

MEMORANDUM

December 15, 2008

TO: Academic Affairs Council
Steve Rosenberg, Chair

FROM: Shane Deadrick
Transfer Coordinator

RE: Associate of Arts Transfer Proposal

Currently, the University of Wisconsin-Superior has articulation agreements with a number of MNSCU community colleges under which UW-Superior recognizes the MNSCU Associate of Arts Degree as meeting our lower-division general education degree requirements, subject to completion of certain specified courses deemed equivalent to the UW-Superior General Education Core Requirements. By contrast, UW-Superior recognizes the Associate of Arts Degree from any UW campus as meeting *all* lower-division general education degree requirements.

In order to facilitate the process of transfer from MNSCU community college campuses, I propose that the transfer policy currently in place with regard to AA degrees from UW campuses be extended to the MNSCU community colleges. Under this proposal, the Associate of Arts Degree from all MNSCU community colleges will be recognized as meeting all of our lower-division general education degree requirements.

Transferring students must still meet any programmatic or certification requirements required by departments. This policy does not cover the Associate of Science or Associate of Applied Science Degrees, nor any campus other than the MNSCU community colleges.

Rationale for proposal:

1. Given regional demographic trends, and their impact of UW-Superior enrollment, it is vital that we ease the process of transfer wherever academically appropriate.
2. Given our long history of cooperation with MNSCU and the large numbers on MNSCU students that we get, it is appropriate to extend the existing policy regarding UW AA degrees to MNSCU AA degrees.
3. The requirement that MNSCU students complete certain specifically designated courses adds unnecessary complexity to the transfer process and acts as a deterrent to transfer student recruitment from MNSCU.
4. Transfer students come in at the junior level relieving pressure on our general education classes and providing us with a population of students that can sustain the majors we offer.
5. With a blanket policy, there is no need to worry about more prescriptive articulation agreements becoming out of date.

6. It's easier to implement and less labor intensive.

7. It's easier for advisors to understand. (We have had several instances where advisors thought that because a student had an associate degree, it met our general education requirements.)