

# IMPROVING 2+2 ARTICULATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

March 2017

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM *of* FLORIDA  
Board of Governors





## Introduction

Florida has been a national leader in statewide 2+2 articulation for many decades. In the late 1960s, the Statewide Course Numbering System (SCNS) was developed to facilitate the transfer of credit for equivalent courses among the state's colleges and universities. The SCNS is currently used at all public and selected nonpublic institutions of higher education in Florida. In 1971, the Florida Statewide Articulation Agreement was established to facilitate the seamless articulation of student credit across and among Florida's educational entities. The statewide 2+2 agreement remains the most comprehensive articulation agreement in the nation.

In January 2016, the incoming chair of the Board of Governors noted that "Florida's vaunted 2+2 articulation system is a national model of which we can be proud – but it is not a system that is built and then runs on auto-pilot." Chairman Tom Kuntz established the Select Committee on 2+2 Articulation and charged it with assessing how the 2+2 program is currently working across the System and identifying appropriate strategies for enhancing the program. The Committee spent the next year meeting with experts from the State University System (SUS), the Florida College System (FCS), and the Department of Education to review the current status of the system, identify critical areas for improvement, and select strategies for enhancing the state's 2+2 articulation agreement.

In November 2016, the Committee reviewed issues associated with four major components of 2+2 articulation: the academic transition, the admissions process, the cultural transition, and information on AA graduates. The Committee also discussed potential solutions and noted that in many instances, a single solution may address more than one issue.

In January 2017, the Committee held a workshop with invited experts (see Appendix A) to help identify a set of appropriate strategies to address the most critical issues. All of the strategies selected by the Committee during the workshop have been incorporated into three overarching strategies, described below. A corresponding implementation plan and a tentative timeline follows the description of each strategy.

Each strategy builds on the strong relationships between the SUS, the FCS, and the Department of Education. All of these partners will be involved in the implementation of the three improvement strategies.



## Strategies for Improving 2+2 Articulation

*Strategy 1: Develop a comprehensive and easily accessible web-based 2+2 advising toolkit. The website should contain information for secondary and postsecondary students, secondary and postsecondary advisors, and other key users.*

Action Step	Key Partners	Estimated Timeline
1. Identify members of workgroup with representatives from state universities, FCS, & DOE Office of Articulation	BOG staff	Summer 2017
2. Workgroup to identify major components & requirements of website, including required elements, cost to update & maintain the website, & identification of the responsibilities of institutions & state entities to keep the website current	Workgroup	Fall 2017-Winter 2018
3. Workgroup submit website requirements to improve & maintain the website to BOG staff	Workgroup	Spring 2018

As the workgroup develops components and requirements for a more comprehensive and user-friendly website, the 2+2 Committee expects the following components will be considered for inclusion in the final recommendation.

- Available baccalaureate degree programs
- Available 2+2 enhancement programs
- Recommended program pathways and course sequences for dual enrollment students
- General education core information
- Common prerequisites for degree programs
- Common course prerequisites and sequences
- Program admission requirements
- Information about the transferability of courses
- Reference and training resources for advisors and other key staff
- Transfer regulations and policies



- Description of the procedures and responsibilities of each entity – institutions, the Florida College System, the State University System, and the Articulation Coordinating Committee – regarding revision and maintenance of the website so that it is current and accurate at all times

*Strategy 2: Encourage the state universities to improve and expand existing local 2+2 enhancement programs and identify key components of effective programs in the four critical areas identified by the Committee (academic transition, admissions process, cultural transition, and information on AA graduates). Require the state universities to conduct regular reviews of enhancement programs and provide regular reports of those reviews to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.*

<b>Action Step</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>	<b>Estimated Timeline</b>
1. Identify members of workgroup with representatives from state universities, FCS, & DOE Office of Articulation	BOG staff	Spring 2017
2. Workgroup identify key components & best practices	Workgroup	Summer/Fall 2017
3. Workgroup submit key components & criteria to Board staff	Workgroup	Winter 2018
4. BOG staff disseminate key components to SUS institutions	BOG staff, SUS institutions	Spring 2018
5. SUS Institutions submit initial report to BOG staff	SUS Institutions	Fall 2018
6. BOG staff review, compile & present initial reports to Board	BOG staff, SUS Institutions	Winter/Spring 2019
7. SUS Institutions submit subsequent reports to BOG staff every 4 years	SUS Institutions	Fall 2022
8. BOG staff review, compile & present subsequent reports to Board every 4 years	BOG staff, SUS Institutions	Winter/Spring 2023



*Strategy 3: Develop and implement a 2+2 data and information toolkit looking at both the institutional and System levels. The toolkit should include already existing data and analyses and new data and analyses as needed.*

<b>Action Step</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>	<b>Estimated Timeline</b>
1. Identify members of workgroup with representatives from state universities, FCS, & DOE Office of Articulation	BOG staff	Spring 2017
2. Convene workgroup to develop requirements for a 2+2 data & information toolkit. The toolkit should identify essential descriptive data & critical research questions. Recommendations regarding data sources & methodologies may also be identified.	Workgroup	Summer 2017
3. Workgroup submit recommended toolkit requirements to Board staff.	Workgroup	Fall 2017
4. Board staff implement toolkit.	BOG staff	Winter 2018, ongoing

As the data team develops their recommendations for the data toolkit, the 2+2 Committee expects that they will consider including the following research questions.

- Why are one-third of AA graduates not applying to the SUS?
- Where do AA graduates go who are admitted to the SUS but do not enroll?
- Where do AA graduates go who do not transfer to the SUS?
- Do AA graduates transfer to the SUS without loss of credit?
- What are the SUS outcomes for the AA transfers by program of study?
- Why do 90% of transfer students apply to only one University?
- Are there sufficient 2+2 enhancement programs serving students in rural areas?



## Conclusion

As previously noted, each strategy builds on the strong relationships between the SUS, the FCS, and the Department of Education. All of these partners will be involved in the implementation of the strategies as described above. In accordance with the Committee's work plan, as approved in June 2016, staff from the Board of Governor's office will keep the 2+2 Committee informed throughout the remainder of 2017. Updates will include accomplishments, necessary changes to the implementation plans and timelines, and challenges.



## APPENDIX A

### INVITED EXPERTS ATTENDING THE JANUARY 25, 2017 WORKSHOP

Dr. Karen Borglum, Assistant Vice President, Curriculum and Assessment, Valencia College and member of the Articulation Coordination Committee

Dr. Jennifer Buchanan, Associate Vice President for Faculty Development and Advancement, Florida State University and member of the Articulation Coordination Committee

Mr. Todd Clark, Director of Articulation, Florida Department of Education

Dr. William Hudson, Jr., Vice President for Student Affairs, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and member of the Articulation Coordination Committee

Dr. Ian Neuhard, President, South Campus, Florida State College-Jacksonville Campus

Dr. Madeline Pumariega, Chancellor, Florida College System