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Policy Recommendation: Require the SUNY and CUNY Boards to take steps to strengthen course and program articulation and transfer by 2011-12.

(Excerpts follow):

“The governing boards of SUNY and CUNY should take the following steps to improve articulation and transfer:

- Presidents of the colleges must be held accountable for establishing mechanisms under which faculty, within each discipline and across sectors, strengthen course-to-course and program-to-program articulation with a goal of full system-wide articulation of comparable courses and seamless transfer of AA and AS students into parallel programs by 2011-12. As an initial milestone, the Commission recommends that campuses focus on the major transfer pathways, so that by the start of the 2010-11 academic year, articulation agreements are in place that specify how every comparable lower-division course can be transferred for credit, as prerequisite for more advanced courses in parallel programs and counted toward baccalaureate degree requirements at receiving institutions within the system. This includes agreement about required courses at the lower division, acceptable minimum standards for all lower-division courses, and levels of student performance, for each baccalaureate degree program. The number of equivalent courses should be maximized by aligning course content and standards. If, after examination, a course is deemed not acceptable for transfer, the community college must clearly identify it as such to students, faculty and staff (i.e., publish the information to support advisement and course selection).”

and

“The Commission also recognizes the efforts underway at CUNY, including the improvement of the electronic Transfer Information and Program Planning System (TIPPS), as well as CUNY’s plan to create an internal taskforce charged with streamlining and simplifying the credit-transfer process and articulating a ‘Student Bill of Rights.’”