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The official transfer and articulation system for California's public colleges and universities.

Curriculum Institute July 2020
CCC AO Meeting - ASSIST Responses

When will the missing CSU GE/IGETC/UCTCA courses be added to the public reports?

Some courses were suppressed from the ASSIST public website transferability lists while a thorough review of course data converted from the old system to the new one was completed. Less than 1% of courses in ASSIST are not displaying on the transferability lists. These courses were flagged during the data integrity review process as needing data corrections for a variety of reasons. Many of the courses being suppressed are no longer active courses on campus. However, because the historical lists (CSUGE, IGETC, CSUAI) show all courses ever approved with begin and end terms, versus the yearly lists (UC-T and CSU-T) that show courses approved for a single year, the courses have been suppressed from displaying on the lists until the data can be fixed to ensure students are not provided with inaccurate course transferability information.

Unfortunately, the internal review process has taken longer than expected due to data complexity and resourcing limitations. We do anticipate being able to return to display almost half of the suppressed courses near the end of July when a group of automated data fixes related to cross-listed courses will be applied. As courses are unsuppressed, CCC AOs will be notified that the courses are once again visible on the ASSIST public website.

We are planning to send out a communication in the late summer/early fall when we can better anticipate time frames. The remaining courses will continue to be addressed as quickly as possible but the process appropriately involves a significant amount of preparation (both automatic and manual) as well as critical, detailed testing efforts that are time consuming but necessary to ensure data integrity. We have been working closely with our vendor to find as many ways of automating the process as possible in order to improve expediency.

When will a Workflow print and/or download feature be made available for decision saving?

The ability to download/print the Workflow decisions is definitely on our list of "to-do" items. However, from a priority/resourcing standpoint the primary focus right now is in getting all of the bugs or other technology issues that prevent the display of articulation agreements completed so students can access that critical information. Once 2020-2021 budgetary decisions are made we can evaluate whether this type of feature could be addressed in this coming fiscal year.

When will all maintenance reports that were available in the legacy system be available/working in the new system?

The new system has its own maintenance reports located under the Reports area (see screenshot below). In terms of any variations between the legacy Maintenance Reports and the new system Course Reports:

- There was a name change in the transition from the old system to the new where "OSCAR Outlines" in the Legacy Maintenance Reports became the "Course Outline" report in the new system as we no longer have an OSCAR application.

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- The "Outline Submission Summary Report" in the new system Course Reports tab replicates the filters and summary functionality from the legacy OSCAR system main page.

- The "Course TCA" report was added so that CCCs could access a list of their TCA approved courses in lieu of the old PDF report provided by UCOP in advance of the summer review cycle. The report does not currently display limitations/footnotes; this improvement is logged for future development.

- The only CCC report that is not working right now in the new system is the "Course Articulation Summary" report. This report has been targeted for a fix as soon as possible in this fiscal year.

- The only report not yet displaying is the "Database Summaries" report that was located on the legacy ASSIST Info Site. ASSIST administrators can run this report; if you need the type of information that was available through that report, please contact Holly Demé (holly@assist.org).

You can access all of the new system maintenance reports in the Reports Area by using the drop down menu that lets you change areas as shown below. While users are still able to access the old Legacy ASSIST Maintenance Reports at this time, we do not recommend people rely on the data because, as has been noted, the data is almost four years old now.
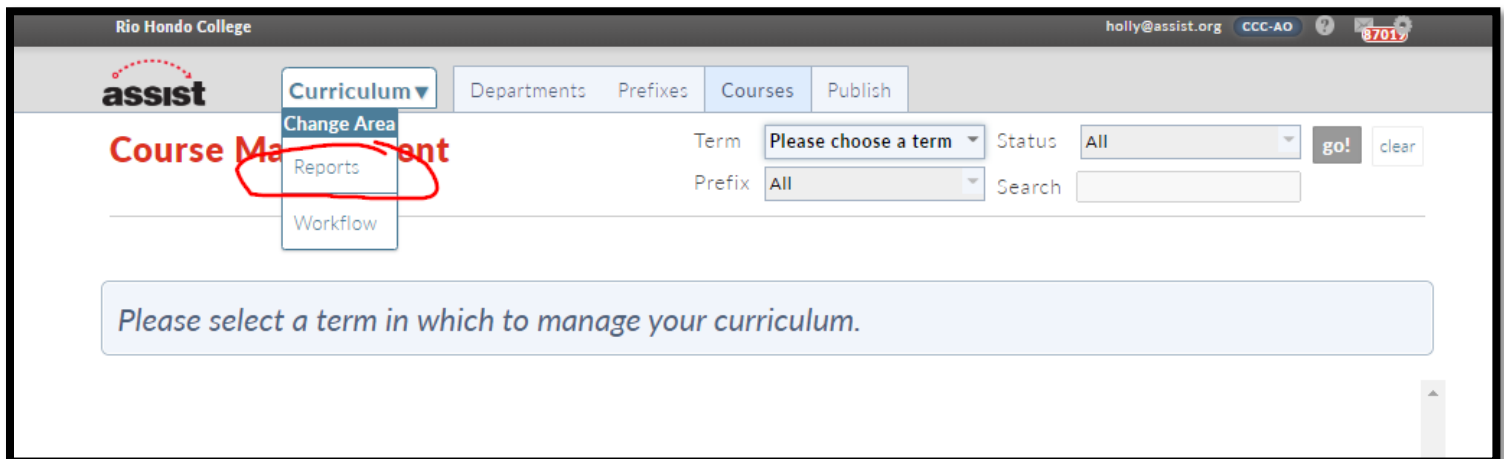

What is the status of the re-institution of Explore Majors?

Although we were not able to include an Explore Majors feature in the first phase of the ASSIST release, we absolutely understand the importance of the feature, clearly reinforced by the feedback we have received from counselors, transfer center directors, and students. Thanks to a creative partnership with Los Medanos College, an alternative exploring majors tool known as the Transfer Major Explorer (https://www.transferbound.com/) is available. The tool was built using information from the legacy ASSIST Explore Majors application and makes available a core exploring majors search feature. Students, counselors and others can select an Area of Study, a related Discipline, see which CSU and UC institutions offer the major selected, and click a link to visit a particular associated CSU or UC website for further information. It is important to note that some information contained on the website may be out of date and updates are being provided over time by CSU and UC articulation officers. A link to the Los Medanos tool is located on the ASSIST public website in the blue "Notes from ASSIST" information panel as shown in the screenshot below.
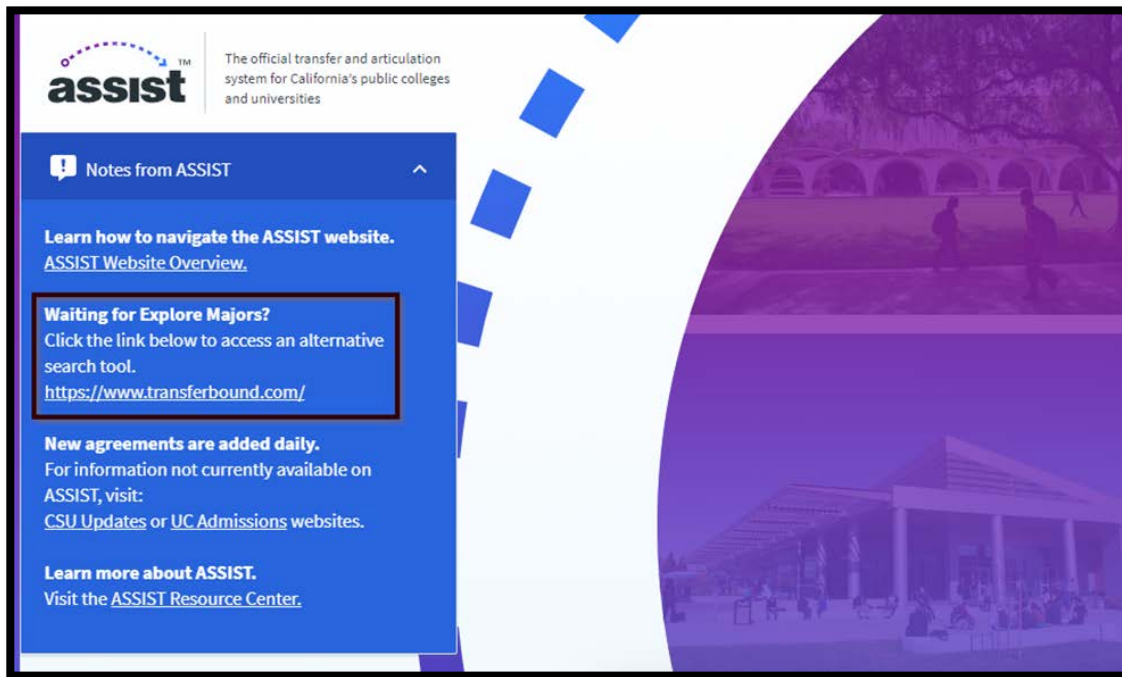
In terms of the creation of a new ASSIST Explore Majors application, ASSIST convened an intersegmental group at the end of May comprised of representatives from various areas of the CCC, CSU and UC systems, including counselors and transfer center directors, who have used the legacy ASSIST Explore Majors application and could provide focus group-type feedback. The input received will help ASSIST identify how a variety of users interacted with that application, the most critical components, and where improvements might be made in the future in order to prioritize development of a new Explore Majors tool. At this time, we anticipate the next year to be an information-gathering period so we will be ready for any development work when resources and priorities align.

When will new features be available such as the display of multiple major agreements at one time for comparison or the availability of a "pinboard" feature on the public site, etc.?

Initial new website mockups provided by a prior software development vendor showcased some advanced features and tools that were not replicated for our initial launch of the new site with our current software development vendor (compare courses by major; pinboard; explore majors). We have heard from multiple users how helpful these would be and still anticipate adding those in future phases of the system release, though our priorities are focused on core functionality first. We will continue providing development updates on the ASSIST Resource Center. You can view all existing official communication regarding the project and sign up for e-mail alerts when we add updates from the News page.

Please feel free to reach out to Holly Demé (holly@assist.org) directly if you have any further questions regarding these topics. Questions related to working in the system, or any issues encountered, should be directed to Ryan Novero (ryan@assist.org). Thank you.