



Frequently Asked Questions on Illinois Articulation Initiation Course Grading Under Public Act 101-0643

[Public Act 101-0643](#), signed by Governor Pritzker on June 18, 2020, amends the [Illinois Articulation Initiative Act, Sec. 20](#), and mandates the continued acceptance via transfer of all courses approved for Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) General Education codes as part of the General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) package, consistent with the requirements of the package. Specifically:

Sec. 20. Course transferability.

(a) All courses approved for Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education codes must be transferable as a part of the General Education Core Curriculum package, consistent with the specific requirements of the package. Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education courses taken during the public health emergency declared by proclamation of the Governor due to the COVID-19 pandemic during calendar year 2020 must be transferable for students receiving a grade of "pass", "credit", or "satisfactory" and shall fulfill the prerequisite requirements for advanced courses.

What is the timeframe this variance applies to Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education courses taken during the pandemic?

This law applies to Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) General Education courses taken during the 2020 calendar year, January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Institutions need to ensure that when courses are transferred to their institution during the period of time covered in the legislation that they honor IAI courses completed in a manner consistent with the law from that point forward. Institutions do not need to alter their grading structure during this period. Regardless of how or if an individual institution may choose to implement a P/F grade option for students, no student who received a "P" or passing grade at any IAI participating institution shall be required to repeat an IAI general education course.

What is the IAI General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) package?

All colleges and universities participating in IAI agree to accept a "package" of IAI general education courses in lieu of their own comparable lower-division general education requirements. The IAI GECC Package ranges between 37 and 41 semester credit hours and is comprised of Communication (9 semester hours); Humanities and Fine Arts (9 semester hours); Mathematics (3 to 5 semester hours); Physical and Life Sciences (7 to 8 semester hours); and Social and Behavioral Sciences (9 semester hours).

Students who transfer an Illinois associate of arts degree will be recognized as having completed the IAI GECC package; students who transfer an Illinois associate of science degree take additional math and science courses and thus delay completing the GECC Humanities & Fine Arts and Social & Behavioral Sciences categories until they reach their four-year institution.

To see a listing of all active IAI General Education descriptors [click on this link](#).

To see a list of all approved IAI GECC courses at an institution [click on this link](#).

Under this Act, are institutions required to offer pass/fail or other binary grading schema(s)?

Public Act 101-4603 does not require institutions to offer a pass/fail, credit/no credit, or satisfactory/unsatisfactory option for students to select as grades for General Education courses. However, if an institution does offer and students select a binary grading schema, then the course must be transferrable for the 2020 calendar year and after.

What do pass, credit, and satisfactory mean?

See ["Guidance on Applying Pass-Fail Grades for Illinois Articulation Initiative Courses Guidance on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Scores for Spring and Summer 2020 Terms"](#) previously issued jointly by the IBHE, ICCB, and IAI. Pass/Fail (P/F) will be interpreted to include credit-no credit or satisfactory-unsatisfactory or similar non-qualitative binary grading nomenclature. This applies to all passing grades reported as "P" regardless of the standard set by individual institutions.

What does "fulfill the prerequisite requirements for advanced courses" mean?

- The [COVID-19 Guidance – p/f Grades in IAI](#) addresses IAI specifically, but the expectation is that institutions will apply the same policies to transfer students that they apply to native students for P/F grading during this COVID-19 public health emergency. Public Act 101-4603 extends that policy for courses completed during the COVID-19 crisis, currently identified as Calendar Year 2020. IAI courses taken during Calendar Year 2020 shall be deemed transferable and earn the credit originally intended and applied toward major, minor, and General Education requirements.
- Institutions are expected to treat transfer courses the same as they treat their own courses that fall within this framework and time.

- Courses completed with a passing grade should be applied as intended for IAI credit and should count toward completion of the General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) package.

How does Public Act 101-0643 apply to prerequisites for licensure?

- Please see specific guidance from the State of Illinois regarding teacher licensure, and other licensing bodies for other programs (e.g., education, nursing).
- The law does not provide a variance for external licensing bodies or accreditors licensure requirements. Please work with students to check with the appropriate licensing body or accreditor prior to selection of a binary grade.
- Institutions should ensure that students are well advised about selecting binary grading schemas, if offered, and what the implications are for licensure and/or future graduate and professional programs. Consultation of specialized accreditors is strongly advised.

Where can I find information about IAI?

Information about the Illinois Articulation Initiative can be found at the IAI website, <https://itransfer.org/>.

For additional questions, please contact:

Melvin Harrison, Director for Academic Affairs, Illinois Community College Board
melvin.harrison@illinois.gov

Amy Spies, Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Education
spies@ibhe.org