

WHAT are transfer pathways?

A transfer pathway is a curriculum plan for a student who plans to pursue a bachelor's degree after completing an associate degree.* Transfer pathways, which are being developed for 30 majors and programs in MnSCU institutions, provide a consistent curricular path from any two-year college offering an associate degree to a state university offering a degree in the same major. (*Associate of Arts, Associate of Science and the Associate of Fine Arts).

Each transfer pathway will describe all of the lower-division major content and competency requirements needed to prepare students to enroll in the major at the university. The pathway will identify any necessary pre-requisite courses, as well as the general education courses needed for the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC). The lower-division curriculum also will include any experiential learning activities that are required for the university major or program (e.g., service learning, internships, undergraduate research).

Students who have completed a transfer pathway associate degree will transfer into the university at a junior level. They will be eligible for admission to the major in the same way and on the same basis as direct-entry university students.

<http://www.asa.mnscu.edu/transfer/pathways>

Project Launch Meetings

- Fall 2015
- Develop framework /guidelines for the TPTs to work

Phase 1

- Spring 2016
- Develop the four initial transfer pathways
- Identify the additional 20-25 pathways to be developed

Phase 2

- Fall 2016
- Develop the next initial 10-12 transfer pathways
- Implement campus curriculum change processes to adopt the four new pilot pathways

Phase 3

- Spring 2017
- Develop the next 11-13 transfer pathways
- Phase 1 and 2 pathways' campus curriculum changes in process

Phase 4

- Fall 2017
- Implement ongoing processes to maintain and expand the pathways
- Full implementation of the Phase 1 pilot transfer pathways
- Phase 2 and 3 Campus curriculum changes in process

Phase 5

- Spring 2018
- Full implementation of the Phase 2 pilot transfer pathways
- Phase 3 Campus curriculum changes in process

Phase 6

- Fall 2018
- Implement ongoing processes to maintain and expand the pathways
- Full implementation of the Phase 3 pilot transfer pathways



WHO develops the transfer pathways?

Transfer Pathways Teams (TPTs) for each of about 30 disciplines are being organized in 2016. Each team will include faculty from MnSCU colleges and universities, administrators involved in program development, staff with responsibilities for transfer, and students. Each team is composed of 20 people plus a non-voting liaison from the transfer pathways coordinating team. Twelve of the 20 team members are faculty, and each team is co-chaired by college and university faculty members.

WHO coordinates the work of the Transfer Pathways Teams?

A group known as the Transfer Pathways Coordinating Team (TPCT) was organized in the fall of 2015 to develop the tools and guidelines for each of the Transfer Pathways Teams to follow. They are also a representative group composed of faculty, staff, students, and administrators who will help the TPTs do their work, resolve problems that may arise and evaluate the process for improvements. The TPCT will also be responsible for developing advising tools, and keeping the pathways current.

WHEN will this happen?

The first four discipline groups (in biology, business, psychology, and theatre) are beginning their work in spring of 2016. Their pathway drafts will go out to all faculty, staff, and students for feedback in March 2016 and each final pathway will be approved by May 2016. Once approved, the pathways will move to local college and university curriculum processes for final implementation of the transfer pathways by fall 2017. The first four groups are piloting the processes and will provide input to the TPCT for changes needed for future transfer pathway teams.

An additional 12-15 discipline groups (TPTs) will be assembled to complete their work in fall 2016. Their drafts will be ready for feedback in October 2016 and the final pathways will be approved in December 2016. They will be forwarded to the campus curriculum processes for implementation by fall 2018.

Spring 2017 will see an additional 12-15 discipline groups (TPTs) formed, with the same timeline as the first four disciplines. Their draft pathways will be completed by March for feedback and the final pathways will be approved in May 2017. They will also be forwarded to the campuses curriculum processes for implementation by fall 2018.

Additional pathways may be formed after the first 30 are completed.

A regular review cycle will be established to review, maintain, and revise the pathways.

WHAT does this mean for me?

All faculty, students, and staff will have opportunities to provide input and feedback as the pathways are developed. There will be options to provide feedback in person, via email, via the transfer pathways website and questionnaires.

About 25 Transfer Pathways degree subjects will be identified in spring 2016, in the most popular bachelor degree major subjects at the state universities. If you teach in a Transfer Pathways program, or in general education courses that support one, you will be invited to provide constructive feedback to the TPTs by taking part in a Discipline Stakeholder Meeting. These meetings will occur after a first draft pathway is developed, approximately mid-semester (for each of three respective semester-long pathways development cycles).

Finally, all affected or interested faculty, staff, and students will be asked to actively contribute to the curriculum and advising planning processes on your campus, and in the implementation of each pathway. Your actual role will depend upon your job on your campus.

HOW can I provide feedback?

There will be multiple ways to provide feedback:

- Statewide Discipline Stakeholders Meetings (DSM) will be held at mid-semester during pathways development (the first will be in March 2016).
- Respond to surveys requesting input to the draft pathways.
- If you are faculty, provide comment in the discipline listservs as the pathways are being developed.

WHY are we doing this?

First, because it's the law.

Minnesota's 2014 Legislature Session Laws HF 3172, Chapter 312, Sec. 12 required the Board of Trustees to "develop a plan to implement multi campus articulation agreements that lead to baccalaureate degree completion upon earning the number of credits required for the degree minus 60 credits at a system university after transfer to the system university by a student with an associate in arts degree, associate of science degree or an associate of fine arts (AFA) degree from a system college."

2015 Legislation (Chapter 69, SF No. 5, Article 3 Higher Education Policy, Sec. 21. Baccalaureate Degree Pathways) requires the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to follow the plan developed in 2015 and report on our progress by March 15, 2016.

The second, and most important, purpose of the transfer pathways is to simplify the transfer process for students. Data show that two-year-college students who complete an associate degree are significantly more likely to succeed after transfer and to attain a bachelor's degree than those who transfer with only some credits.