



The Illinois Articulation Initiative: QUICK FACTS & NUMBERS

Brief Overview:

The Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) is celebrating 25 years since statewide implementation in 1998 and serves as the primary mechanism to facilitate the seamless transfer of students among over 100 IL public and private colleges and universities. The IAI was established in 1993 by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), and Illinois Transfer Coordinators, which is a large, robust group of dedicated professionals from 2- and 4-year public and private institutions that have been meeting biannually for decades. The passage of the IAI Act in January 2017, along with subsequent amendments, codified IAI and state transfer policies into law.

IAI Includes:

- The transferable General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) Package consisting of 37 – 41 credit hours
- Course recommendations for transferring into 18 Majors, designed to serve students that are undecided about their transfer-to institution and/or are self-advising
- A faculty-driven course-review process which serves as one of the most comprehensive processes in the nation, provides statewide quality assurance, and serves as a model for other states

Three Core Principles Guide IAI:

- 1) 2-year and 4-year institutions are equal partners in educating freshmen and sophomores in IL
- 2) Faculty members should take primary responsibility for developing and maintaining program and course articulation
- 3) Institutions must work together to assure that lower-division courses at both 2- and 4-year institutions are comparable in scope, quality, and academic rigor

Institutional Participation in IAI:

- All 60 public IL community colleges & universities, plus 15 private institutions, are full participants in IAI
 - Institutions classified as “Full Participants” must always maintain a complete GECC Package and agree to accept the complete package as meeting all lower division general education requirements at their institution from any other fully participating IAI institution.
- Over 30 private colleges and universities participate at the receiving-only level
 - Institutions classified as “Receiving-Only Participants” agree to accept a completed GECC Package from any other participating institution as meeting all lower-division general education requirements of the institution.

The iTransfer.org Website:



- Provides IAI and other transfer-related information to current and prospective students, parents, college advisors, high school guidance counselors, and the public at large
- Serves as a portal to access the IAI course submission & review system, state transfer policies, etc.



The Illinois Articulation Initiative:

QUICK FACTS & NUMBERS *CONTINUED*

IAI Panels & Courses:

- 6 General Education Panels in which faculty and other panel members review courses in the following disciplines:
 - Communications, Humanities & Fine Arts, Mathematics, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Social & Behavioral Sciences
- 15 active Major Panels in which faculty and other panel members review courses in the following disciplines:
 - Agriculture, Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Engineering, Math, Media & Communication Arts, Physics, Psychology, and Theater Arts
 - The IAI Leadership Team will establish a new Elementary & Secondary Education Major Panel in 2024
 - There are 3 inactive Major Panels (i.e., English, History, and Sociology) as their recommended
 - major courses fall under the GECC Panels' review
- There are nearly 200 GECC descriptor codes and 80 Major descriptor codes available for institutional course submission and panel review with over 8,500 GECC and Major courses currently approved for statewide transfer.

Common Course Numbering System:

The progressive vision and establishment of IAI in the early 1990s demonstrates well how the state and its postsecondary institutions worked together to ease transfer, starting with creating a common course numbering system. Today there are nearly 300 GECC and Major descriptor codes that are used to identify over 8,500 approved courses with common course content and learning outcomes. For example, the GECC Math Panel's code M1902 represents [General Education Statistics courses](#) and the Early Childhood Education Major Panel's code ECE 913 represents [The Exceptional Child courses](#). (Click on each link to see a list of all courses approved for the code or visit [iTransfer.org](https://www.transfer.org) for more information.)

IAI: A Contributing Factor in Addressing Access and Equity in IL

Many students who enroll at a community college intend to transfer and earn a bachelor's degree, therefore it is crucial that everyone work together to ensure smooth, seamless transfer of courses between 2- and 4-year institutions. IAI, institutional articulation partnerships, and statewide transfer agreements have been proven to support more equitable baccalaureate attainment. In 2018, the National Student Clearinghouse ranked Illinois #1 in the nation in bachelor's degree completion rates among community college students who transferred to four-year institutions. A [November '23 report by the U.S. Department of Education](#) states that "Illinois has similar access levels to other states, however Illinois has significantly higher success and consequently is the third highest state overall" with a state-level community college cohort BA completion rate within 8 years for Title IV students at 16.2%, compared to the national average of 13%. Furthermore, the report highlights UIUC as one of the top schools in the nation at 89% for the same category and identifies the partnership between Heartland Community College and Illinois State University as having the highest dyad bachelor's completion rate for Title IV students in the state.