

## Are You on Track for Transfer? Part 1 of 4

Many students delay transfer preparations and decisions about senior college choices until their final semester. Making transfer decisions when graduation is looming is a strategic error because it can severely restrict your transfer options. Waiting until your final semester will:

- ◆ limit the number of schools you can consider for transfer;
- ◆ limit the number of programs to which you can apply;
- ◆ limit strategic course selection.

Additionally, you risk missing application deadlines and deadlines for scholarships and institutional aid. If you are applying to a specialized program within the CUNY system (e.g., the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education) you need to be aware that many of these programs have additional admission requirements and earlier application deadlines.

If you are considering applying to private colleges or universities, be aware that the application process is more complex and requires considerable planning and research. You will need time:

- ◆ to prepare college applications and scholarship essays;
- ◆ to develop an academic resume;
- ◆ to foster relationships with faculty;
- ◆ to find a faculty mentor;
- ◆ to request letters of recommendation from faculty.

You cannot successfully complete all the components of the application packet in a single semester.

The solution to these transfer predicaments is planning and research. Ideally, this planning phase should begin during your second semester at BMCC. This article is the first in a series that will take you step-by-step through the transfer process.

### Part 1: Transfer Facts

#### *What You Need to Know Before You Transfer*



**Know your degree program** because it has transfer ramifications. BMCC offers three degree programs: the Associate of Arts (A.A.), the Associate of Science (A.S.), and the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S). Traditionally, the A.A. and A.S. degrees have been considered the transfer degree programs, while the A.A.S. degree has been viewed as a terminal degree. Today, however, many

students in A.A.S degree programs do intend to continue their education at a senior college. The best degree to pursue really depends on what you plan to do after graduation from BMCC. The AATC urges you to see an advisor early in your career at BMCC to determine if your degree program is consistent with your academic and career objectives.

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## • Transfer Fairs • Transfer Informational Sessions •

The AATC sponsors 6 transfer fairs annually and numerous senior college informational sessions. Attendance at these events is an important part of your transfer planning. These are exceptional opportunities to get answers to the questions unaddressed by the college websites and promotional materials. You can begin to gather information about academic programs, admission requirements, application deadlines, and scholarship opportunities. Additionally, these events offer undecided students the opportunity to see what programs are offered at the senior colleges.



**Nontraditional Career Transfer Fair**  
Wednesday, September 16th  
12:00pm-5:00pm  
Main Lobby Promenade

**Senior Colleges Transfer Fair**  
Wednesday, September 23rd  
11:00am-3:00pm & 4:00pm-7:00pm  
Main Lobby Promenade



**Evening/Weekend Transfer Fair**  
Saturday, October 10th  
11:00am-2:00pm  
Main Lobby Promenade

### **NYU CCTOP**

Wednesday, September 30th 2-4pm

### **Columbia University**

Wednesday, October 7th 2-4pm

### **Cornell University**

Wednesday, October 21st 2-4pm

### **The New School**

Wednesday, October 28th 2-4pm

### **NYU School of Professional Studies**

Wednesday, November 4th 2-4pm

For more information and registration please contact:

Allana Hankey-Thomas: [ahankey-thomas@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:ahankey-thomas@bmcc.cuny.edu) or  
Karen Ehrlich: [kehrlich@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:kehrlich@bmcc.cuny.edu)

### **John Jay College**

Wednesday, September 30th 2-4pm

### **Hunter College**

Wednesday, October 7th 2-4pm

### **York College**

Wednesday, October 21 2-4pm

### **Hunter College**

Wednesday, October 28th 2-4pm

### **Brooklyn College**

Wednesday, November 4 2-4pm

For more information please contact Peter Pallis or Peter Roberts in room S763

## Educational Pathway:

### Becoming a NYS Certified Teacher

The educational pathway to becoming a certified teacher requires both a bachelor's and master's degree. This pathway, however, does not end with your formal education. If you are going to be involved with children's learning, you need to be committed to your own lifetime learning. If you have this commitment, then the teacher education programs at BMCC will provide you with a strong foundation in either early childhood (birth to second grade) or childhood (first to sixth grade) education.

The Early Childhood Education Program offers the choice of focusing on infants and toddlers from birth to age 3 (ECI) or preschoolers and early elementary school age children ages 3-8 (ECP). Upon completion of the program requirements, the Associate of Science (A.S.) degree is awarded. To receive an initial New York State teaching certificate, you will then need to complete an accredited bachelor's degree program and achieve passing grades on the three required licensing examinations.

- ◆ Liberal Arts and Sciences Test (LAST)
- ◆ Assessment of Teaching Skills – Written (ATS-W)
- ◆ Content Specialty Test (CST)

To facilitate transfer to a senior college, the program has articulation agreements with several CUNY schools and with New York University. For professional certification, you will also need to complete a master's degree program.

Students in the program are strongly advised to consult with the department to ensure that the education courses are taken in the correct sequence. Faculty members can also help you select the courses preferred by the senior college you plan to attend.

The Childhood Education Program (EDU/EDB) at BMCC is jointly registered with the School of Education at City College. Students who successfully complete all the BMCC/CCNY requirements are accepted at City College's School of Education where they can earn the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Childhood Education or Bilingual Childhood Education. Initial teacher certification for first through sixth grade also requires passing the licensing examinations listed below. A master's degree is required for professional certification.



Early advisement for spring 2010 begins on October 4th. All education majors are encouraged to contact the Teacher Education Department (N601) for the early advisement schedule. Remember: you must be advised before you can register. Register early if you want to be guaranteed a seat in the education courses you need.

*To view articulation agreements for early childhood education:*

<http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/transferctr/index.html>

*For information on NYS teacher certification examinations, including test preparation guides:*

[www.nystce.nesinc.com/ny\\_viewsg\\_opener.asp](http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/ny_viewsg_opener.asp)

*For information on teacher certification:*

[www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert)

## Articulation Update

*An articulation agreement is a written contract or a partnership between educational institutions that allows course credit earned at one institution to be transferred and applied toward a degree program at another institution. BMCC is currently updating existing articulation agreements and pursuing new agreements with CUNY, SUNY and other private colleges and universities.*

BMCC has recently signed three articulation agreements with Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY). Students who complete the A.A. degree in Business Administration or the A.A.S. degrees in Business Management or Small Business /Entrepreneurship can transfer to the School for Management at MCNY and earn a B.B.A. degree in Business Administration. BMCC graduates who transfer to MCNY qualify for a \$1,000 Transfer Grant each semester over the course of four (4) full-time [16 credit] semesters. Additional institutional aid may be available. For more information please contact Allana Hankey-Thomas or Karen Ehrlich in S-763 or visit: <http://bmcc.cuny.edu/transfercntr>.

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### Are You on Track for Transfer?



**Why you should complete the associate's degree.** With a CUNY associate degree (A.A., A.S. or A.A.S.) you are guaranteed admission to one of the CUNY senior colleges, although not necessarily to the program or college of your first choice. CUNY transfer policies also guarantee recipients of the A.A. or A.S. degree that 60 credits will transfer towards the bachelor's degree. An associate's degree also makes you a more attractive candidate to a potential employer. Remember, there is a difference between an accumulation of 60 credits and having 60 credits earned as an associate's degree. Employers never ask, "How many credits have you earned?" They do ask "What degree have you earned?" Practically speaking, if your educational plans are knocked off track, for whatever reason, you still have your degree to fall back on.

**Why you need to leverage your GPA.** In this context 'leverage' means to use your GPA to your advantage. This is important because your GPA is the determining factor in your acceptance to the CUNY college and program of your choice. Check your transcript every semester. Balance your course load to avoid taking the most challenging courses in any single semester. Seek help immediately if your grades begin to slip.

**Why Liberal Arts is often the right choice.** Many students consider liberal arts as the degree program for students who have not yet decided on a major. Consider that the first step on the educational pathway to careers as different as lawyer, teacher, physician assistant, and occupational therapist is an associate's degree in liberal arts. To earn the B.A. degree, you will take at least 60 credits in liberal arts, 24 or more credits in your major area of focus and possibly some number of credits in a related area of study. These credits comprise your minor. The liberal arts courses are the foundation of your degree and consist of general courses across a wide-range of disciplines including: mathematics, sciences, humanities (English literature, history, modern languages, and philosophy), social sciences (anthropology, economics, psychology, and sociology), and the arts (art history, theater, music, and speech). A degree in liberal arts will give you highly marketable skills and abilities including: analytical and critical thinking skills, effective oral and written communication skills, problem solving abilities, computational skills, time management skills, and the ability to meet goals and successfully complete projects. So, if a friend or relative asks you, "What can you do with a liberal arts degree?", you can say with confidence "Anything I want!"

**Next Issue:** Part II /The 6 Steps to Follow for an Easy Transfer to CUNY, SUNY & Private Colleges