



# Illinois Board of Higher Education

JB Pritzker, Governor  
John Atkinson, Chair • Ginger Ostro, Executive Director

March 16, 2020

Dear Colleague:

Please read on for information about courses coded for transfer under the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI). If you have questions, I invite you to contact me or Malinda Aiello (IAI State Director) at [mmaiell@ilstu.edu](mailto:mmaiell@ilstu.edu). Thank you.

**Statement from Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), & Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) regarding concerns about online labs & speech:**

The Coronavirus has created an unprecedented situation which has forced all Illinois public and private colleges and universities to shift to alternative methods of teaching, primarily via 100% online courses, for all or a portion of the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester. It has come to our attention that there is concern by IAI participating institutions that online science labs as well as the online version of the oral communications courses (e.g., Speech, Public Speaking, etc.) will not comply with the IAI General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) Communications, GECC Life Sciences, and GECC Physical Sciences panels' expected course outcomes as reflected in their course descriptors and course approval criteria thus creating a situation in which these courses may be deemed not transferable.

The Illinois Articulation Initiative's Policies & Procedures Manual does not currently include any language regarding emergency caveats, particularly as it may be applicable to the current health pandemic. Therefore, **it is the position of the IBHE, ICCB, and IAI that students' courses which are completed under these crisis-driven alternative course delivery methods shall be deemed transferable and earn credit as they were originally intended during the Spring 2020 semester. This policy demonstrates the state's commitment of supporting institutional efforts to reasonably modify learning options as needed in order to provide a mechanism for students to complete their courses this semester.**

Sincerely,

Stephanie Bernoteit, Ed.D.  
Executive Deputy Director  
Illinois Board of Higher Education