

LDTP Update

The Lower-Division Transfer Patterns Project



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OVERVIEW

The Lower-Division Transfer Patterns (LDTP) by Major project is one of several ways that California Community College (CCC) students may prepare for study at the California State University (CSU). For CCC students who know the major they wish to pursue and the CSU campus they wish to attend, traditional major preparation articulation and transfer admission agreements are valuable. However, for prospective transfer students who are uncertain about which CSU campus they will attend, LDTP provides a measure of flexibility and options for preparation. Additionally, LDTP may provide articulation for students whose community college does not have existing CSU articulation.

Just as CSU GE-Breadth is a statewide alternative to each CSU campus' unique General Education program, the LDTP is a statewide alternative to each CSU campus' lower-division major preparation. Students who complete any portion of the statewide component of an LDTP benefit because CSU campuses offering the discipline will honor the preparation for the major and the progress towards the CSU degree.

Each LDTP major discipline has a statewide and campus-specific component. The statewide component of the LDTP is appropriate for any CSU campus offering the major and is comprised of general education coursework and courses within the discipline. The campus-specific component identifies discipline related coursework relevant to the major at the specific CSU campus. These components for an LDTP discipline will total at least 60 units, the number needed to transfer to CSU as an upper-division student.

Please visit <http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/ldtp/> to access more information, links to all discipline patterns, previous newsletters, and LDTP descriptors.

FACULTY REVIEW TEAMS

Over 110 CSU faculty members from all 23 CSU campuses have participated in the review of community college course outlines of record submitted for articulation with LDTP descriptors.

These faculty reviewers are recruited for discipline specific review teams. Discipline review teams consist of two to ten CSU faculty and each reviewer assesses anywhere from ten to 100 course outlines in a given LDTP Review Cycle.

Each team is organized and managed by a Review Team Coordinator who is a senior faculty member in the discipline. The team coordinator establishes the review processes and procedures for each team. Currently there are 35 CSU faculty members serving as Review Team Coordinators.

Two CSU faculty members from the discipline team review each proposed CCC outline. If these two CSU faculty members agree in their reviews, the outline is either approved or denied for LDTP articulation based upon these reviews. If there is difference in the recommendation of the two reviewers, then the CCC outline is submitted to a third reviewer to resolve the split decision.

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FACULTY CORNER

*By Dr. Gary Grudnitski, Professor of Accounting,
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After extensive internal review and discussion, the SDSU School of Accountancy has chosen to adopt the LDTP course review process for articulation determinations related to two lower-division accounting courses offered to students attending SDSU. This decision was based on two compelling factors.

First, the course content and objectives outlined in the LDTP course descriptors for Financial and Managerial Accounting directly align with the comparable SDSU curriculum in these subjects. The LDTP descriptor standards provide us the ability to ensure a higher minimum level of content clarity and consistency for these courses. Completion of consistent prerequisite course material is vital for all business students and accounting majors to ensure success at the upper division at SDSU.

Second, the regular campus-to-campus articulation process lacks a system to ensure timely course content changes required to keep material and students current. As a result, our campus-to-campus articulated courses frequently contain outdated material and are out of synchronization with our upper division courses. The LDTP initiative will provide a mechanism for periodic course content review and updates. This helps assure that all lower-division students, regardless of where courses are taken, are aware of important changes on topics such as modern cost management techniques and the harmonization of global financial accounting reporting standards.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The LDTP Advisory Committee consists of CSU and California Community College faculty and staff who advise the CSU Chancellor's Office with regard to the implementation of LDTP.

If you have comments or suggestions related to LDTP, please contact one of your representatives on this committee. For full committee details, please go to <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Committees/LDTP/>.

DESCRIPTOR UPDATE

For the April 2008 LDTP Cycle, two new LDTP descriptors, Elementary Japanese and Mathematic Concepts for Elementary School Teachers, were posted in ASSIST for articulation submissions. This brings the total number of LDTP descriptors available for articulation up to 73.

Economics: On May 6th, CCC and CSU faculty members will meet to discuss the *Principles of Macroeconomics* and *Principles of Microeconomics* descriptors. These economics descriptors have been removed from ASSIST until a determination regarding the Intermediate Algebra prerequisite course has been reached.

Biological/Physical Anthropology Lab: The CSU Anthropology faculty members have recently clarified that it was not their intent to make the laboratory requirement listed on the *Biological/Physiological Anthropology* LDTP descriptor mandatory. The descriptor has now been revised to reflect that the lab is "recommended," not required.

Computer Science Descriptors: The CSU Computer Science faculty members have clarified an issue regarding the *Fundamental Computer Science Concepts Sequence* prerequisite of pre-calculus. Since this descriptor is a sequence of courses, the faculty intended that pre-calculus be completed prior to student's completion of the sequence. The descriptor has now been modified to have pre-calculus as a "recommended preparation" for this descriptor.

New LDTP Descriptors: The following descriptors are now available on ASSIST OSCAR to submit course outlines for LDTP articulation:

- Child & Adolescent Development
- Child, Family, and Society
- Circuits without Lab
- Introduction to Programming Concepts

Once CSU faculty members have approved a new descriptor these will be made available on the LDTP website. If the descriptor is posted on ASSIST OSCAR, it will be available at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadAff/ldtp/ldtp-CrsDescription.shtml>. If the descriptor has been approved, but is not currently available for submissions, it will be

available at

http://www.calstate.edu/AcadAff/ldtp/LDTP_CD_Pending.shtml.

2007-2008 SUBMISSION REVIEW CYCLES

Review Cycle Update: Technical issues have resulted in a delay in the November 2007 LDTP Review Cycle. These technical issues have been resolved and the reviews for both the November 2007 and February 2008 review cycles are now underway. The first review results for these should be available by mid to late May.

November 2007 Cycle: In the fourth LDTP review cycle, 58 LDTP descriptors were available for submission. Over 350 CCC course outlines were submitted for articulation review. Faculty review of these submissions began on April 1.

February 2008 Cycle: In the fifth LDTP review cycle, 73 LDTP descriptors were available for submission. Over 390 CCC course outlines were submitted for articulation review. Faculty review of these submissions began on April 1.

2008-2009 LDTP Submission Dates: For the 2008-2009 Academic Year, the number of review cycles will be reduced from three to two.

October 2008.....October 15, 2008
March 2009.....March 15, 2009

Though these are the final submission dates for each cycle, please note that you can post your course proposals at anytime. Course outlines submitted after a submission date will be queued for review in the subsequent review cycle.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

ASSIST and CSUMentor staff are working hard to complete a basic LDTP planning guide in CSUMentor.edu. We anticipate that this will be available for transfer students to use during late summer 2008. At that time, ASSIST will also provide the capability to display LDTP patterns and LDTP articulation of CCC courses applicable to the given pattern.

CSU campuses will then begin to offer LDTP agreements for transfer students via CSUMentor.edu for terms of entrance beginning with the Fall 2009.

For Fall 2009, CSU campuses will evaluate admitted transfer students' coursework for completion of the LDTP pattern when the transfer applicant indicates on the admission application that he or she has pursued the LDTP curriculum.

We will share more information as soon as these systems and processes are fully developed.

DID YOU KNOW...

LDTP was featured in an article on *Inside Higher Education*. You can read this article at <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/03/21/cctransfer>.