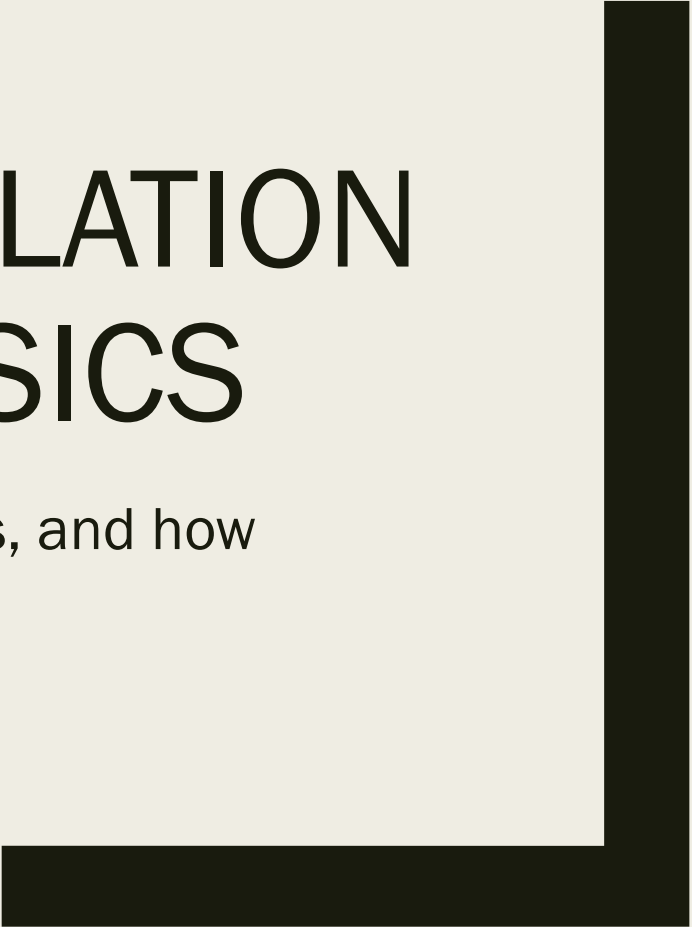# THE ILLINOIS ARTICULATION INITIATIVE (IAI) BASICS

All you need to know about IAI, how it works, and how it helps our students

The Illinois Articulation/IAI Team

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In the beginning...

People wanted to make things better for Transfer Students in Illinois

- In 1993, conversations and work began to find a means of making transfer more predictable with a level of guarantee of transfer credit.

- Cooperating organizations:
  - *Illinois Board of Higher Education*
  - *Illinois Community College Board*
  - *Transfer Coordinators for Illinois Colleges and Universities*

- The Illinois Articulation Initiative or IAI emerged and was ready for institutions in August 1998.

The Partners of the IAI program:

■ Dedicated professional staff and articulation experts

■ The Illinois Higher Education Board and the Illinois Community College Board
- *IAI Staff*

■ Faculty driven panels – Panel of faculty experts who teach in the disciplines they are representing on the panels.

■ Each participating institution: http://itransfer.org/courses/participatingschools.php
- *Fully Participating Institutions (Every Public Two-Year and Four-Year Public Institution in the state are full participants in IAI, plus a number of private institutions!)*
- *Receiving only institutions*

■ MyCreditsTransfer/Transferology – course-to-course articulations beyond IAI

The Pieces of IAI

- **General Education Core Curriculum (GECC)**
  - *6 general education discipline specific faculty driven panels*
  - *Package of transferable courses*
  - *Credit is awarded via an IAI descriptor code and students receive credit for that piece of general education curriculum, not necessarily the equivalent course at the receiving institution.*

- **The IAI Majors**
  - *Currently 18 IAI majors with 15 active faculty driven major panels*
  - *Course-to-course articulations as much as possible through the IAI code*
  - *Recommendations for the first two-years, usually up to 4 courses*

Things to keep in mind when working with IAI

- IAI is designed primarily to provide a level of guarantee in transfer credit.

- It is most helpful to students who are uncertain to which institution they are going to transfer.

  - *IAI is also for students to make an educated choice and to plan across participating institutions.*

  - *If a student knows where they want to go, it is important for that student to contact their transfer institution early and often to ensure they are taking courses that are necessary and required for their plans.*

IAI courses transfer by the approved IAI descriptor/code. Here's the process behind the credit.

- The faculty panel creates and maintains the descriptors housed within the discipline panel.

- An institution wishing IAI approval for a course should:
  - *Develop the course and get the course approved through internal curricular processes and 2-year public institutions submit to Illinois Community College Board*
  - *Once institutionally approved, submit a representative syllabus which contains all the items necessary for IAI GECC or Major panel evaluation. Panels provide criteria, housed on the site, to provide the details of the approval requirements and evaluation procedures.*
    - The panels review courses in the spring and fall semesters. The deadlines are March 1st at 5:00 pm for spring submission and October 1st at 5:00 pm for fall submission.

- The panels will review the documentation submitted to determine if it is a match to the descriptor for which it was submitted. If the course is found to be a match by the panel it becomes an active IAI course with all the transferability that IAI ensures. It **must** listed in the catalog with an IAI code so students know the course will transfer.

Let's look at some details of the
General Education Package and the IAI Majors.

IAI General Education Package Details

- Communication (3 courses)
  - *Writing Sequence*
  - *Oral Communication/Public Speaking*

- Mathematics (1 course)
  - *Math appropriate for major*

- Humanities and Fine Arts (3 courses)
  - *One course from humanities and one course from fine arts*
  - *An extra course from either*

- Physical and Life Sciences Panels (2 courses)
  - *One life sciences course*
  - *One Physical Science Course*
  - *One course must have a lab*

- Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 courses)
  - *Courses must come from at least 2 different disciplines*

- For differences in general education requirements between the AA and AS, check the comparison on the iTransfer website: http://itransfer.org/downloads/AAandASDegreecomparison.pdf

The IAI Majors

- There are currently 18 IAI majors: http://itransfer.org/courses/majors/index.php.

- 15 majors have active faculty panels staffed by faculty actively teaching in the disciplines.

- Major panels focus on courses taken in the first two years of college.

- These recommendations are courses commonly accepted at 4 year public and private institutions.

- These work best for students who do not know to which institution they are going to transfer.

- When a student knows where they are planning to go, students should work with advisement professionals at the intended transfer institution to take courses appropriate for their major.

The faculty panel process and why it's important

The faculty panels:

- Provide discipline expertise from faculty in the disciplines, teaching and working with students.

- Provide statewide discipline specific leadership in course articulation and development for IAI and transfer within the state.

- Keep the curriculum current and evolving with trends and new technologies in teaching the various disciplines.

- Are an excellent way for institutions to get faculty aware of and involved in the IAI process.

- Become important advocates for students transferring within the state of Illinois.

The Course Review and Approval Process

The panels will review the submitted documentation and either:

- *Approve the course.* It will be eligible for review again in 5 years.

- *Conditionally approve the course.* The panel co-chairs will review the items requested by the panel in the decision to ensure the necessary information has been supplied in follow-up by the institution. Using the same documentation and highlighting changes helps the panel co-chairs identify the newly supplied information. As long the requested information is supplied within the deadline given and it is present when reviewed by the co-chairs, the course is moved to approved status. If the co-chairs find the follow-up information supplied is lacking the requested details, the course will be sent back for more information to the institution. This process does not require the course to wait for the next submission period for approval. If the deadline to supply additional information is missed, it will be reviewed for the requested information by the full panel in the next review period.

The panels will review the submitted documentation and either (continued):

- *Request more information from the institution on the course.* The panel tries to provide good detail in their decisions to help institutions address the concerns of the panel. Using the same documentation and highlighting changes helps the panel know what information has been supplied to answer their concerns. Changing documents altogether will likely cause the panel to have "fresh eyes" on the course and look for all the items in review again. These decisions require the full panel to review the course information supplied in the next submission review period (spring/fall).

The panels will review the submitted documentation and either (continued):

- – *Returned/Not accept the course.* *The panel finds the course is not a match or needs significant revision to be a match to the IAI code. The institution needs to determine if it will make revisions and resubmit the course. If it is resubmitted, using the same documentation and* *highlighting changes* *helps the panel know what information has been supplied to answer their concerns. Changing documents altogether will likely cause the panel to have "fresh eyes" on the course and look for all the items in review again. These decisions require the full panel to review the course information supplied in the next submission review period (spring/fall).*

The panel and institution work together through the review process until the course is approved or the institution decides not to pursue further approval.

Exception: If an ongoing review course has been submitted to a panel more than three times without significant revision and is already IAI approved, the institution will lose their IAI code on the course. The panel will let the institution know when this arises and the course end is scheduled to occur.

What does all this do for students?

■ Completion of the IAI GECC package prior to transfer ensures general education requirements at the receiving institution have been completed.

■ Provides a level of guarantee in transfer credits for students transferring to and from a participating institution.

■ Makes the awarding of transfer credit more uniform across participating institutions.

■ Makes higher education in Illinois more attractive for students who stay within the state.

■ Makes transfer easy and less worrisome for students and their parents.

■ Provides higher levels of success and quicker times to completion.

■ Makes planning easier and helps manages expectations in transfer.

■ Allows students flexibility in their coursework when life happens.

What does all this do for institutions, their faculty and staff?

- Provides a level of guarantee of the content and quality of coursework housed within IAI for institutions participating in the program.

- Allows staff to know requirements needed for students transferring to another participating institution.

- Provides an expected outcome for student success and knowledge as students transfer from institution to institution.

- Makes the awarding of transfer credit more uniform across participating institutions.

- Provides a cohort of fellow professionals interested in student success in transfer.

Need more information on IAI and transfer in the state of Illinois? There's a website for that!

To learn more about transfer in the state of Illinois, IAI, and the resources for faculty and staff working with the Illinois Articulation Initiative and students in transfer, visit

iTransfer.org

Have questions you want to ask later?

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Thank you!
The IAI team appreciates your support of IAI, iTransfer, and Illinois Transfer Students!