Facilitating Baccalaureate Program Enrollment for Two-Year College Students: A Case Study

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Advantages of four-year degree:
• higher graduate salary
• access to additional careers (i.e. high school agriculture teacher)
• additional technical and professional expertise

Disincentives for continuing after AS degree:
• additional education cost
• lost earnings due to delayed employment
• fewer technicians entering the workforce

Goal:
Increase percentage of 2 yr college graduates transferring to baccalaureate programs to 25%
Partnering Institutions:

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
• College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
• 26,000 student land-grant university
• flagship of the University of Nebraska system

Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
• two-year, open admissions institution, AAS, AS, certificates
• statewide mission, 270 students
• nationally recognized for graduate success (employment, salary)
• sole two-year college in the University of Nebraska system
• Independently accredited, separate appropriation
• “assisted by” UNL
Strategies Employed:

1. Implementation of a detailed articulation agreement including multiple degree plans for baccalaureate completion in four years

- Agricultural Education
- Agriculture Business/ Ag Economics
- Agronomy Integrated Crop Management
- Agronomy Business Option
- Animal Science
- Animal Science - Business and Communication
- Horticulture Entrepreneurship
- Mechanized Systems
- Veterinary Technology
Strategies Employed:

2. “Link to Lincoln” agreement facilitating
   - joint advising
   - coordinated financial aid & scholarships
   - visiting student status prior to transfer (“intercampus exchange agreement”)
   - a multi-semester series of “transfer track” activities:
     - **Semester 1**: advised into AS transfer degrees by 2-yr advisors
     - **Semester 2**: 4-yr transfer advisors travel to 2-yr college to meet students, discuss transfer deficiencies
     - **Semester 3**: transfer students travel to 4-yr college, meet faculty, coaches, advisors, and tour facilities
     - **Semester 4**: 4-yr transfer advisors travel to 2-yr college to meet students, discuss transfer deficiencies
Strategies Employed:

3. UNL faculty status for selected NCTA faculty. NCTA faculty teach courses for UNL credit on the NCTA campus.
   - Pilot: Fall 2017 – Introduction to Secondary Agriscience Education
Strategies Employed:

4. Modify NCTA general education courses to include the same course name and student learning outcomes as the analogous UNL course.

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCTA Course Prefix &amp; Title</th>
<th>UNL Course Prefix &amp; Title</th>
<th>Academic Council Approved 2018 NCTA Course Prefix &amp; Title Changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHM 1014: Intro to Chemistry I</td>
<td>CHEM 105: Chemistry in Context I</td>
<td>CHM 1014: Chemistry in Context I</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 1903: College Composition</td>
<td>ENGL 150: Writing &amp; Inquiry</td>
<td>ENG 1903: Writing &amp; Inquiry</td>
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<td>ENG 2203: Adv. College Comp.</td>
<td>ENGL 151: Writing &amp; Argument</td>
<td>ENG 2203: Writing &amp; Argument</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 2223: Intr. to Creative Writing</td>
<td>ENGL 170: Begin. Creative Writing</td>
<td>ENG 2223: Begin. Creative Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPC 1113: Speech</td>
<td>COMM 209: Public Speaking</td>
<td>SPC 1113: Public Speaking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategies Employed:

5. Implement a reverse transfer agreement.

6. Modify selected NCTA AS degree plans to facilitate easy transfer.
Strategies Employed:

7. Fall 2018: Offer NCTA AS degree to selected UNL non-completers.

HLC Assumed Practices B.1.b.

“The institution maintains structures or practices that ensure the coherence and quality of the programs for which it awards a degree.

…15 of the 60 credits for the associate’s degree be credits earned at the institution itself, (or) through arrangements with other accredited institutions…”
Six options:
- Agribusiness management
- Agricultural education
- Agronomy
- Animal science
- Horticulture
- Mechanized Systems Management

Credits required from identified courses in 3 areas:
- **Associate of Science Gen Ed Core (26 credit hours required)**
  - Written communication; critical thinking (3 hours required)
  - Oral communication (3 hours required)
  - Quantitative literacy (5 hours required)
  - Problem solving (8 hours required)
  - Intercultural knowledge & competence (3 hours required)
  - Information literacy (3 hours required)
  - Civic engagement (1 hour required)
- **Advisor guided disciplinary electives (11 or 12 credit hours required)**
- **Specialization core courses (24 to 26 credit hours required)**
Results

Transfer Headcount, 2012-2018
Disciplinary Totals 2012-2018

- Ag Ed: 21%
- Animal Science: 22%
- Agronomy: 22%
- Ag Business: 13%
- BSAS: 13%
- Vet Tech: 9%
Conclusion:

Partnership initiatives between two and four-year institutions may significantly increase transfer to baccalaureate programs.