

Transfer Glossary

COMPILED BY MCCCCD'S CENTER FOR CURRICULUM & TRANSFER ARTICULATION

AGEC (Arizona General Education Curriculum)

...is a 35-semester-credit general education program of study that fulfills lower-division general education requirements for students transferring to any Arizona public community college or university. The AGECS (AGEC-A, AGEC-B, & AGEC-S) transfer as a block, resulting in no loss of credit. Maricopa's partners at private and proprietary colleges and universities also recognize AGECS as blocks of credit. Currently, AGECS are components within the following Maricopa Associate's degrees:

- AGEC-A: This is 35 semester credits that are part of the Associate of Arts (AA) degree.
- AGEC-B: This is 35 semester credits that are part of the Associate of Business (ABus) degree.
- AGEC-S: This is 35 semester credits that are part of the Associate of Science (AS) degree.

→ For more **AGEC** information: <http://az.transfer.org/cas/atass/student/modagec.html>

Articulation

...is the processes and procedures that support student's transfer between educational institutions. Articulation connects several different types of organizations, and can take place between any of the following: universities/colleges, community colleges/districts, skills centers, high schools, etc. Maricopa articulation occurs with various partners, both public and private, across state and national boundaries.

→ For more **Articulation** information within Arizona's public higher education systems: <http://www.dist.maricopa.edu/academic/curric/prginfo.html>

Articulation Agreements

... are formalized documents supporting student **transfer** and **articulation** between institutions. They are designed to increase accurate information sharing and student services development, and often describe mutual understanding, guidelines for use, and responsibilities of each institution. Their effective use leads to better communication and increased collaboration between faculty and staff – processes that ultimately benefit all students.

→ PDF Overview of Maricopa's **Articulation Agreements**: <http://www.maricopa.edu/academic/ccta/artic/pdfs/Overview.pdf>

Associate's Degree

[see also: **Pathways**]

...is the degree awarded by community colleges (and sometimes 4-year institutions) after a student completes a specified number of course requirements, generally a minimum of 60 **credits**. The

Maricopa Community Colleges currently offer six (6) distinctive types of Associate's degrees, although some requirements within each may be quite similar. They are as follows:

- AA: Associate in Arts degree
- ABus: Associate in Business degree
- AS: Associate in Science degree
- AAS: Associate in Applied Science
- AGS: Associate in General Studies
- ATP: Associate in Transfer Partnership

→ **Associate's Degree** information: http://www.maricopa.edu/academic/ccta/curric/cphb/hb_academic.php

Bachelor's Degree

...is an undergraduate degree generally awarded by a four-year college or university. It is also referred to as a “baccalaureate” degree, and usually requires completion of 120 semester **credits**. There are dozens of Bachelor's degree types, with some of the more recognizable ones being Bachelor's: of Arts (B.A.), of Science (B.S.), of Fine Arts (B.F.A.), of Applied Science (B.A.S.), of Arts in Education (B.A.E.), of Science in Engineering (B.S.E.), etc. Bachelor's degrees are often made up of a Major, and can also include components of a Minor and/or a Concentration. [see also: **Major**]

CEG (Course Equivalency Guide)

... is a document that catalogs transfer coursework between two institutions – showing how a course is transferred, but not necessarily how it fulfills degree and program requirements. For example, a CEG may show that Introduction to Psychology, course “PSYCH 101” at one institution, is equivalent to course “PSY101” at another institution.

The *Administrative CEG* is an electronic feature of the Arizona Course Applicability System (AzCAS), and “indicates how Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona accept transfer coursework from the Arizona public community colleges. Applicability of the transfer credit to completion of major requirements at the universities is not indicated in the CEG.”

→ For more **CEG** information: http://az.transfer.org/cgi-bin/WebObjects/Admin_CEG

Class-Standing (Status)

...is a popular way of grouping students by the number of college credits they have earned. Academic and student services are often dependent upon the following categorizations (which may vary according to institution):

- Freshman - a student who has earned 29 or fewer credits (semester hours)
- Sophomore - a student who has earned from 30 to 59 credits (semester hours)
- Junior - a student who has earned from 60 to 89 credits (semester hours)
- Senior - a student who has earned 89 or more credits (semester hours)

For reference purposes, *Junior* and *Senior* are also referred to as “Upper-Class” standing.

Credits (Credit Hours - Semester Hours)

...are the numerical unit of college credits earned for satisfactory completion of a specific course. Institutions may also refer to these as “*Semester Hours*” or “*Units*.” **Credits** are generally categorized under either a semester system (i.e., fall, spring, summer) or a quarter-system; and transfer between these two requires simple calculations for understanding equivalence.

General Education

...is a component of undergraduate education that focuses on specific learning outcomes. The Maricopa Community Colleges identify ‘general education’ as preparing students to “demonstrate post-secondary competencies in communication (writing, speaking, listening), reading, the humanities, science, critical thinking, problem solving, computer and information literacy, and mathematics.”

Similarly, universities and colleges identify their own requirements for General Education, and may refer to them using different names. The following are the headings used by some Maricopa partners while referring to such requirements: General Studies (ASU) - University Liberal Arts Foundation (GCU) - Liberal Studies (NAU) - General Education (UA) - General Education Core (WBU).

Also refer to the **Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC)** which can meet general education degree requirements at both your community college (towards your **Associate’s degree**) and your intended transfer university (for your **Bachelor’s degree**).

→ See Maricopa **General Education**: <http://www.maricopa.edu/academic/ccta/curric/ac/agec.doc>

Lower- and Upper-Division

... refers to broad differences in course content and categorization. *Lower-division* courses are: at the 100- and 200-level, primarily designed for Freshmen and Sophomores, and usually the only type offered by community colleges. *Upper-division* courses are: at the 300- and 400-level, primarily designed for Juniors and Seniors, and usually offered only by four-year institutions (who also offer lower-division courses).

Major

...is an area of specific study within an undergraduate degree. Majors are formalized groups of courses within a program of study, and range in subject area from astronomy and business, to Russian and zoology. Similarly, a *concentration* is a formalized selection of courses within a major; and is sometimes referred to as an "emphasis" or "specialization." An example of these concepts is the following program at Arizona State University. ASU's B.S. in Political Science has three distinct options, containing two specific Concentrations in Public Policy: one in Analysis, and another in Advocacy and Lobbying. Lastly, this ASU major is also offered through a Bachelor of Arts degree - Political Science (B.A.) - giving an ASU student four separate options at the undergraduate level.

Transcripts

...are official academic documents containing students' course, grade, program, and graduation information. *Official* transcripts are usually signed, dated, and embossed by the institution's Registrar (Records & Registration office) and are sent between institutions directly - sometimes electronically.

Unofficial transcripts include all of the information of the official transcript, as well as additional information, and can be helpful to faculty and student services professionals while waiting for official transcripts to be received, evaluated, and inputted.

Transfer

...is the way in which students move between higher education institutions. Frequently, students transfer by admission into four-year colleges/universities from a community college after earning various numbers of credits for transfer, and usually after completing an **Associate's degree**. Transfer also occurs as students move from the university setting to the community college - often transferring again to a university/college for their **Bachelor's degree**.

Transfer Guides

...provide information for Arizona community college students about the courses they can take at the community college that will transfer to satisfy degree requirements for a particular baccalaureate degree at an Arizona public university.

Transfer Guides are intended for use by students who are certain which university they want to transfer to, and which major they intend to complete. Other students may also use transfer guides, but if you are not certain of the university and the major you're going to complete you should also look at information about the **AGEC** and the **Transfer Pathways**.

→ For **Transfer Guides** to ASU, NAU, UA: http://az.transfer.org/cas/students/transfer_guides.htm

Transfer Pathways

... refer to the degree options within the Arizona Transfer Model – the articulated AA, ABus, and AS degrees. Several pathways are designed for students who have decided on a major but have not decided which university (ASU, NAU, UofA) to attend. Benefits of completed pathways are that students will:

- have Junior standing upon being admitted to an Arizona university
- be certain that all credits included in the pathway will apply toward graduation in the baccalaureate majors with which the pathway articulates
- be able to compete for admission into competitive programs on the same basis as native university students

→ For more **Transfer Pathways** information: <http://az.transfer.org/cas/atass/student/modpath.html>
