
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2019 Wisconsin Act 46 [2019 Assembly Bill 189]

Credit Transfer and Program-to- Program Articulation Agreements

PRIOR LAW

Under prior law, the University of Wisconsin (UW) System Board of Regents (BOR) and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board were required to enter into and implement an agreement that identified at least 30 credits of core general education courses that were transferable between and within each institution participating in the agreement. This agreement has commonly been called the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement (UCTA). Tribal colleges and private nonprofit colleges could elect to participate in the agreement.

2019 WISCONSIN ACT 46

The act requires that the BOR and WTCS Board enter into two agreements regarding the transfer of credits between and within institutions of the two systems.

First, the act modifies the existing statutory language that establishes the UCTA by increasing the number of credits that must be identified as transferable. Specifically, the act requires that the BOR and the WTCS Board enter into an agreement that identifies an array of not less than 72 credits of core general education courses that, beginning in 2022-23, are transferable between and within each institution participating in the agreement. As under prior law, tribal colleges and private nonprofit colleges may elect to participate in the agreement.

Second, the act defines “program-to-program articulation agreements” and creates a requirement that the BOR and WTCS Board enter into an agreement regarding such articulation agreements. Tribal colleges and private nonprofit colleges may elect to participate in the agreement. Under the act, a “program-to-program articulation agreement” is an agreement that articulates how the completion of requirements for a specified program of study at an educational institution transfers toward completion of requirements for a specified program of study at another educational institution.

Specifically, the act requires that the BOR and WTCS Board enter into an agreement to promote and support program-to-program articulation agreements that will apply to programs of study specified in the agreements between UW System, WTCS, and, if they elect to participate, tribal colleges and private nonprofit colleges. The agreement must identify and prioritize articulation agreements in high demand fields of study or in fields of study that are included under articulation agreements that were already in place at the time the act took effect.

Finally, the act requires that the BOR and WTCS Board jointly submit a report to the Joint Committee on Finance and to appropriate standing committees of the Legislature on their progress in complying with the program-to-program articulation agreement requirements of the act. The report must be submitted by April 1, 2021.

Effective date: November 23, 2019

RES:mca;jal