



## **MITRANSFER PATHWAYS PROJECT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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### ***What is the MiTransfer Pathways project?***

This is a state funded project to develop statewide multi-institutional articulation agreements in selected disciplines. As seen in other states, faculty and administrative experts will develop an agreement that will meet requirements for associate and bachelor's degrees at participating community colleges and universities. Ideally, these MiTransfer Pathways will mean that students who follow the agreement will earn an associate degree, apply all credits toward the bachelor's degree, and be ready to begin upper division (or junior level) courses at a participating university.

### ***Which academic programs are included in Phase I?***

Phase I includes four programs: Biological Sciences/Biology, Business Administration/ Management, Criminal Justice, and Psychology

### ***How were these pathways selected?***

Michigan's Transfer Steering Committee reviewed data on bachelor's degree completion, Michigan's Hot Jobs, and other data to identify the first four pathways. In 2014-15, graduates in these four programs represented 15% of all baccalaureate degree earners in Michigan. The four programs also represent a variety of traditional liberal arts, STEM-focused, and career-oriented programs.

### ***Will this process be expanded to include more disciplines/majors?***

Yes. The Phase I Pathways will serve as a pilot, informing the process to be used in years two and three of this grant project. It is expected that the Transfer Steering Committee will choose additional pathways to develop multi-institutional transfer pathways.

### ***When and how will we complete this work?***

Participating faculty and transfer liaisons from the four programs will meet on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at Lansing Community College- West to begin the work which will continue through the summer and fall 2018. Once the faculty identify pathways, the project staff will work with institutional contacts to document program requirements, review the agreement, and confirm institutional participation.

### ***What is the role of participating faculty?***

Faculty will collectively determine a set of common courses that will fulfill requirements for both associate and bachelor's degrees at participating institutions. Designated faculty will receive materials to orient them to the project.

### ***What is the role of the transfer liaison?***

Participating institutions can designate a transfer specialist to work with faculty in smoothing out issues related to transfer student services and business processing.



***How do institutions get involved?***

Chief Academic Officers will designate one faculty member per program and one transfer liaison per institution.

***Are all public institutions required to participate?***

No. All institutions are encouraged to participate but the Transfer Steering Committee respects the governing autonomy of Michigan institutions and realizes there could be other reasons an institution is unable to participate. In addition, institutions may participate in all or some of the agreements.

***Can we still participate in the agreements if our faculty cannot attend the Michigan Transfer Pathways Summit in May 2018?***

Yes. Each college and university has the option to designate one faculty member to participate in the development of each of the four pathways selected for Phase I of this work (biology, business, criminal justice, psychology). If your institution does not have a faculty member participating in the pathway development, you will still have the option to review and join the agreement. Additional information about this process will be available in the coming weeks.

***What if I attend and our institution doesn't want to participate in the final agreement?***

This is a new paradigm in Michigan and we recognize that institutions may want to participate in the process but not join the final agreement.

***Does this mean we cannot have local articulation agreements?***

No. Colleges and universities should still maintain high-quality articulation agreement in other majors. These multi-institutional agreements were selected because they serve a significant number of students, are widely available at colleges and universities, and existing articulation agreements are common across institutions. Not all programs are as large or widely available. Local partnerships will continue to be a priority especially 3+1 programs and in smaller majors in which a multi-institutional agreement does not make sense.

***Does this change the MTA?***

No. In fact, we hope a by-product of this work is that the MTA is strengthened as faculty groups look to integrate the courses selected for the MiTransfer Pathways into the MTA distributions, particularly more specific and seamlessly transferable mathematics courses in each discipline pathway.

***How will project staff communicate with stakeholders about this project?***

The [MiTransfer newsletter](#) includes up-to-date project information. Subscribe to the newsletter [here](#). The project website ([www.mitransfer.net](http://www.mitransfer.net)) features additional information, frequently asked questions, orientation materials, and contact information.