us at iai@itransfer.org. **Panel Member Training information**: https://itransfer.org/training/panel_members/ **Course Submitter Training information:** https://itransfer.org/training/submitters/ **Transfer Coordinator and Advisor Training information:** https://itransfer.org/training/transfer_coordinators/