**2020-2021 Transfer Pathways Annual Report**

**Office of Undergraduate Studies, University of Utah**

**Transfer Pathways Purpose and Overview**

The purpose of the Transfer Pathways initiative in the Office of Undergraduate Studies is to help transfer students succeed and to develop and facilitate academic transfer pathways that are effective, efficient, and equitable. Our work is primarily focused on strengthening our transfer partnership with Salt Lake Community College (SLCC). Below is a summary of key programs, activities, and achievements during the 2020-2021 year.

**Second Annual Transfer Summit (Virtual)**

On October 2, 2020, the Transfer Pathways initiative hosted the Second Annual Transfer Summit between the University of Utah and Salt Lake Community College. The Summit was attended by about 150 faculty, staff, and academic leaders from both institutions. The Summit offered participants an opportunity to learn about the value and need for strong transfer partnerships between our institutions, transfer and articulation accomplishments, and the need to develop a stronger pathways and articulations between SLCC and the U of U. The Summit included remarks by Presidents Watkins and Huftalin, a panel of prospective transfer students from SLCC and current SLCC-UU transfer students, a panel of faculty and advisor partners from two U of U and SLCC academic partnerships, and a keynote presentation by Dr. Xueli Wang from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. According to assessment data from the Summit, 90% agreed that the content was organized and well-planned, 75% agreed that the panels contained useful information, and 78% agreed that the keynote was engaging and informative. Assessment data suggest that many participants agreed that the Summit was valuable and important to continue in the virtual format given COVID. Assessment data also showed that many participants missed face-to-face interaction and wanted to learn more about how to help transfer students.

**Articulation Agreements and 4-Year/5-Year Transfer Pathways**

Prior to the 2020-21 academic year, Transfer Pathways worked with colleges and departments across campus to collect and document existing articulation agreements between the U of U and SLCC. In Fall 2020, the Transfer Pathways initiative established three long-term objectives:

* Create new articulation agreements and strengthen existing articulation agreements.
* Develop 4-year and 5-year transfer pathways at the program-level between SLCC and the University of Utah.
* Every U of U Bachelor’s Degree program should have a 4-year and 5-year pathway from SLCC and every SLCC Transfer Associate’s Degree program should lead to one or more U of U Bachelor’s Degree program.

These objectives guided our work during 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years and into 2021-22. Beginning in Fall 2020, we collaborated with SLCC to create a structured process to support faculty and academic leaders, with support from advisors, to develop stronger pathways and articulation agreements. We identified 18 programs in 2020-2021 (Phase I) and 11 programs in 2021-2022 (Phase II) to participate in this process. We have launched both phases with virtual kick-off meetings and offered optional workshops for faculty and staff to attend where we answer questions, help facilitate conversations, and support faculty and advisors as needed. We currently have 33 signed articulation agreements between U of U and SLCC and many draft agreements are in progress. The teams of faculty and advisors have also drafted 4-year and 5-year transfer pathways that map course sequences from SLCC to the U of U at the program-level. We are partnering with the advising and admissions communities to convert these pathway documents into public-facing versions that can be used as a guide for prospective SLCC transfer students. We expect the first versions of these transfer pathway guides to be publicly accessible in Fall 2021.

**Transfer Pathways Website**

Transfer Pathways has developed a [public-facing website](https://ugs.utah.edu/faculty-resources/transfer-pathways/) with resources and materials related to our work. The purpose of the website is to serve as a centralized source of information for faculty and academic administrators who are collaborating to strengthen transfer pathways and curriculum/program alignment. The website includes a specific page for articulation agreements, materials from Transfer Summits, and detailed information about the development of transfer pathways and articulation agreements.