Memorandum

To: **Provost and Chief Academic Officers**

From: **Paula Compton, Associate Vice Chancellor, Articulation and Transfer**

Date: **September 30, 2020**

Subject: **Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) and General Education (GE) Revisions**

Overview/Background:

The Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) was created 30 years ago to address issues of transfer and articulation among Ohio's 36 two- and four-year public institutions, particularly with respect to the General Education curriculum. The major objective of the OTM is to provide students the assurance that the courses they take can be used towards their degree at the receiving transfer destination.

Statewide discussions have occurred over the past two years to rethink the OTM and assess whether it meets the current needs of Ohio public institutions and students. As a result, OTM revisions have been proposed that focus around flexibility with certainty to allow students to choose different paths through the OTM based on their own unique situation, while at the same time assuring students that credits will transfer to their destination institution.

Within the next month, several items will be sent out statewide to assist with capturing your institutional response on proposed OTM revisions. Areas requiring institutional feedback or statewide informative updates include:

1. **Possible Revisions to the OTM**

2. **Renaming/Rebranding the Current OTM**

3. **Inclusion of Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Learning Outcomes within the OTM**

4. **English Composition and Oral Communication Learning Outcome Updates**

5. **Ohio Transfer Promise Statement**

Action Items to Complete/Review:

Up to this point, the proposed OTM revisions and potential name change have been reviewed by the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network (OATN) Oversight Board and General Education Steering Committee with consensus to move forward with statewide endorsement.

We are now asking Ohio public institutions of higher education to provide feedback on the proposed OTM revisions and name change only at this time. To set a framework around proposed revisions and to assist with completing the survey several resources have been included below as reference.

1. **Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) Revisions Overview**

   o This document provides a framework outlining the background of this important work. Please view the OTM overview document here. *Anticipated review time: 10 minutes.*

2. **OTM Semester Hours Conceptual Model**

   o This conceptual model provides goals surrounding the proposed revision, as well as illustrates the recommended semester hour breakout. Please view the OTM semester hours conceptual model here. *Anticipated review time: 5 minutes.*

3. **OTM Semester Hours Breakout Conceptual Model**

   o This conceptual model provide recommended breakout elective courses for three distinct student paths: decided (AA/AS), undecided (AA), and undecided (AS). Please view the OTM semester hours breakout model here. *Anticipated review time: 5 minutes.*

4. **Ohio Guarantee Transfer Pathways (OGTP) and OTM Revisions**

   o This document provides an overview on how the OGTP works hand in hand with the proposed OTM revisions. Please view the OGTP and OTM revisions document here. *Anticipated review time: 5 minutes.*

5. **OTM Model Revisions and OTM Name Change Endorsement Survey**

- o This survey will capture your institutional feedback on potential OTM revisions and name change. The recommended renaming provides similarity to the current OTM with the addition of General Education for clarity. Please complete the survey here at your earliest convenience but no later than **November 9, 2020**. *Anticipated completion time: 15-30 minutes.*

Important Note: Institutions should submit one survey response via the link provided above. The attached PDF file is for reference only. Do not use the PDF version to respond to the survey.

We thank you for your institutional participation and valuable feedback. Should you have any questions please contact Paula Compton, Associate Vice Chancellor/ Executive Director at pcompton@highered.ohio.gov or Jessi Spencer Director of OATN Policy, Budget, and Constituent Relations, at jspencer@highered.ohio.gov.

Attachments (1)

OTM REVISION OVERVIEW
(9.30.2020)

Overview/Background: The Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) was created 30 years ago to address issues of transfer and articulation among Ohio's 36 two- and four-year public institutions, particularly with respect to the General Education curriculum. The major objective of the OTM is to provide students the assurance that the courses they take can be used towards their degree at the transfer destination. The OTM is comprised of five different subject areas: 1) English Composition and Oral Communication, 2) Mathematics, Statistics and Logic, 3) Arts and Humanities, 4) Social and Behavioral Sciences, and 5) Natural Sciences. Each of these areas has a corresponding faculty panel that oversees approval of new courses, and that more recently has also been working on identifying learning outcomes for courses in their area. The 5 panels meet together, formally, twice each academic year.

Recently there has been growing interest, within the OTM panels and beyond, in the need to rethink the OTM and assess whether it meets the current needs of Ohio college/university students and faculty, because:

- There has been no major revision in thirty years;
- There is a new generation of faculty whose ideas about the purpose and structure of a general education curriculum need to be identified and addressed, and related to that;
- Several four-year institutions have recently revised their general education curriculum or are in the process of doing so, in a way that does not directly align with the current OTM.

Process: In autumn 2019 the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) General Education Steering committee, comprised primarily of academic administrators and faculty representing both the four year and two year sectors, created a small working group charged with revising the OTM. This group, led by Associate Vice Chancellor/Executive Director, ODHE, Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network (OATN) **Paula Compton**, included **Carl Brun** (Associate Vice Provost, Wright State University), **Allysen Todd** (Dean of Arts and Sciences, Columbus State Community College), **Andrew Martin** (Associate Vice Provost, Ohio State University), **Michael Snider** (Chief Academic Officer, Ohio Association of Community Colleges), and **Candice Grant** (Senior Director of Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways, OATN), **Jared Shank** (Senior Director of Military and Apprenticeship Initiatives and Special Projects, OATN), **Jessi Spencer** (Director of OATN Policy, Budget, and Constituent Relations, OATN), and **Cathy Chudzinski** (ODHE/OATN consultant), met twice in Autumn 2019, and developed a proposal for a new OTM model. In spring 2020 the group presented the model to the five faculty who lead the OTM panels. Based on that input, the working group revised the model and returned to the OTM panel lead group and received endorsement and got a similar outcome In April 2020 from the full membership of the OTM panels. In May 2020 the model was discussed by and received endorsement from the Chief Academic Officers of the public two-year institutions. In June 2020 the model was presented to the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network Oversight board, which supported moving forward. Finally, in July 2020 the model was discussed, with general support provided, by representatives from the Provosts' offices of the four-year institutions.

Objective:

The revised OTM should meet the following goals.

- Be characterized by "flexibility with certainty". This is to allow the student to choose different paths through the OTM based on their own unique situation, at the same time assuring the student that those credits will transfer to their destination institution.
- Acknowledge/address the importance of providing guidance to students based on their academic aspirations and career goals - develop an OTM better tailored to the goals of each individual student. This helps ensure that when a student transfers from a two-year to a four-year institution they will be on the same path as their peers who began at that institution, ensuring timely progress to degree.
- Ensure that while the revised OTM has clear recommendations for students based on their major or area of interest, it is <u>not</u> prescriptive; students still are able to develop their own plan of study.

Description of the Proposed Model:

The proposed OTM can be divided into two main components:

- the foundational 24 hours distributed among the established five categories; and
- an additional 12 "elective" hours.

The 24 hours remain intact. The additional 12 hours could be used to achieve the goals outlined above and two groups of students are identified.

For students who have already declared a specific major -given the substantial work that has been done around the Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways (OGTP) to help students complete major and pre-major courses – they should use these additional 12 hours to begin work in the OGTP of their major.

For students who are undecided, two routes are proposed. For those pursuing an Associate of Science (A) degree, populate the 12 additional hours with STEM OTM- approved courses that might have broad applicability across different Bachelor of Science majors. For those pursuing an Associate of Arts degree, and recognizing that there is considerably more diversity with respect to Bachelor of Arts degree programs, students considering a social science major may draw from OTM courses in the social sciences, a student considering a humanities major may draw from OTM courses in the humanities, with a similar approach for students in the performing arts. OTM panels have already begun to identify courses to recommend to students in these different pathways. While the AS pathway is more straightforward, the workgroup believes that specific pathways for AA students can be identified as well.

Additionally, for students unsure of what pathway to take, the committee recommended that a <u>second writing course </u>be considered as part of the 12 additional hours. Moreover, there is ongoing discussion at the state-level to have a <u>diversity requirement</u> that could be included in the 12 hours as well.
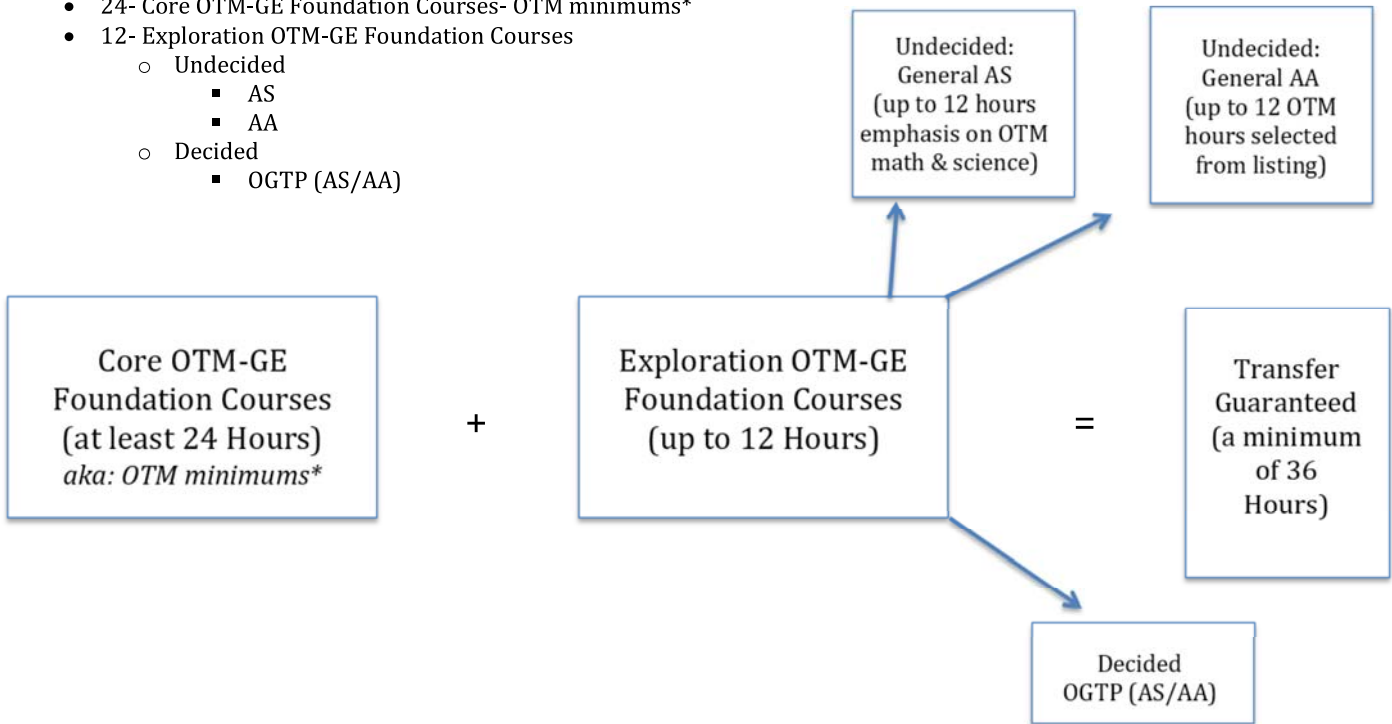
Goals

1. Cause No Harm to Students
2. Flexibility with Certainty
3. Total of 36 OTM-GE Semester Hours
4. More Options within the 36 OTM-GE Semester Hours
5. Meaningful/ Purposeful/ New Brand to Educate
6. Degree Tailored

Recommendations

1. Block => Credential

2. Formula (36 OTM-GE Semester Hours)
   - 24- Core OTM-GE Foundation Courses- OTM minimums*
   - 12- Exploration OTM-GE Foundation Courses
     - Undecided
       - AS
       - AA
     - Decided
       - OGTP (AS/AA)

Core OTM-GE
Foundation Courses
(at least 24 Hours)
*aka: OTM minimums**

+

Exploration OTM-GE
Foundation Courses
(up to 12 Hours)

=

Transfer
Guaranteed
(a minimum
of 36
Hours)

Undecided:
General AS
(up to 12 hours
emphasis on OTM
math & science)

Undecided:
General AA
(up to 12 OTM
hours selected
from listing)

Decided
OGTP (AS/AA)

36 Guaranteed OTM-GE Semester Hours

Core OTM-GE Foundation Courses (+) (at least 24 Hours)	Exploration OTM-GE Foundation Courses (up to 12 Hours)

12 Hours

Decided: OGTP (AS/AA)

(or)

Undecided (AA):
GOAL: 12 exploration OTM-GE hours to help students lead to an area of interest
Select from List Below
1. OTM-GE Arts & Humanities and Social & Behavioral Sciences (recommend relevant courses for areas of interest)
2. OTM-GE Second Writing (highly recommended)
(some type of diversity course if not already completed)

(or)

Undecided (AS):
GOAL: 12 exploration OTM-GE hours to help students lead to an area of interest
1. OTM-GE Mathematics and Natural Science (recommend relevant courses for areas of interest)
2. OTM-GE Second Writing (highly recommended)
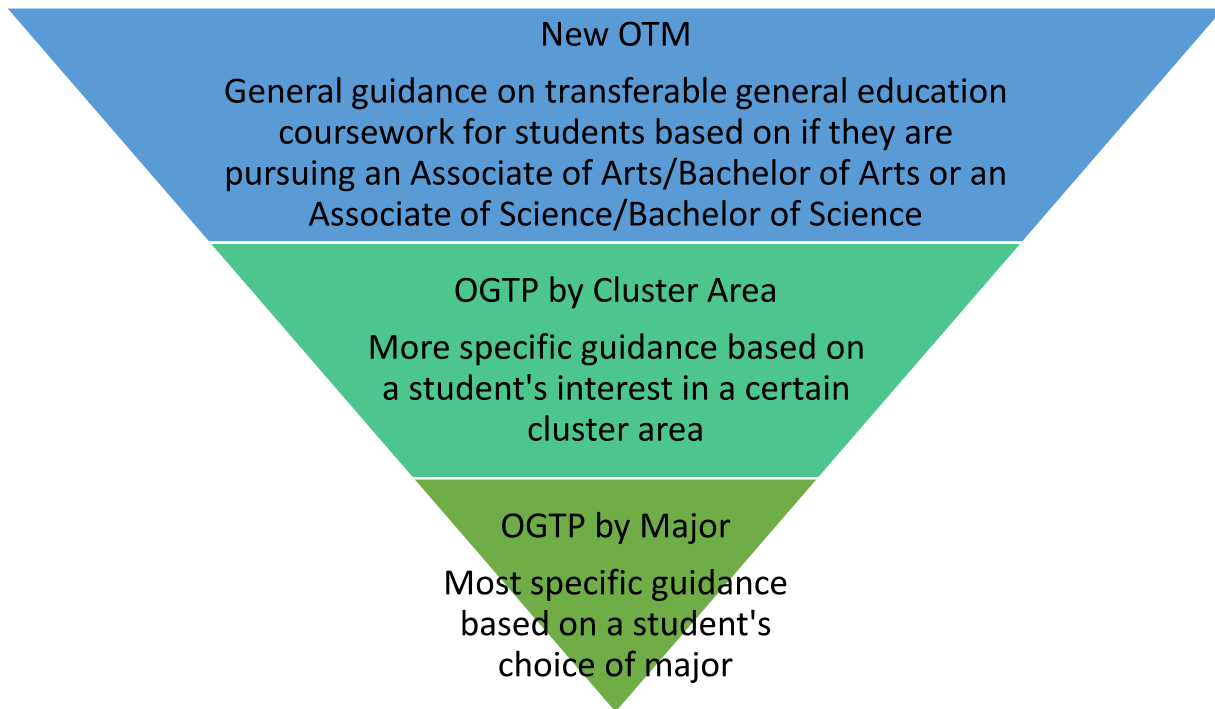*(some type of diversity course if not already complete)*

*OTM Minimums:

3 hr: English Composition & Oral Communication
3 hr: Mathematics, Statistics and Logic
6 hr: Arts & Humanities (2 diff. disciplines)
6 hr: Social & Behavioral Sciences (2 different disciplines)
6 hr: Natural Sciences (as least 1 lab course)

*Recommend to explore communication beyond oral communication to meet the needs of students in the 21st century

(9.30.2020)

The new Ohio General Education Transfer Module provides a broad framework for which general education coursework will transfer. Furthermore, it begins to differentiate between how general education course selections might look different for students interested in pursuing an Associate of Arts/Bachelor of Arts or and Associate of Science/Bachelor of Science.

The work of the Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways (OGTP) goes hand in hand with the new Ohio General Education Transfer Module. Using the new OTM framework, the OGTP faculty panels have developed pathways that provide more specific guidance for students in choosing transferable general education coursework based on their academic interests in a given cluster area (e.g., Social & Behavioral Sciences, Humanities, Math & Sciences, etc.).

Further if a student knows what they plan to major in, they can utilize the OGTP for that particular major, which will provide the most precise guidance on any specific transferable general education coursework that they should take in order to best progress within their chosen major.

New OTM

General guidance on transferable general education coursework for students based on if they are pursuing an Associate of Arts/Bachelor of Arts or an Associate of Science/Bachelor of Science

OGTP by Cluster Area

More specific guidance based on a student's interest in a certain cluster area

OGTP by Major

Most specific guidance based on a student's choice of major

We appreciate your feedback, this survey should take on average 15-30 minutes to complete

Description of the Proposed Model

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· an additional 12 "elective" hours.

The 24 hours remain intact. The additional 12 hours could be used to achieve the goals and two groups of students are identified.

For students who have already declared a specific major -given the substantial work that has been done around the Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways (OGTP) to help students complete major and pre-major courses – they should use these additional 12 hours to begin work in the OGTP of their major.

For students who are undecided, two routes are proposed. For those pursuing an Associate of Science (A) degree, populate the 12 additional hours with STEM OTM- approved courses that might have broad applicability across different Bachelor of Science majors. For those pursuing an Associate of Arts degree, and recognizing that there is considerably more diversity with respect to Bachelor of Arts degree programs, students considering a social science major may draw from OTM courses in the social sciences, a student considering a humanities major may draw from OTM courses in the humanities, with a similar approach for students in the performing arts. OTM panels have already begun to identify courses to recommend to students in these different pathways. While the AS pathway is more straightforward, the workgroup believes that specific pathways for AA students can be identified as well.

Additionally, for students unsure of what pathway to take, the committee recommended that a second writing course be considered as part of the 12 additional hours. Moreover, there is ongoing discussion at the state-level to have a diversity requirement that could be included in the 12 hours as well.

On a similar note, a recommendation to rename/rebrand the OTM has been suggested by the OATN Oversight Board and General Education Steering Committee. The recommended renaming provides similarity to the current OTM with the addition of General Education for clarity.

We ask that you complete this survey as soon as possible, but no later than <u>Monday, November 9, 2020</u>.

Thank you in advance for your valuable input!

1. Contact Information:

Name:

Title:

Institution:

E-mail:

2. Do you support the current credit hour ranges (i.e. Core OTM/GE Foundation Courses: at least 24 credit hours and Exploration OTM/GE Foundation Courses: up to 12 credit hours. Transfer guarantee equates to a minimum of 36 credit hours)?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Comments:

3. Do you support the Exploration OTM/GE Foundation Course (up to 12 hours) breakout pathways (i.e. Undecided: General AS, Undecided: General AA, and Decided OGTP (AS/AA))?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Comment:

4. Do you support the recommended Undecided: AA Exploration OTM/GE Foundation Courses (i.e. Arts & Humanities and Social & Behavioral Sciences courses and Second Writing)?

Please note: inclusion of a diversity component within the 12 credit hour Exploration OTM/GE Foundation Courses is contingent on statewide learning outcomes endorsement.

◯ Yes

◯ No

Comments:

[text box]

5. Do you support the recommended Undecided: AS Exploration OTM/GE Foundation Courses (i.e. Mathematics and Natural Science courses and Second Writing)?

Please note: inclusion of a diversity component within the 12 credit hour Exploration OTM/GE Foundation Courses is contingent on statewide learning outcomes endorsement.

◯ Yes

◯ No

Comments:

[text box]

6. Overall, do you support the revisions to the Ohio Transfer Module (OTM)?

Please note: inclusion of a diversity component within the 12 credit hour Exploration OTM/GE Foundation Courses is contingent on statewide learning outcomes endorsement.

○ Yes

○ No

Comments:

Name Change

7. Do you support renaming/rebranding of the Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) to be replaced with the Ohio General Education Transfer Module (OGETM)?

○ Yes

○ No

Comments:

Thank You

Thank you for completing this survey!