



BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TRANSFER TALK

TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION NEWS

Six Steps to Sound Course Selection

By Edwin Roman, Academic and Transfer Resources Coordinator

Proper course selection and scheduling of classes is one key to being a successful student. Following the steps detailed in this article will help you to better prepare for the semester and for the overall completion of your degree, both at BCC and for your baccalaureate.

Step 1: Read the College Catalog

The college catalog outlines your responsibilities, those of the college, academic policies, and degree requirements. Because the catalog is published often, be sure to follow the curriculum outlined in the catalog from the year you declare your major. The catalog is available on the BCC website.

Step 2: Understand Your Degree Program

Students enrolled at BCC are pursuing one of two degree programs:

- Transfer programs, which include the Associate in Arts (A.A.) and Associate in Science (A.S.) degrees, are for students planning to transfer into baccalaureate degree programs;
- Career programs, which result in an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree, emphasize training needed to enter a chosen field of employment and are designed for students planning to begin a career immediately after receiving their degree.

Be sure to understand which type of degree program you are enrolled in. Some courses of study, such as accounting and human services, have offerings in both degree programs. If you are uncertain, seek advisement from the appropriate academic department.

Step 3: Begin Transfer Planning

The best way to begin transfer planning is by researching articulation agreements. An articulation agreement is an agreement between BCC and a four-year school that helps course credit to be transferred and applied toward a baccalaureate degree. Students are encouraged to use articulation agreements as planning tools because they provide an outline of the most appropriate courses to schedule, as well as other important information on the senior college degree program. Articulation agreements are available for reading on the Transfer Planning web site. If you can't find an articulation agreement for your desired baccalaureate program, look at the degree requirements for that program and seek advisement to schedule the best courses for transfer. Be mindful that good grades expand your transfer possibilities.

Step 4: Complete Developmental Course Work and Degree Requirements in a Timely Manner

Entering BCC students must take tests in reading, writing, and mathematics to determine their readiness for college level work. Those who do not pass the tests are given appropriate developmental instruction to help them reach the required competency levels. Students are strongly advised to complete remedial requirements as early as possible in their academic career. Complete other degree requirements such as Pathways and two writing intensive courses, in a timely manner. Detailed information on degree requirements is available in the BCC catalog. Be sure to also check Degree Audit before and after registering to make certain courses are applicable to your degree. Taking courses that do not apply toward your degree may lengthen your time at BCC and endanger your financial aid. Connect with your advisor if you have questions or encounter problems.

Step 5: Balance Course Work

Avoid taking too many difficult courses during one semester. Strike a balance between courses that require extensive reading (history, English), and those that demand regular, daily preparation (foreign languages, mathematics). When preparing your class schedule, be sure to select alternates because some of the classes you want may be full.

Step 6: Visualize Your Schedule

To visualize your schedule, it may be helpful to lay it out in a weekly calendar form. Try to avoid more than three consecutive classes in one day. Allow time for meals and always keep travel in the forefront of your mind. Also factor in the toll of time and energy a job, extra-curricular activities, and family will take in order to achieve a balanced schedule that will not exhaust you so much as to detract from your studies.

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Welcome to Transfer Talk

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Transfer Talk*, a newsletter dedicated to providing information on topics relating to transfer and academic success throughout your entire undergraduate career.

During your time at BCC, your interests and goals may change, but this is a part of personal exploration and growth. Remember to be your own best advocate by making informed decisions. Also be mindful that doing well academically while at BCC will put you in a good place for the future. Finally, early and ongoing transfer planning cannot be left out; without them, even the highest achieving student can go astray.

Have a good semester!

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