

MSU COVER LETTER FOR THE ASSOCIATES OF ART IN TEACHING ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

July 16, 2007

Dr. Robert Stein, Commissioner
Department of Higher Education
3515 Amazonas
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Dear Robert:

Missouri State University is pleased to sign the statewide articulation agreement for the Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT). We have reviewed the document thoroughly as well as our own program requirements in each field of Education; based on our understanding of its terms (detailed below), we are able to support both the principles and conditions of transfer.

The AAT agreement specifies how the community college and university will work together to ensure that students can accomplish a seamless transfer. The primary vehicle for this articulation is a program plan. Program plans will need to be developed unique to each community college, and level and area of teacher preparation at Missouri State University, spelling out which electives students must take in order to meet prerequisites and baccalaureate degree requirements. At Missouri State University, the process of course review will include an assessment of course content, competencies and credit hours. We recognize that courses may be "counted" differently at the community college and university as long as transfer students are not required to take more courses than native students once they are admitted. Courses that are required as part of the AAT at the community college may transfer in as "required" or "elective" courses at Missouri State University, or a combination of both. Under this agreement, courses identified in the AAT as "electives" may be "required" in the Missouri State University program plan for students wishing to transfer into a particular area of study.

The program plan will also describe required preparation for C-BASE. AAT graduates who do not meet the entrance requirements of the Missouri State University baccalaureate Education program will not be admitted. AAT graduates who do not follow the requirements of the specific program plan in terms of coursework or required preparation for C-BASE will not be able to accomplish seamless transfer and may have to take additional coursework to complete their degree at Missouri State University.

We look forward to working with our community college partners, and will begin opening discussions on the development of articulation agreements early in the Fall semester. Our assessment of our own education programs, in conjunction with the review of the AAT, has

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resulted in the identification of a number of ways in which we can strengthen our program for native and transfer students. We hope that by working together, we can both improve the quality of programs at all of our institutions and increase the total number of students who ultimately complete baccalaureate degrees in Education.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Nietzel

President

mmd

c: Evelyn E. Jorgenson, Ph.D.

Stephen Lehmkuhle, Ph.D.