




March 12, 2008

TO: Deans' Council
Department Chairs
Unit Heads
Muriel Frierson, Registrar
Karen Sieftring, AFT President
Brittany Meyer, SGA President
Eric Milou, University Senate President

FROM: Ali A. Houshmand, Provost 

SUBJECT: Senate Resolution 080303-2: Resolution Clarifying the Status of Required General Education Courses under the Comprehensive Statewide Transfer Agreement

The following resolution has been passed by the University Senate, approved by me and will become effective immediately. As is always the case with an academic policy, this is an important change that must be widely disseminated within the university.

Consequently, please ensure that all faculty and staff within the units in your respective area of supervision are fully briefed on this policy.

A detailed narrative of this resolution is attached for your convenience.

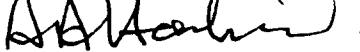
/jds

c: D. Farish



X	Action Item
	For Information Only

From: Dr. Eric Milou, Rowan University Senate President

To: Dr. Ali Houshmand, Provost 

Date: 3/3/08

RE: Senate Resolution **080303-2**

**Resolution Clarifying the Status of Required General Education Courses
under the Comprehensive Statewide Transfer Agreement**

BACKGROUND: New Jersey has signed the Comprehensive Statewide Transfer Agreement into law effective September of 2008. The Transfer Agreement stipulates that a transfer student with an Associate’s Degree from a New Jersey Community College is considered to have satisfied “all lower-division general education requirements” towards a Bachelor’s Degree at a New Jersey state university.

This presents a source of potential confusion for programs that require SPECIFIC General Education courses.

For example, the catalog description of the requirements for the B.S. in Physics currently reads in part:

General Education

A. Communications

- College Composition I
- College Composition II
- Public Speaking

B. Science and Math

- Intro to Scientific Programming or Computer Science and Programming
- Calculus I
- Chemistry I
- Chemistry II

A person familiar with the Transfer Agreement might infer that because the requirements of Calculus I, Chemistry I, Chemistry II etc. are listed as “General Education,” they would be waived for a transfer student holding an Associate’s Degree.

The position of the Provost’s Task Force on the Statewide Transfer Agreement is that because a transfer student with an Associate’s Degree is by law considered to have fulfilled “all lower-division general education requirements,” he/she is considered to have met the University-wide requirements of 7 credits of Math/Sci/C.S., 6 credits of History/Humanities/Language, 6 credits

of composition, etc. However, such a student should NOT be exempted from taking specific courses that are required for degree. In the above example, a transfer student with an Associate's Degree is considered to have met the University-wide requirement of 7 credits of Math/Sci/C.S., but must still meet the requirements of the B.S. in Physics by taking Calculus I, Chemistry I, Chemistry II and one of the listed programming courses, unless equivalent courses were taken at the Community College.

It is also noted that the Transfer Agreement specifically states "It is the responsibility of the senior institutions **to make sure that their specific graduation requirements are clearly announced** in catalogs and other relevant materials."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that all Degree programs are encouraged to revise their catalog descriptions as follows:

- ALL required courses, including major requirements and general education courses specifically required for graduation, are listed under a single heading, "Required courses."
- NO reference is made to "General Education Requirements" except a statement to the effect that "In addition to fulfilling the program requirements, all students are required to fulfill the university-wide General Education Requirements and Rowan Experience Requirements."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

The revisions described above are NOT considered Curriculum Changes and do not need to pass through the Senate Curriculum Process.

Acceptance:

I give my approval. I have forwarded this item to SEE DISTRIBUTION LIST for implementation. ATTACHED

No approval is actually needed. I have forwarded this item to the following individual or office for informational purposes only:

ADDITIONAL REVIEW NEEDED:

I am willing to give approval if the following modification(s) are made:

Before I can approve or reject this item, I need clarification on the following:

I have forwarded this item to the following individual or office for further consideration and consultation.

Rejection:

I decline acceptance of this item for the following reason:

Please Return this Copy to the University Senate President ~ Retain a Copy for Your Records