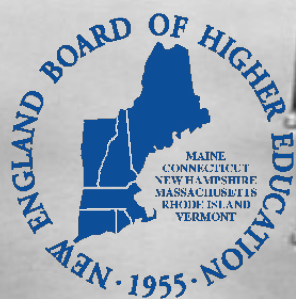


On the Move: Supporting Student Transfer

An Overview of Postsecondary Transfer Policies and Programs
Across New England

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Laura Hannenmann
Matthew Hazenbush



New England Board of
Higher Education
45 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111
(617) 357-9620
www.nebhe.org

Introduction

The path of students entering and graduating from higher education is increasingly varied; many students transfer across state lines and institution types as they work toward a degree or credential. The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center reports that one in three college students transfer sometime during their academic careers. Of the total number of students who transfer, one in four does so across state lines and one in four transfer more than once.ⁱ

Student transfer patterns highlight that even the presumed transfer pathway from a two- to four-year institution is not always the case. In fact, community colleges are one of the most prevalent destinations for transfer students. More than half (52%) of students transferring from a public four-year institution transfer to public two-year institutions. From private nonprofit four-year colleges, 41% of transfers go to two-year institutions, and from for-profits, 44% do. Among students who transfer from two-year public colleges, more than a third (38%) move laterally, to other public two-year colleges—nearly as many as transfer from public two-year to public four-year institutions.

Although data suggests that students are twice as likely to attain a degree if *all* their credits transfer, many students end up losing credits in the transfer process.ⁱⁱ Too often students find out after they have registered and started classes that the receiving institution won't accept the courses and credits taken at another institution. The loss of credit has significant implications both in terms of wasted tuition payments and time to degree. Repeating courses already taken can also have a chilling effect on degree attainment with discouraged students simply dropping out.

Transfer Policies in New England

Across New England, an increasing share of jobs will require some postsecondary education by 2020.ⁱⁱⁱ Yet, the National Student Clearinghouse findings demonstrate that student pathways to a degree or credential are not always straightforward. In New England, approximately 25% of all students who earned a bachelor's degree had previously attended a two-year institution. Ensuring that these and other transfer students can easily navigate their studies toward a credential is critically important to the region's future well-being; state, system and institutional transfer policies can play a crucial role to ensuring student success.^{iv}

In an effort to provide timely information and resources to higher education policymakers and leaders across the region, this landscape analysis details state- and system-level transfer policies, programs and online resources available to students in each of the New England states.^v Individual institutions may offer other resources in addition to articulation agreements with other institutions to support students transferring in and out of the institution.

This study unearthed a quickly changing policy environment in several states across the region. Five of six New England states are developing or have just begun implementing new transfer initiatives to support students. These and other established state- or systemwide transfer policies and resources across the region include:

Transfer Resources for Students

- Transfer-Articulation Website
- Course-Equivalency Search

Transfer Admissions Policies

- Admission of Associate Degree Holders with Junior Standing

- Dual-Admissions
- Tuition-Reduction Incentives

Course Credit Policies

- Transferable General Education Core
- Transfer Pathways
- Reverse-Transfer
- Common-Course Numbering
- Systemwide Common Transfer Policy
- Systemwide Transcript
- Inter-institutional Student Exchange Policy

More detailed information of the policies in place in each New England state follows in a state-level Appendix.

Transfer Resources for Students

Transfer resources for students are tools that enable students to research and plan their own credit transfer. Two resources available across the region to students include **Transfer-Articulation Websites** and **Course-Equivalency Search** tools (Table 1).

Transfer-Articulation Websites

These websites disseminate to students, parents and counselors information related to transferring from one institution to another. They explain policies and opportunities by consolidating common information on one site, rather than on disparate institutional sites, and allow students to access information 24 hours a day without having to make an appointment with a registrar or counselor. For students who are often juggling work, school and family responsibilities, 24-hour access to information can make a big difference.

Across the Region

Each of the six New England states has transfer-articulation websites. While each has its own unique format and branding, all effectively serve the primary purpose of communicating the necessary information students need to navigate the transfer process.

For example, the University of Maine System (UMS) [transfer website](#) is organized by a “find your path” theme with separate pages for different types of transfer students including high school students, adult students, international students, college students, online students, or veteran and military students. The site hosts a course-equivalency search tool, contact page, a next-step page and FAQ page. An explanation of the different types of credit such as general education, elective, or direct course-equivalents is also provided.

Table 1: Transfer Resources for Students

	Transfer-Articulation Website	Course-Equivalency Search
Connecticut	X	X
Maine	X	X
Massachusetts	X	X*
New Hampshire	X	X
Rhode Island	X	X
Vermont	X	

*Resources or policies currently in development.

In Massachusetts, mass.edu/MassTransfer is a source of information for both transfer policies and programs in the state, as well as information for students interested in transferring individual courses. It also includes tools like the “MassTransfer Quiz” to aid students in determining which transfer option is best for them, and a glossary of terms to help students understand the terminology used on the site.

Course-Equivalency Search

This is a self-service tool for students to discern if and how credits earned at one institution will transfer to another. Course-equivalency searches provide students with a tool without the aid of a registrar, counselor or faculty member to verify the transferability of courses they have already taken or are considering taking. The accessibility of such information helps remove ambiguity from the transfer process and enables students to make informed course choices.

Across the Region

Four of the New England states currently offer a course-equivalency search tool, with a fifth developing one. As with transfer-articulation websites, each state’s course-equivalency search is a little different. In New Hampshire, [the NH Transfer Credit Database](#) not only assists students in determining whether their community college courses will transfer to a New Hampshire four-year university, but also provides information about how credits will transfer—for example, if a course will count toward the general education requirement, a degree requirement or an elective. Students can use this database to check how individual courses will transfer, or they can see how the community college courses they have taken match the requirements of a specific bachelor’s degree program at a University System of New Hampshire (USNH) four-year institution. In Maine, [the Maine Street Portal](#) allows students to create a savable profile and obtain an unofficial evaluation of their transcript for credit transfer to a UMS institution. They can log in and review this information at any time.

Transfer Admissions Policies

Transfer admission policies provide opportunities to students at the point of transfer. These policies do not address the transferability of specific degree programs or courses. Instead, they include the **Admission of Associate Degree Holders with Junior Standing**, **Dual-Admissions** programs and **Tuition-Reduction Incentives** (Table 2).

Admission of Associate Degree Holders with Junior Standing

Also known as “2 plus 2” articulation agreements, this guarantees admission with junior standing at public four-year institutions to students who have earned an associate degree prior to transfer. These policies encourage students to pursue a bachelor’s degree and encourage associate degree completion by requiring that the degree be completed before transfer. Having associate degree credits transfer as a block rather than on a course-by-course basis can reduce

time to completion and ultimately may save students money.

Across the Region

Each of the six New England states has implemented programs offering admission with junior standing to associate degree holders. In Massachusetts, the [MassTransfer policy](#) provides community college students who complete associate degrees and enroll in participating bachelor’s degree programs with varying levels of benefits,

Table 2: Transfer Admission Policies

	Admission of Assoc. Degree Holders with Junior Standing	Dual-Admissions	Tuition-Reduction Incentives
Connecticut	X	X	
Maine	X		
Massachusetts	X		X
New Hampshire	X	X ^{†*}	X [†]
Rhode Island	X	X	X
Vermont	X		

[†] Resources and policies are administered at an institutional level.

*Resources or policies currently in development.

depending on a student's grade point average (GPA). Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont all have similar programs. Admissions policies to particular degree programs vary by state program.

Dual-Admissions

Dual-admissions programs provide students with the opportunity to be conditionally admitted to a four-year institution while still enrolled at a two-year institution. Students enroll at the four-year institution after completing an associate degree. Dual-admissions programs require associate degree completion before enrolling at a four-year institution. Participants benefit from academic advising at both institutions. Co-institutional advising can help ensure that all credits taken at the two-year college apply toward a bachelor's degree. In addition, students have access to the facilities at both institutions. Access to four-year institution facilities establishes connections that may increase students' retention and bachelor's degree completion.

Across the Region

Rhode Island and Connecticut have established dual-admissions programs. In Rhode Island, the [Joint Admissions Agreement](#) (JAA) grants Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) students admission to either the University of Rhode Island or Rhode Island College. CCRI students must apply to the program before earning 30 credits; as part of the application, students must choose a major and follow the prescribed major transition plan. In Connecticut, students who have earned fewer than 15 credits at a Connecticut community college can apply to a Connecticut State University (CSU) through the [dual-admissions program](#). Students are guaranteed admission to a CSU institution upon completion of an associate degree with a 2.0 GPA. The programs in both Rhode Island and Connecticut grant students access to advisors and libraries at both institutions. Granite State College in New Hampshire currently has a dual-admissions program in development with multiple community colleges.

Tuition-Reduction Incentive

Some states incentivize transfer from a public two-year institution to a four-year institution by offering a tuition discount or scholarship to students who meet certain GPA requirements. Tuition-reduction incentives tied to GPA requirements encourage academic achievement, act as a motivation to continuing on to a four-year institution and reduce the cost barrier to do so.

Across the Region

Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island currently offer tuition-reduction incentives to transfer students. In [Massachusetts](#), students who receive an associate degree with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher are eligible to receive a 33% tuition waiver to any public four-year institution in the state. In New Hampshire, the [New Hampshire Transfer Connections Program \(NHTCP\)](#) provides scholarships to New Hampshire community college students who transfer to a public four-year institution in the state. In Rhode Island, participants of the dual-admissions program who graduate from the state's community college with at least a 3.0 GPA are eligible for the [Joint Admissions Award for Academic Achievement](#).

Course Credit Policies

Course credit policies address the transferability criteria of specific degree programs or courses. They include **Transferable General Education Core** curriculums, **Transfer Pathways** for specific degree programs, **Reverse-Transfer** Initiatives, **Common-Course Numbering**, **Systemwide Common Transfer Policies** and **Systemwide Transcripts** (Table 3).

Transferable General Education Core

A transferable general education core policy allows a grouping of introductory-level courses to be transferred from one institution to another as a unit to fulfill the general education requirement of the receiving institution. A

Table 3: Course Credit Policies

	Transferable General Education Core	Transfer Pathways	Reverse-Transfer	Common-Course Numbering	Systemwide Common Transfer Policy	Systemwide Transcript	Inter-Institutional Student Exchange Policy
Connecticut	X	X*		X	X		
Maine	X*	X*	X*		X		
Massachusetts	X		X [†]	X*	X*		
New Hampshire		X [†]	X ^{†*}		X*	X*	
Rhode Island		X	X*				X
Vermont		X [†]				X	

[†]Resources and policies are administered at an institutional level.

*Resources or policies currently in development.

transferable general education core gives students the freedom to take courses they know will count toward their degree while still deciding what they want to major in. Students can save money by taking general education courses at a less expensive two-year institution with the assurance that the credits will fully transfer to a public four-year institution. A transferable general education core also provides students with a guaranteed transfer option that does not require completing a full associate degree.

Across the Region

Transferable general education cores are available in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Maine currently has one in development. One institution in New Hampshire, Granite State College, has a formal agreement with the state's community college system to accept the general education core in its entirety.

In Massachusetts, the [MassTransfer Block](#) is a set of 34 college-level general education credits. When a student completes these credits with a GPA of 2.0 or above, the credits can fully transfer to any Massachusetts state university or University of Massachusetts campus and satisfy the four-year institution's general education requirements. In Connecticut, the CSUs and Charter Oak State College are required to accept 30 credits of general education from any Connecticut community college if the student has completed an associate degree. All public two- and four-year institutions within the Connecticut State College and University (ConnSCU) system have the same learning outcomes designated for the required general education core. In Maine, a general education core policy is currently in development with plans to be implemented in 2014.

Transfer Pathways

Transfer pathways provide students with a predetermined schedule of courses for a particular program or major that begins at a two-year institution and ends at a four-year institution. As long as students stay in their program of study, a transfer pathway guarantees all community college courses taken will count toward the completion of a bachelor's degree and helps to facilitate a seamless transition between two-year and four-year institutions. Transfer pathways enable community college students to envision their route to a bachelor's degree early on without the ambiguity or uncertainty of the transferability of courses to fulfill requirements for their major.

Across the Region

Transfer pathways exist in the Rhode Island system, exist on an institutional level in New Hampshire and Vermont and are in development in Connecticut and Maine. In Rhode Island, students can take advantage of 65 articulated transfer pathways between the community college, Rhode Island College (RIC), and the University of Rhode Island (URI) through the dual-admissions program. In Vermont, an agreement with Castleton State College outlines transfer pathways for the state's community college students in six degree programs. The University of Vermont also offers transfer pathways in two additional degree programs. At Granite State

College in New Hampshire, bachelor's degree completion pathways exist for all (147) Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) degree programs. Transfer pathways are in development and will be available in the future in Connecticut and Maine.

Reverse-Transfer

Reverse-transfer is the process of retroactively granting associate degrees to students who have not completed the requirements of an associate degree before they transferred from a two- to four-year institution. Credits are transferred from the four-year institution back to the degree-granting two-year institution. In addition to improving graduation rates at two-year institutions, reverse-transfer may improve student retention and graduation rates at four-year institutions, but further research is necessary to demonstrate these benefits.^{vi} Additionally, students who receive an associate degree through reverse-transfer will have better job prospects while working toward their bachelor's degree. If students fall short of achieving a bachelor's degree, they at least have an associate degree to help them move forward with their careers.

Across the Region

Massachusetts is leading the way in the region in reverse-transfer. Eighteen Massachusetts public institutions are currently participating in at least one of six reverse-transfer programs. The institutional partnerships maintain different parameters for determining student eligibility and for awarding a degree. In New Hampshire, a reverse-transfer pilot program began in fall 2013 between the University of New Hampshire and Great Bay Community College. Reverse transfer programs are currently in development in Maine and Rhode Island.

Common-Course Numbering

Common-course numbering applies the same titles, identification numbers and descriptions to comparable courses with the intention of simplifying credit transfer between public two- and four-year institutions. A common-course numbering system requires transcript evaluators within a group of institutions to follow pre-approved course-equivalencies. This saves staff time by eliminating the need to evaluate transcripts within a system on a course-by-course basis. Perhaps more importantly, common-course numbering systems clarify the credit evaluation process for students and administrators by pre-designating transferable courses within a system.

Across the Region

Connecticut is the only New England state with a common-course numbering policy in place. All credit courses across the state community colleges that share 80% or more of course content must use the common-course numbering system. The four-year schools do not have a common-course numbering policy. A common-course numbering system is currently in development in Massachusetts.

Systemwide Common Transfer Policy

A systemwide common transfer policy is an agreement across institutions within a system on the process through which credit is transferred from one institution to another. The policy ensures that all credit accepted demonstrates an appropriate level of academic quality and standardizes the process through which credit is transferred for all students. The purpose of such a policy is to ease and clarify the transfer process, to provide standards for evaluation, and to increase the opportunities for graduation for students.

Across the Region

Systemwide common transfer policies are currently in place in Connecticut and Maine, and in development in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education, which governs the ConnSCU institutions, approved a systemwide transfer and articulation policy in 2012. The Maine community colleges established a common transfer policy in late 2013, which addresses the acceptance of prior learning credit and student appeals process, among other issues.

The chief academic officers of the Massachusetts community colleges have endorsed a common transfer policy, which is progressing through the approval process on each campus. In New Hampshire, the CCSNH will designate 30 courses as EasyTransfer, meaning they have been designated as equivalent by each community college that offers them beginning in summer 2014. The program is expected to expand in future semesters.

Systemwide Transcript

Under a systemwide transcript model, courses taken anywhere in a university system automatically appear on the transcript of another system institution upon transfer. A systemwide transcript system simplifies the transfer process by not requiring official transcripts from students transferring within a system and does not require the approval of transfer credits by the receiving institution. Students transferring within the system know that any four-year institution will accept the courses they take at a two-year institution in the system.

Across the Region

In Vermont, credits taken anywhere in the Vermont State Colleges (VSC) appear automatically on any VSC school transcript. Students who transfer from the Community College of Vermont (CCV) to a VSC four-year institution do not have to request transcripts—grades automatically appear on the four-year institution’s transcript and count toward a student’s baccalaureate GPA. A systemwide transcript is currently in development in New Hampshire for the CCSNH.

Inter-institutional Student Exchange Policy

An inter-institutional student exchange policy allows students to take courses at other institutions as part of their normal coursework for no additional cost. These policies allow students access to a wider range of courses with the guarantee that any credits earned will transfer. Students pay the tuition rate of the home institution.

Across the Region

In Rhode Island, the Inter-institutional Student Exchange Policy enables students enrolled at any public institution to take courses at one of the other public institutions of higher education without paying additional tuition. Full-time students may enroll for a maximum of seven credit hours of their full-time schedule per semester. Students are subject to the course-selection process at the institution offering the course. Summer session and continuing education registrants are not covered under this policy.

Conclusion

There are many different policy options for states and postsecondary systems to help students navigate the transfer process. While each New England state has policies in place, some policies and initiatives are more prevalent than others. More states, for example, have invested in transfer-related websites and individual programs than in more systematic initiatives such as common-course numbering, common transcripts or inter-institutional student exchange policies. While the proliferation of some transfer policies over others may be a reflection of state governance structures and culture, a shift does appear underway: five of six New England states are currently developing new transfer policies or programs that appear to be more systematic, requiring coordination across a public higher education system. These policies range from degree pathways and reverse-transfer initiatives to a common systemwide transfer policy. A shift toward more systematic coordination across public institutions bodes well for students and the region if it means a simplified transfer process.

Endnotes

- i. Hossler, D., Shapiro, D., Dundar, A., et al. (2012). Transfer & Mobility A National View of Pre-Degree Student Movement in Postsecondary Institutions. National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. Retrieved from: <http://nscresearchcenter.org/signaturereport2/>
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- iii. Recovery 2020: State Report. (2013). Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University. Retrieved from: <http://www9.georgetown.edu/grad/gppi/hpi/cew/pdfs/Recovery2020.SR.Web.pdf>
- iv. National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. (2012). Snapshot Report: Mobility, 2010-11 Two-Year Contributions Table. National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. Retrieved from: <http://nscresearchcenter.org/snapshotreport-mobility2/>
- v. Information on state and system transfer policies and programs was collected in the winter of 2013 and early 2014. NEBHE would like to thank SHEEO and institution staff from each of the six New England states for their assistance with compiling and verifying the information found in this report.
- vi. Study conducted on the reverse-transfer program between El Paso Community College and the University of Texas, El Paso. Cited in: Ekal, Donna & Krebs, Paula M. (2011). Reverse-Transfer Programs Reward Students and Colleges Alike. The Chronicle of Higher Education. Retrieved from: http://chronicle.com/article/Reverse-Transfer-Programs/127942/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

About the authors

Laura Hannemann and Matthew Hazenbush are policy research interns at NEBHE and master's students studying higher education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Please contact Monnica Chan, director of policy and research, with any inquiries at mchan@nebhe.org. Visit www.nebhe.org/policy-research/analysis to download this report as a PDF and to browse more NEBHE publications.

Postsecondary Transfer Policies and Programs

State Appendix

April 2014



Postsecondary Transfer in Connecticut

In 2012, Connecticut legislators passed House Bill 5030, requiring the 17 Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (ConnSCU) to implement a general education core that is transferable across the system. Subsequently, the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education, which governs the ConnSCU institutions, approved a systemwide transfer and articulation policy. House Bill 5030 does not include any requirements for the University of Connecticut. Transfer policies and programs in Connecticut are summarized in the table and described in more detail below.

Transfer-Articulation Website

- The Board of Regents for Higher Education has created a [website](#) that describes the transfer-articulation policy. Each ConnSCU institution also maintains a separate transfer admissions site.

Course-Equivalency Search

- The four Connecticut State Universities (CSUs), which are part of the ConnSCU system, maintain separate course-equivalency search tools. These tools allow students from any of the ConnSCU schools to see exactly how each course will transfer to a CSU. Currently in development is a course-equivalency search that will encompass all institutions in the system.

Admission of Associate Degree Holders with Junior Standing

- Students who complete an associate degree are guaranteed admission to a four-year institution with junior standing without course-by-course transfer. Institutions may limit access to particular majors by establishing additional performance requirements.

Dual-Admissions

- Students who have earned fewer than 15 credits at a Connecticut community college can apply to a CSU through the [dual-admissions program](#). Students are guaranteed admission to a CSU institution upon completion of an associate degree with a 2.0 GPA. In addition, students have access to advisors and libraries at both institutions.
- The University of Connecticut (UConn) [Guaranteed Admissions Program](#) (GAP) is an agreement between the state's community colleges and UConn. Signed in 2010, the agreement stipulates that community college students must apply to the program before they have earned 30 credits. If they graduate with an associate degree in a Liberal Arts transfer program with a 3.0 GPA, they are guaranteed admission to UConn's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources or School of Business (requires a 3.3 GPA). Students pursuing other majors are not eligible for the program. Students generally begin as juniors in their major, but junior standing is not guaranteed.

Transferable General Education Core

- CSUs and Charter Oak State College are required to accept 30 credits of general education from any

Transfer Policies and Programs In Connecticut and Other New England States

	Connecticut	Other New England States
Transfer Resources for Students		
Transfer-Articulation Website	X	ME, MA, NH, RI, VT
Course-Equivalency Search	X	ME, MA, NH, RI
Transfer Admission Policies		
Admission of Assoc. Degree Holders with Junior Standing	X	ME, MA, NH, RI, VT
Dual-Admissions	X	NH, RI
Tuition-Reduction Incentives		MA, NH, RI
Course-Credit Policies		
Transferable General Education Core	X	ME, MA, NH
Transfer Pathways	X*	ME, NH, RI, VT
Reverse-Transfer		ME, MA, NH, RI
Common-Course Numbering	X	MA
Systemwide Common Transfer Policy	X	ME, MA, NH
Systemwide Transcript		NH, VT
Inter-Institutional Student Exchange Policy		RI

*Resources or policies currently in development.

Connecticut community college if the student has completed an associate degree.

- All ConnSCU institutions have the same [learning outcomes](#) designated for the required general education core. These learning outcomes have been established by the Board of Regents and will be regularly assessed by institutions.

Transfer Pathways

- All ConnSCU institutions are creating common transfer pathways for transfer from community colleges to state universities. These common pathways will be articulated by major.

Common-Course Numbering

- All credit courses across the state's community colleges that share 80% or more common-course content must use the common-course numbering system.

Systemwide Transfer Policy

- In 2012, the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education, which governs the ConnSCU institutions, approved a [systemwide transfer and articulation policy](#) that applies to all 17 ConnSCU institutions.

Postsecondary Transfer in Maine

Maine's 2014-15 biennial budget required the University of Maine System (UMS) and Maine Community College System (MCCS) to develop transfer agreements across both systems. Following the bill's passage in mid-2013, MCCS developed a systemwide common transfer policy that was signed by all seven community college presidents later that year. Also in 2013, the UMS Board of Trustees approved a systemwide credit transfer project to be implemented by 2014 across seven UMS institutions.

Transfer policies and programs in Maine are summarized in the table and described in more detail below.

Transfer Policies and Programs In Maine and Other New England States

	Maine	Other New England States
Transfer Resources for Students		
Transfer-Articulation Website	X	CT, MA, NH, RI, VT
Course-Equivalency Search	X	CT, MA, NH, RI
Transfer Admission Policies		
Admission of Assoc. Degree Holders with Junior Standing	X	CT, MA, NH, RI, VT
Dual-Admissions		CT, NH, RI
Tuition-Reduction Incentives		MA, NH, RI
Course-Credit Policies		
Transferable General Education Core	X*	CT, MA, NH
Transfer Pathways	X*	CT, NH, RI, VT
Reverse-Transfer	X*	MA, NH, RI
Common-Course Numbering		CT, MA
Systemwide Common Transfer Policy	X	CT, MA, NH
Systemwide Transcript		NH, VT
Inter-Institutional Student Exchange Policy		RI

*Resources or policies currently in development.

Transfer-Articulation Website

- Launched in 2013, the [UMS transfer system](#) website is organized by a "find your path" theme. There is a separate page for different types of transfer students including high school students, adult students, international students, college students, online students, or veteran and military students.
- The site hosts the UMS course-equivalency search tool.
- Other components include a contact page, a next-step page, FAQ page, and an explanation of the different types of credit such as general education, elective or direct course equivalents.

Course-Equivalency Search

- Known as the [Maine Street Portal](#), the UMS course-equivalency search tool allows students to create an account and save information to a user profile.
- Students can obtain an unofficial evaluation of

their transcript for credit transfer to a UMS institution. They can log in and review this information at any time.

- Course-equivalency information is available from all public colleges and universities in Maine, as well as from other institutions throughout the nation.

Admission of Associate Degree Holders with Junior Standing

- In 2005, UMS and MCCS created the [AdvantageU](#) program. Upon earning a Liberal Studies associate degree at any MCCS institution, students are guaranteed junior standing to a UMS school. Students pursuing other majors are not eligible for the program. Students are not guaranteed admission into a program of their choice and credit transfer varies by major.

Transferable General Education Core

- As dictated by the 2014 budget, a transferable general education core between MCCS and UMS are currently in development.

Transfer Pathways

- As dictated by the 2014 budget, transfer pathways between MCCS and UMS are currently in development.

Reverse-Transfer

- The 2014-15 biennial budget established that a person who earns credit from a UMS institution must be allowed to transfer those credits to an MCCS institution for application toward an associate degree.

Systemwide Common Transfer Policy

- The Maine community colleges established a common transfer policy in late 2013 that addresses the acceptance of prior learning credit and student resolution process, among other issues. The UMS Board of Trustees approved a 2013 systemwide common transfer policy that is currently in development.

Postsecondary Transfer in Massachusetts

The MassTransfer policy was enacted by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education in 2008 to address problems faced by students transferring from a public two-year institution to a public four-year institution. MassTransfer and other transfer policies and programs are summarized in the table and described in more detail below.

Transfer Policies and Programs In Massachusetts and Other New England States

	Massachusetts	Other New England States
Transfer Resources for Students		
Transfer-Articulation Website	X	CT, ME, NH, RI, VT
Course-Equivalency Search	X*	CT, ME, NH, RI
Transfer Admission Policies		
Admission of Assoc. Degree Holders with Junior Standing	X	CT, ME, NH, RI, VT
Dual-Admissions		CT, NH, RI
Tuition-Reduction Incentives	X	NH, RI
Course-Credit Policies		
Transferable General Education Core	X	CT, ME, NH
Transfer Pathways		CT, ME, NH, RI, VT
Reverse-Transfer	X [†]	ME, NH, RI
Common-Course Numbering	X*	CT
Systemwide Common Transfer Policy	X*	CT, ME, NH
Systemwide Transcript		NH, VT
Inter-Institutional Student Exchange Policy		RI

[†]Resources and policies are administered at an institutional level.

*Resources or policies currently in development.

Transfer-Articulation Website

- Mass.edu/MassTransfer is a source of information for community college students in the state interested in transferring to a four-year institution in Massachusetts.
- The site includes information on the MassTransfer policy and MassTransfer Block, as well as information for students interested in transferring individual courses.
- The “MassTransfer Quiz” and glossary of terms are also available to help students determine which transfer option is best for them and understand the terminology used on the site.

Course-Equivalency Search

- An online course-equivalency search tool is being developed in conjunction with the Massachusetts Articulated System of Transfer (MAST), an effort by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education to develop common-course numbering to map elective and core course equivalencies.

Admission of Associate Degree Holders with Junior Standing

- The MassTransfer policy provides community college

students who complete associate degrees and enroll in participating bachelor’s degree programs with varying levels of benefits, depending on a student’s GPA, such as application fee waivers to a public four-year institution, guaranteed admission, and partial tuition discounts.

Tuition-Reduction Incentive

- Students who receive an associate degree in Massachusetts with an overall 3.0 GPA or higher are eligible to receive a 33% tuition waiver to any public four-year institution in the state, provided the student matriculates within one year of receiving the associate degree and maintains a 3.0 GPA or higher for the first two semesters.
- The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education reports the average annual discount for qualifying students is \$319 at a Massachusetts state university and \$539 at the University of Massachusetts.

Transferable General Education Core

- The [MassTransfer Block](#) refers to a set of general education requirements consisting of 34 college-level credits. When a student completes these credits with a 2.0 GPA or higher, the credits can fully transfer to any Massachusetts state university or University of Massachusetts campus and satisfy the four-year institution’s general education requirements, with the receiving institution being able to add no more than six additional credits to fulfill the general education requirement.

Reverse-Transfer

- Eighteen Massachusetts public institutions are currently participating in at least one of six reverse-transfer pilot programs.
- The institutional partnerships maintain different policies for determining student eligibility and for awarding a degree.

Common-Course Numbering

- Currently in development, MAST will facilitate the transfer of credits by establishing a common course numbering system to map elective and core course equivalencies.

Systemwide Common Transfer Policy

- The chief academic officers of the Massachusetts community colleges have endorsed a common transfer policy, which is progressing through the approval process on each campus.

Postsecondary Transfer in New Hampshire

In 2008, with the launch of NHTransfer.org, the institutions of public higher education in New Hampshire ramped up voluntary collaboration to create seamless two- to four-year degree pathways for New Hampshire students. The NHTransfer.org site is designed to provide community college students, parents, and transfer advisors with online access to information about transferring to a four-year institution. The website provides details about the public institutions' NH Transfer Connections Program and provides access to the NH Transfer Credit Database, a course-equivalency and transcript-evaluation resource. Transfer policies and programs in New Hampshire are summarized in the table and described in more detail below.

Transfer Policies and Programs In New Hampshire and Other New England States

	New Hampshire	Other New England States
Transfer Resources for Students		
Transfer-Articulation Website	X	CT, ME, MA, RI, VT
Course-Equivalency Search	X	CT, ME, MA, RI
Transfer Admission Policies		
Admission of Assoc. Degree Holders with Junior Standing	X	CT, ME, MA, RI, VT
Dual-Admissions	X [†] *	CT, RI
Tuition-Reduction Incentives	X [†]	MA, RI
Course-Credit Policies		
Transferable General Education Core	X [†]	CT, ME, MA
Transfer Pathways	X [†]	CT, ME, RI, VT
Reverse-Transfer	X [†] *	ME, MA, RI
Common-Course Numbering		CT, MA
Systemwide Common Transfer Policy	X*	CT, ME, MA
Systemwide Transcript	X*	VT
Inter-Institutional Student Exchange Policy		RI

[†]Resources and policies are administered at an institutional level.

*Resources or policies currently in development.

Transfer-Articulation Website

- NHTransfer.org was established to provide online access to information about transferring from the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) to one of the public four-year institutions in the University System of New Hampshire (USNH). To maximize student and families' ability to make informed education decisions, the website was expanded to share information about a number of private four-year institutions in the state.

Course-Equivalency Search

- The [NH Transfer Credit Database](#) is a tool that assists students in determining which community college course credits will transfer to a participating four-year institution and whether the credits satisfy a general education requirement, a degree requirement, or an elective. Students and transfer advisors can use the database to retrospectively evaluate a transcript or to proactively develop an academic program plan mapped for eventual transfer to a four-year institution, saving time and tuition toward degree completion.

Admission of Associate Degree Holders with Junior Standing

- The New Hampshire Transfer Connections Program (NHTCP) simplifies the transfer process for community college students transferring to a public four-year institution.
- CCSNH associate degree holders who meet institutional admissions criteria are admitted with junior standing at all USNH institutions. Credits applicable to degree program and general education requirements vary by institution. Institutions maintain the right to restrict admission to specific programs.
- Transferring through NHTCP waives the requirement to complete a four-year institution application and waives the related

application fee.

- With some institution-specific conditions, NHTCP admittance guarantees the transfer student on-campus housing at the four-year residential institutions.

Dual-Admissions

- A dual-admissions program is currently in development at Granite State College (GSC) with several community colleges, including Manchester Community College, Great Bay Community College and Nashua Community College.

Tuition-Reduction Incentive

- [NHTCP Scholarship Programs](#) provide merit scholarships to CCSNH transfer students enrolled as full-time bachelor's degree seekers. The programs are independently administered by each USNH institutions, and dollar amount, eligibility criteria, guidelines for renewal and the number awarded each year may vary by institution.
- Recipients must be enrolled on a full-time basis and earn a 3.0 GPA or above by the end of their first year of baccalaureate study and retain that minimum GPA for each succeeding semester.

Transferable General Education Core

- The general education requirements of the CCSNH are fully transferable to GSC by a formal agreement.

Transfer Pathways

- Transfer pathways in New Hampshire are administered at an institutional level between public two- and four-year institutions in the state.
- At GSC, bachelor's degree completion pathways for all (147) CCSNH degree programs are mapped to over 30 degree programs. Transfer of a CCSNH associate degree automatically fulfills GSC general education requirements, with the exception of one bridge course. These degree completion pathways are supported by physical co-location of the college at three community college sites.
- The other three public four-year institutions have 130 program-specific articulation and 2+2 agreements at the individual community college or system level. General education and major-specific equivalencies are assessed on a course-by-course basis and available through the online Transfer Credit Database.

Reverse-Transfer

- A reverse-transfer pilot program began in fall 2013 between the University of New Hampshire and Great Bay Community College.

Systemwide Common Transfer Policy

- A systemwide common transfer policy is currently in development for the CCSNH. Beginning summer 2014, 30 courses systemwide have been identified as EasyTransfer, meaning the courses have been designated as equivalent by each community colleges that offers them. More courses are expected to be designated as EasyTransfer in future semesters.

Systemwide Transcript

- A systemwide transcript is currently in development for the CCSNH.

Postsecondary Transfer in Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Board of Education governs the three public institutions of Rhode Island: the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), Rhode Island College (RIC) and the University of Rhode Island (URI). The standing transfer and articulation policy was last updated in 1998. However, several transfer-articulation agreements have been implemented outside this policy. The details of all standing transfer agreements and policies affecting Rhode Island public institutions are detailed below.

Transfer-Articulation Website

- The [Rhode Island Transfers](#) website is a central location for all policies and programs related to transfer students within the state's public two- and four-year institutions. Information about the Joint Admissions Agreement (JAA) program and general education courses is provided.
- Program transfer plans are available on the site. Listed by major, these documents show students how the courses in specific associate degree programs at CCRI transfer to RIC or URI as either the equivalent course, the general education requirement, or free elective credit; these courses may or may not apply toward specific bachelor's degree requirements.
- A course-equivalency tool is on the site (see details below).

Course-Equivalency Search

- There is a systemwide course-equivalency search tool on the transfers website. Students can search for course equivalencies for transfer to all three public institutions in the state. Course equivalencies from hundreds of institutions throughout the nation are available. In addition to showing course equivalencies, students can see which courses transfer as general electives or as meeting general education requirements.

Admission of Associate Degree Holders with Junior Standing

- The [Joint Admissions program](#) (JAA) is both an admission of associate degree holders with junior standing program and a dual-admissions program. Given the additional features of the dual-admissions program, we have detailed the program below.

Dual-Admissions

- CCRI students who are first-time college students and have earned fewer than 30 credits can enroll in the [JAA program](#) and be conditionally accepted to either RIC or URI
- Students who enroll in the JAA program have access to advisors both at CCRI and the public four-year institution.
- Students in JAA who complete their associate degree in General Studies and follow a major pathway will transfer 60 credits to the public four-year institution that are applicable to the bachelor's degree.
- Students must graduate from CCRI with at least a 2.4 GPA to continue in the program.
- Students who graduate with a 3.0 GPA or higher are eligible for a tuition-reduction at URI or RIC (see details below).

Tuition-Reduction Incentive

- Participants of the JAA program who graduate from CCRI with at least a 3.0 GPA are eligible for the [Joint Admissions Award for Academic Achievement](#) (JAA Tuition discount). The amount of the tuition-reduction for the first year at RIC or URI depends on the student's CCRI GPA upon graduation. Students who maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA after transferring can renew the tuition discount for a second or third year.

Transfer Policies and Programs In Rhode Island and Other New England States

	Rhode Island	Other New England States
Transfer Resources for Students		
Transfer-Articulation Website	X	CT, ME, MA, NH, VT
Course-Equivalency Search	X	CT, ME, MA, NH
Transfer Admission Policies		
Admission of Assoc. Degree Holders with Junior Standing	X	CT, ME, MA, NH, VT
Dual-Admissions	X	CT, NH
Tuition-Reduction Incentives	X	MA, NH
Course-Credit Policies		
Transferable General Education Core		CT, ME, MA, NH
Transfer Pathways	X	CT, ME, NH, VT
Reverse-Transfer	X*	ME, MA, NH
Common-Course Numbering		CT, MA
Systemwide Common Transfer Policy		CT, ME, MA, NH
Systemwide Transcript		NH, VT
Inter-Institutional Student Exchange Policy	X	

*Resources or policies currently in development.

Transfer Pathways

- Through the JAA program (see above), there are 26 articulated pathways from CCRI to RIC and 39 articulated majors from CCRI to URI. The pathway documents, also referred to as program transfer plans, can be found on the transfer website.

Reverse-Transfer

- In January 2013, the Rhode Island Senate passed S 1046, which resolved that the Rhode Island Board of Education should implement a reverse-transfer policy. A report on the effect of the reverse-transfer program is due in July 2015.

Inter-Institutional Student Exchange Policy

- The [Inter-institutional Student Exchange Policy](#) enables CCRI, RIC and URI students to take courses at one of the other public institutions in the state. Full-time students matriculated at URI, RIC or CCRI may enroll for a maximum of seven credit hours of their full-time schedule per semester at one of the other public institutions for no additional tuition costs. Students are subject to the course-selection process applicable at the receiving institution. Summer session and continuing-education registrants are not covered under this policy.

Postsecondary Transfer in Vermont

Vermont’s public higher education system comprises the Vermont State Colleges (VSC) and the University of Vermont (UVM). There is no state-level legislation or policy that governs transfer among VSC institutions or between VSC institutions and UVM. The Community College of Vermont (CCV), the two-year institution within the VSC system, has articulation agreements with the other four-year institutions in the system as well as other baccalaureate-degree granting institutions, including the University of Vermont and with private colleges in specialized fields

Transfer policies and programs in Vermont are summarized in the table and described in more detail below.

Transfer-Articulation Website

- While Vermont has no transfer website, [a page on the CCV website](#) is dedicated to transfer information.
- The CCV website provides information regarding transfer within the VSC system and articulation agreements with other public and private four-year institutions.

Admission of Associate Degree Holders with Junior Standing

- CCV has articulation agreements within the VSC system that enables CCV graduates to receive junior status at VSC four-year institutions.
- General education requirements fulfilled at CCV will count toward similar requirements at any VSC institution.
- Additionally, CCV has established individual articulation agreements and transfer pathways with other four-year institutions in the region.

Transfer Pathways

- An agreement with Castleton State College outlines transfer pathways for CCV students in six degree programs: accounting, management, marketing, communication/digital media, criminal justice and social work.
- The University of Vermont also offers transfer pathways in early childhood education and human services for students with a 2.5 GPA or higher from CCV.

Transfer Policies and Programs In Vermont and Other New England States

	Vermont	Other New England States
Transfer Resources for Students		
Transfer-Articulation Website	X	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI
Course-Equivalency Search		CT, ME, MA, NH, RI
Transfer Admission Policies		
Admission of Assoc. Degree Holders with Junior Standing	X	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI
Dual-Admissions		CT, NH, RI
Tuition-Reduction Incentives		MA, NH, RI
Course-Credit Policies		
Transferable General Education Core		CT, ME, MA, NH
Transfer Pathways	X [†]	CT, ME, NH, RI
Reverse-Transfer		ME, MA, NH, RI
Common-Course Numbering		CT, MA
Systemwide Common Transfer Policy		CT, ME, MA, NH
Systemwide Transcript	X	NH
Inter-Institutional Student Exchange Policy		RI

[†] Resources and policies are administered at an institutional level.

Systemwide Transcript

- Credits taken anywhere in the VSC system appear automatically on any VSC school transcript.
- Students who transfer from CCV to a VSC four-year institution do not have to request transcripts—grades automatically appear on the four-year institution’s transcript and count toward a student’s baccalaureate GPA.