

1-27-2022 TAMS - Commission Report on Curriculum, Articulation, and Transferability
Todd Quinlan, Committee Chair

On November 10th, 2021, the newly formed THECB Texas Transfer Advisory Committee (TTAC) had its latest meeting to continue the work of re-defining the language related to transfer pathways for students enrolled in current 2-year college Field of Study Degree Plans. The current model of degree plan is being revamped and this work will continue to proceed for the next 12-18 months.

-While the music discipline has not yet been placed on the committee's agenda, it is important for TAMS members to understand the nature of the work being undertaken. TTAC is forming subcommittees to come up with recommended course transfer pathways that are then presented to the larger TTAC for approval before making their way to THECB for final adoption. The sub-committee's charge is to recommend courses in three areas: Discipline selected Core Curriculum (basically, courses that the 4-year school would receive as core, in addition to other core curriculum taken at the 2-year school), Discipline Foundation Courses (up to 12 hours in the field) and Directed Elective Courses (at least 6 additional specialized hours).

Currently, two academic disciplines (Criminal Justice and Business Management) have had sub-committee work completed and recommendations for course transfer pathways have been approved by TTAC. 5 other disciplines have had sub-committees formed and the meetings of those sub-committees will be scheduled in coming months (Psychology, Social Work, Political Science/Government, Sociology, and Biology/Biology Science). Two other disciplines have been identified as being next to have sub-committees formed (Communication Studies and Kinesiology/Health Science). Decisions on priority of which disciplines to undertake is based on enrollment data. Higher rate of transfer degrees are being worked on first.

To provide an example of what was already done, Criminal Justice put forth a recommendation to have CIRJ 1301 (Intro to Criminal Justice) be a part of the received Core Curriculum, 4 specific courses with the CIRJ prefix be in the Discipline Foundation, and a list of 5 other CIRJ courses for the Directed Elective, giving the 4-year institution the ability to pick 2 of those 5.

At the meeting where this was approved for THECB consideration, a lot of discussion was had about the CIRJ 1301 course and its Core Curriculum Designation, especially since this is not a core curriculum course at each 2-year school. The sub-committee emphasized that they are not forcing 2-year schools to adopt this course as Core Curriculum. Their recommendation would only serve to direct the 4-year school on how to receive this course.

This commission of TAMS will work very diligently to determine when music will be put on this committee's radar. It does appear that the way these sub-committees function latitude is given for the unique nature of certain degree plans. As known by this body, the specialization of the music degree necessitated the formation of the Music Field of Study in 2000 and every effort will be made to ensure that this framework is not lost as these new guidelines are created.