

# State of Alabama Articulation and General Studies Committee Statewide Transfer and Articulation Reporting System ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Prepared by Keith Sessions, Executive Director



#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

| Letter fr | om Dr. Herbert Riedel, 2018-2019 Chair                                     | 4    |
|-----------|--|------|
| AGSC \    | /oting Members & Alternates (2018-2019)                                    | 5    |
| A Status  | s Report   |      |
|           | AGSC/STARS Accomplishments 2018-2019                                       | 6-7  |
|           | STARS Office Update  | 8    |
|           | Did You Know?  | 9-10 |
| STARS     | Usage Reports  |      |
|           | STARS Total Transfer Guides Obtained by Year Since 1998                    | 11   |
|           | Annual STARS Two-Year Student Usage Report by Month                        | 12   |
|           | Annual STARS Two-Year Student Usage Report by Major                        | 13   |
|           | Annual STARS Student Two-Year Student Usage Report by Two-Year Institution | 14   |
|           | Annual STARS Student Usage Report by Four-Year Institutional Choice        | 15   |
|           | STARS Unofficial Guides Report by User Type                                | 16   |
| 2019-20   | 020 AGSC/STARS Priorities & Goals  | 17   |
| APPEN     | DIX— AGSC State Legislation—Act 94-202                                     | 18   |

Questions and/or comments regarding this report should be directed to:

AGSC/STARS Program c/o Keith Sessions ksessions1@troy.edu 334-670-3797



#### LETTER FROM 2018-2019 CHAIR

July 11, 2019

Students in Alabama have many options when they decide to pursue higher education. It is no longer the case that they only need to decide their major and which university or college to attend. Many times their path starts at one of Alabama's 22 community colleges and continues at one of the state's 14 public universities. The Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC) was established 25 years ago to facilitate such transfer and to eliminate the loss of time, credit, and money for our students.

Today, transfer has become even more prevalent than imagined 25 years ago: Students begin at a 4-year institution, take classes during the summer at their local community college, and then continue at a different university, Occasionally, university students or graduates transfer to a 2-year college to get a degree or certificate that offers them high-paying job prospects. Of course, we have also seen booming dual enrollment programs. In all cases, students are consumers who look for value and expect to receive credit for the work they have done.

Fortunately, the Statewide Transfer and Articulation Reporting System (STARS), which is managed by professional staff members and overseen by the AGSC, has remained flexible and facilitates all kinds of transfer. The Committee is now seeking to enhance the user-friendliness of STARS through developing a more mobile friendly platform. We hosted our first ever Transfer and Student Success Conference, March 6 – 7, 2019, and plans for the 2020 ACHIEVE Conference are already well under way.

In a recent development, the State of Alabama's higher education community has become a member of the national movement, "Complete College America" (CCA). The aim of CCA is to develop collaboration among colleges and universities that will enable the State to increase the number and percentage of persons holding postsecondary degrees. Additionally, our State is engaged in an effort to increase the attainment of certificates and degrees to meet workforce demands of current and anticipated jobs and careers. The outcomes achieved through our AGSCSTARS articulation and general studies program are significant contributors to both of these efforts.

There is an intangible benefit of the AGSC in that it provides one of the few ways for administrators from 2-year and 4 -year colleges and universities to get together regularly, get to know each other, and work to achieve a common goal. I truly cherish this opportunity and appreciate having gotten to know my valued colleagues on the committee.

Sincerely,

### Herbert Riedel

Herbert Riedel, Ph.D.
President of Lurleen B. Wallace Community College and 2018-2019 Chair,
Articulation and General Studies Committee



## AGSC VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES (2018-2019)

| APPOINTING AUTHORITY                                   | VOTING MEMBER   | ALTERNATE MEMBER  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Alabama A&M University                                 | <b>Dr. Pamela Arrington</b> Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs   | Dr. Wubishet Tadesse Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alabama State University                               | <b>Dr. Leon C. Wilson</b> Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs   | <b>Dr. Jacqueline Trimble</b> Professor/Chair Department of Languages & Literatures                   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Auburn University                                      | <b>Dr. Megan Good</b> Director of Academic Assessment   | <b>Dr. Charles Israel</b> Associate Dean for Academic Affairs   |  |  |  |  |  |
| University of Alabama System                           | <b>Dr. Luoheng Han</b> Associate Provost for Academic Affairs The University of Alabama                           | Dr. Charles Nash Senior Vice Chancellor University of Alabama System                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| University of South Alabama                            | <b>Dr. Mary Angela Coleman</b> Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness                           | Dr. Eric Loomis Associate Dean — College of Arts & Sciences   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Regional Universities                                  | <b>Dr. Hal Fulmer</b> Associate Provost & Dean of Undergraduate & First Year Studies Troy University              | Dr. Lisa Williams Associate Provost Jacksonville State University                                     |  |  |  |  |  |
| Regional Universities                                  | <b>Dr. Kenneth Kitts</b> President University of North Alabama  | Dr. Tim Edwards Provost University of West Alabama  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alabama Community College System (2-Year Institutions) | <b>Dr. Bruce Crawford</b> Vice President Lawson State Community College   | Dr. Edith Smith  Executive Director of Academic & Student  Services  Alabama Community College System |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alabama Community College System (2-Year Institutions) | Mr. Matt Rodgers President Enterprise State Community College   | Dr. Annette Cederholm Vice President for Academic Affairs Snead State Community College               |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alabama Community College System (2-Year Institutions) | Dr. Herbert Riedel President Lurleen B. Wallace Community College   | Dr. David Campbell President Northeast Alabama Community College                                      |  |  |  |  |  |
| EX-OFFICIO NON-VOTING MEMBERS                          |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alabama Commission on<br>Higher Education              | Dr. James E. Purcell Executive Director   | Dr. Robin McGill Director of Instruction & Special Projects   |  |  |  |  |  |
| AGSC Secretary   | Mrs. Jacinta Whitehurst Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director Alabama Commission on Higher Education |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| AGSC/STARS Program                                     | Dr. Keith Sessions Executive Director   |   |  |  |  |  |  |

# AGSC/STARS Accomplishments Based on 2018-2019 Priorities A STATUS REPORT

 Continue to investigate methods and processes that can be used to improve the AGSC/STARS website so that it works well on most mobile devices/platforms. If necessary, STARS can contract out various parts of this project where expertise is needed.

In September of 2019, we plan to purchase a content management software platform called PROGRESS Sitefinity. This software will allow us to re-design the web platform currently used by students to obtain transfer guides. It will also allow us to re-design all of our web pages so that they are mobile friendly and responsive to various device screen sizes. Members of our staff will participate in online training classes which will ultimately enable us to use the new platform more efficiently and effectively. We chose PROGRESS because this is the same company that we have used for 25 years to maintain the current STARS Transfer Guide Database. The database and

the new web platform should

take at least 6-12 months to

work seamlessly together. It will

implement this new software and

re-design the STARS website.



 Finalize plans for Inaugural AGSC/STARS Transfer Student Success Conference and begin to publicize and promote this event across the state. Hold the conference on March 6-7, 2019 on the campus of Lawson State Community College. After the conference review and assess the success of the conference and begin to plan for future conferences.

The inaugural "ACHIEVE" Transfer Student Success Conference was held on March 6-7, 2019 on the campus of Lawson State Community College. The conference was a tremendous success. Over 250 people attended/participated. We had two keynote speakers, and 29 breakout sessions. The feedback from the conference was overwhelmingly positive. We are currently planning to host the 2nd Annual

"ACHIEVE" Transfer Student Success Conference on March 5-6, 2020 on the campus of The University of Alabama at the Bryant Conference Center. There is currently a working sub-committee that is planning and preparing for this next conference.

 Continue to meet (at least once annually) with the Points of Contact to provide on-going training and updates regarding AGSC/STARS issues.

We were unable to have a face-to-face meeting with all of the Institutional Points of Contact during the 2018-2019 academic year. However, we did create a SUMMER 2019—AGSC/STARS UPDATE PRESENTATION (video) that was sent out to all the Points of Contact on July 1, 2019. This 30 minute video provided updates on various AGSC/STARS activities and issues. Topics covered in the presentation were:

- STARS Monthly/Annual Usage Reports
- Restructuring of Area Academic Committees
- Plans for website re-design/upgrade
- AREA V Improvement Updates
- ACHIEVE Conference (2019 and 2020)

The Points of Contact were given the opportunity to watch the online presentation as their schedules permitted and then they were asked to respond or send in questions, comments, or suggestions. So far, we have received positive reviews from a number of the Points of Contact regarding this update. We still may try to schedule a face-to-face meeting with this group at some point during the 2019-2020 academic year.



# AGSC/STARS Accomplishments Based on 2018-2019 Priorities A STATUS REPORT (Continued)

4. Begin the process to convert the existing 21 General Studies Academic Committees (GSACs) to 3 AREA Committees. The STARS staff should meet with these new committees at least once annually (more if needed) to review and update approved courses/ratified templates and address any other transfer issues relating to their academic area.

In 2018, the AGSC voted to reduce the number of General Studies Academic Committees from twenty-one down to three. These three new committees were re-structured and are now called AREA Committees. The STARS staff worked with the Alabama Community College System and the Council of Chief Academic Officers to appoint 28 members (14 two-year members and 14 four-year members) to each of these three new AREA Committees. The members have 3-year staggered terms. The new committees are as follows:

- AREA I & II Academic Committee English, Literature, Humanities & Fine Arts
- AREA III Academic Committee

  Mathematics & Natural Sciences
- AREA IV Academic Committee History & Social Sciences

All members of these new committees have been trained through online webinars and video presentations. These committees have each elected a chair and vice-chair. Over the last few months they have begun to review course proposals, review discipline specific guidelines, and whey will soon be trained on template creation and review.

At this point, the AGSC has decided not restructure the Pre-professional Academic Committees (PACs)

 Create various AGSC/STARS training videos (made available through the website) that can be used by academic administrators and other staff members across the state to train and inform end-users and faculty about the AGSC/STARS Program. During 2019 the following training videos were created and are now available through the AGSC/STARS YouTube page:

- AREA I & II Academic Committee Training Video
- AREA III Academic Committee Training Video
- AREA IV Academic Committee Training Video
- AGSC Course Approval Process Training Video
- AGSC SUMMER UPDATE 2019—Points of Contact

We will be working on the following training videos in the next few months:

- AGSC New Member Training Video
- AGSC Templates and Transfer Guide Training Video
- STARS Training for Advisors & Counselors Video
- STARS Usage Reports—"How to Use Them" Video

All these videos are linked on our website and redirect users to our YouTube page for viewing.

 Work with AREA III Committee to review current math course offerings in AREA III and determine if there are changes/additions that need to be made in terms of adding a Quantitative Reasoning or Quantitative Statistics course (MTH 265).

At the time of this report, discussion is on-going about possibly creating a Mathematical Reasoning Course for Non-STEM majors. In addition a number of academic groups around the state are also working on various math pathway initiatives. In the upcoming months, the newly formed AREA III committee will also be asked to consider a quantitative statistics course as an entry level math course in AREA III.

7. Continue to move toward completion of the AREA V template revision by all four-year institutions.

Twelve of the 14 four-year institutions have up-dated and improved their AREA V pages. We are still working with Athens State University and Alabama State University to update their pages. We hope to have these two institutions pages updated by 2020.

#### STARS OFFICE UPDATE

#### **Staffing**

The STARS office currently consists of 3 staff members:

- Keith Sessions, Executive Director (full-time)
- Shannon Nichols, Assistant Director—IT Director (full-time)
- Anita Brown, Executive Secretary (part-time)

These three staff members have over 82 years of total experience working on the AGSC/STARS Program.

#### **Computers and Software**

The desktops used by the staff are less than 4 years old. The server used to generate the STARS Transfer Guides is approximately 5 years old. These machines will likely need to be replace in the next few years. We use PROGRESS 4GL Software to run the STARS Database to generate all transfer guides. At this time the software is up-to-date.

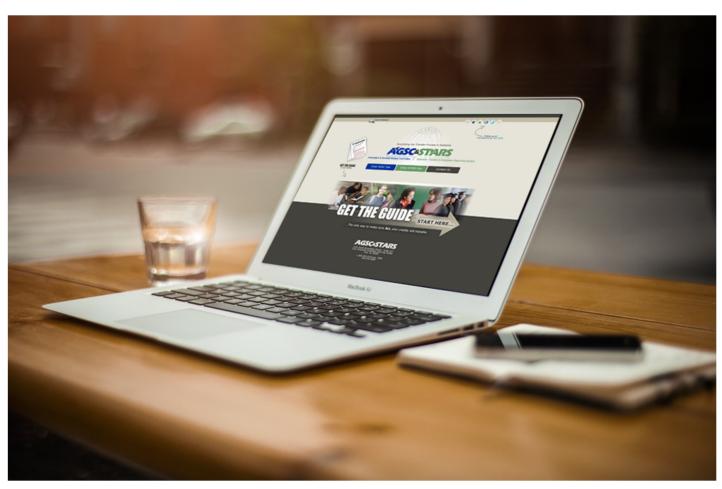
#### **Marketing and Promotion**

We continue to look for inexpensive but effective ways to market and promote the STARS program throughout the state using printed materials (brochures, bookmarks, and post cards), pens, highlighters, online resources, and faceto-face contact.

We are constantly sending out marketing materials to twoyear colleges, four-year universities, and high-school advising offices. The majority of the two-year colleges do an excellent job of assisting us in the marketing and promoting the program to their students.

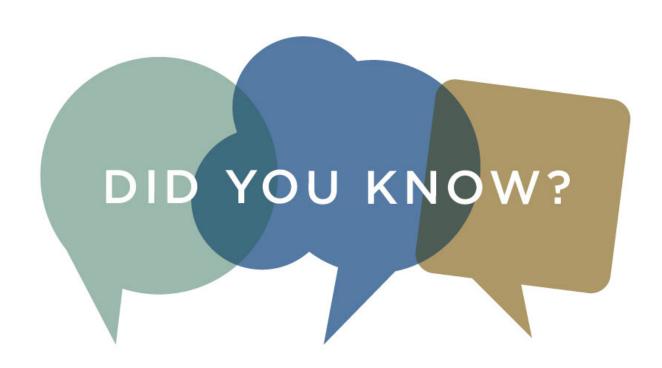
#### **STARS Training and Campus Visits**

The staff continued its effort to visit all areas of the state in order to provide opportunities for STARS training/updates. We will continue this effort into the 2019-2020 academic year. Campus visits and training sessions can be set up



#### DID YOU KNOW?

- The STARS Office maintains over 165 different program templates (these templates become the transfer guides that protect thousands of transfer students each year).
- The STARS Office maintains over **1,700 courses** in the course database. Of those, **1,358 courses have** been approved for statewide transfer by the AGSC. (The STARS Office works to keep current syllabi for each approved course on file and makes them available through the STARS website).
- The STARS Office works with approximately 230 two-year and four-year faculty members who volunteer to serve on more than 20 separate discipline committees.
- The STARS Office works directly with over 75 two-year and four-year points of contact to maintain STARS and implement AGSC policy throughout the state.
- The STARS Office maintains over 500 html web pages on the official STARS website. In addition there are hundreds of pdf documents accessible through the website. All coordination and maintenance of the STARS Website is accomplished by a full-time staff of two.
- If you add up all the years of service by the current STARS staff, you have over **82 years of experience** working with the state articulation program.
- Over 1.4 MILLION Transfer Guides have been obtained through the STARS Website since Fall of 1998.
- Since 2009, the amount of money that the STARS Transfer Guide System has saved students and their parents is conservatively estimated to be OVER ONE BILLION DOLLARS. (See next page)



#### DID YOU KNOW? (Continued)



Since 2009, the amount of money that the STARS Transfer Guide System has SAVED students and their parents (by simply preventing them from taking a course at a two-year college that would not transfer and then having to retake a course at their four-year institution to make up for the lost credit hours) is conservatively estimated to be **OVER ONE BILLION DOLLARS.** 

**NOTE:** This estimate only includes the average cost of tuition and books. It does not include other expenses related to attending college (i.e., cost of living, additional student fees, and loss of job opportunities due to delay in graduation.)

## AGSC4STARS



| Year      | Community College Resident Median<br>Undergrade Annual Tuition and<br>Required Fees * | Community College Resident<br>Undergraduate Average Cost<br>for 3 SH Course and Required<br>Fees |        | Total Number of STARS<br>Guides for Current Year<br>(Official and Unofficial) | Savings Cost of one Course if the<br>STARS Guide Saved a Student from<br>Taking one additional 3 SH Course |
|-----------|---|--|--------|---|--|
| 2009-2010 | \$2,700   | \$270  | \$70   | 89,265  | \$30,350,100   |
| 2010-2011 | \$3,270   | \$327  | \$75   | 86,102  | \$34,613,004   |
| 2011-2012 | \$3,968   | \$397  | \$80   | 78,978  | \$37,656,710   |
| 2012-2013 | \$4,110   | \$411  | \$85   | 73,524  | \$36,467,904   |
| 2013-2014 | \$4,185   | \$419  | \$90   | 86,542  | \$44,006,607   |
| 2014-2015 | \$4,260   | \$426  | \$95   | 84,350  | \$43,946,350   |
| 2015-2016 | \$4,320   | \$432  | \$100  | 82,599  | \$43,942,668   |
| 2016-2017 | \$4,380   | \$438  | \$105  | 76,064  | \$41,302,752   |
| 2017-2018 | \$4,440   | \$444  | \$105  | 70,764  | \$38,849,436   |
| 2018-2019 | \$4,740   | \$474  | \$105  | 64,745  | \$37,487,355   |
|           |   |  | Totals | 792,933   | \$388,622,886  |

| Year      | Four-Year University Resident<br>Median Undergrade Annual Tuition<br>and Required Fees * | Four-Year University Resident<br>Undergraduate Average Cost<br>for 3 SH Course and Required<br>Fees | CAPACIAN SALAKORA DEL CARROL CALIFORNIA DE | Total Number of STARS<br>Guides for Current Year<br>(Official and Unofficial) | Savings Cost of one Course if the<br>STARS Guide Saved a Student from<br>Taking one additional 3 SH Course |
|-----------|--|---|--|---|--|
| 2009-2010 | \$6,185  | \$619   | \$70                                       | 89,265  | \$61,458,953   |
| 2010-2011 | \$7,136  | \$714   | \$75                                       | 86,102  | \$67,900,037   |
| 2011-2012 | \$7,865  | \$787   | \$80                                       | 78,978  | \$68,434,437   |
| 2012-2013 | \$8,275  | \$828   | \$85                                       | 73,524  | \$67,090,650   |
| 2013-2014 | \$8,770  | \$877   | \$90                                       | 86,542  | \$83,686,114   |
| 2014-2015 | \$9,088  | \$909   | \$95                                       | 84,350  | \$84,670,530   |
| 2015-2016 | \$9,358  | \$936   | \$100                                      | 82,599  | \$85,556,044   |
| 2016-2017 | \$9,741  | \$974   | \$105                                      | 76,064  | \$82,080,662   |
| 2017-2018 | \$10,325   | \$1,033   | \$105                                      | 70,764  | \$80,494,050   |
| 2018-2019 | \$10,707   | \$1,071   | \$105                                      | 64,745  | \$76,120,697   |
|           |  |   | Totals                                     | 657,424   | \$757,492,174  |

\$1,146,115,060

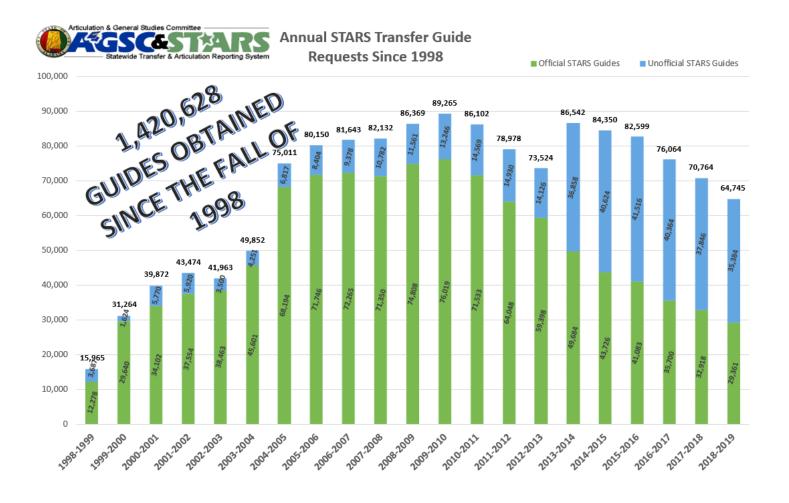


<sup>\*</sup> Tuition amounts are based on undergraduate load of 30 semester hours. Other specific surcharges and fees may be required for certain programs. This data is from ACHE's website located at http://ache.edu/ACHE\_Reports/Reports/Fees/2YR\_%20Res\_NonRes\_TF.pdf and http://ache.edu/ACHE\_Reports/Reports/Fees/4YR\_UG\_Grad\_10YR\_Hist.pdf

<sup>\*\*</sup> Book costs estimated based off an article by Student PIRGS (Public Interest Research Groups) dated Feburary 3, 2016. The article can be found at http://www.studentpirgs.org/news/sp/student-group-releases-new-report-textbook-prices

#### STARS TOTAL TRANSFER GUIDES OBTAINED BY YEAR SINCE 1998

This chart represents usage by two-year college students since the fall of 1998.



**TOTAL AMOUNTS** include the number of official guides obtained plus the number of unofficial guides obtained.

**OFFICIAL GUIDES** are obtained by transfer students who actually provide their name, address, phone, email, institution attending, and their major. The official guide also includes the Transfer Agreement Contract.

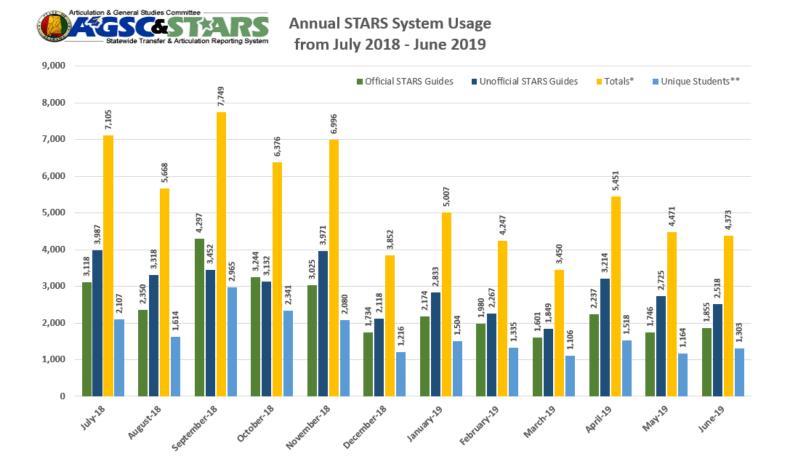
**UNOFFICIAL GUIDES** are obtained by various individuals for reference and comparison purposes only. These guides do not contain student information nor do they include the Transfer Agreement Contract.

**NOTE:** For more detailed reports, please see the STARS website - <a href="http://www.gettheguide.net">http://www.gettheguide.net</a>.

If you need a specific report for your institution, please contact Mr. Shannon Nichols at <a href="mailto:squiroy.edu">squiroy.edu</a>

#### ANNUAL STARS TWO-YEAR STUDENT USAGE REPORT BY MONTH

This chart represents usage by two-year during the 2018-2019 academic year distributed by month.



<sup>\*</sup> TOTAL AMOUNTS include the number of official guides obtained plus the number of unofficial guides obtained.

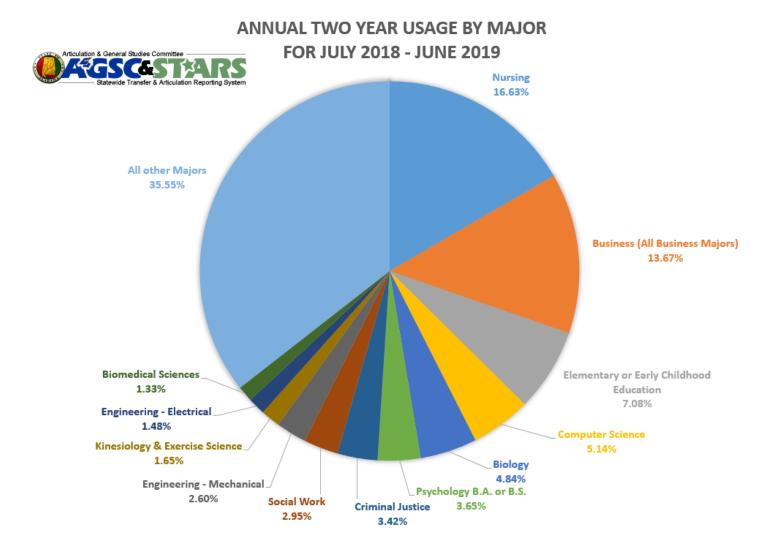
**NOTE:** For more detailed reports, please see the STARS website - <a href="http://www.gettheguide.net">http://www.gettheguide.net</a>.

If you need a specific report for your institution, please contact Mr. Shannon Nichols at <a href="mailto:squirous.squi

<sup>\*\*</sup> **UNIQUE STUDENTS** – The unique student totals take into account that many students who use STARS print multiple guides. Students who print multiple guides in a given major are only counted one time. This number should provide a more accurate picture of how many individual students have printed/obtained guides.

#### ANNUAL STARS TWO-YEAR STUDENT USAGE REPORT BY MAJOR

This chart represents usage by two-year during the 2018-2019 academic year distributed by major choice.

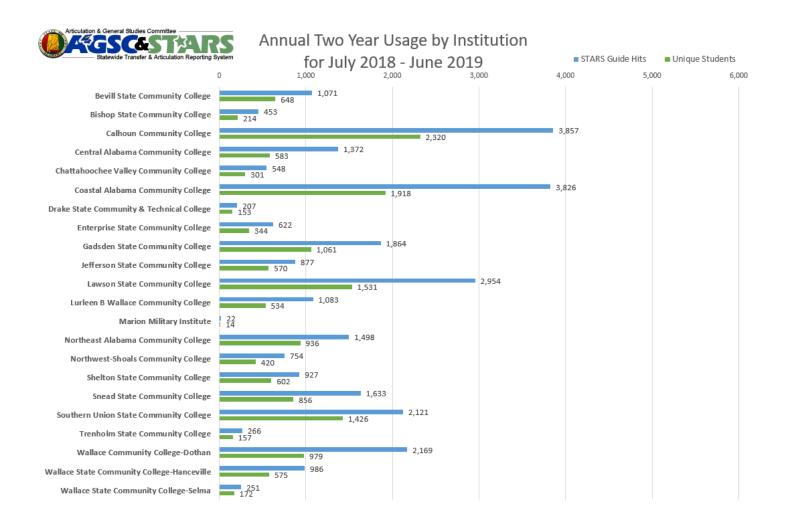


**NOTE:** For more detailed reports, please see the STARS website - <a href="http://www.gettheguide.net">http://www.gettheguide.net</a>.

If you need a specific report for your institution, please contact Mr. Shannon Nichols at <a href="mailto:squiro">squiro</a> specific report for your institution, please contact Mr. Shannon Nichols at <a href="mailto:squiro">squiro</a> specific report for your institution, please contact Mr. Shannon Nichols at <a href="mailto:squiro">squiro</a> specific report for your institution, please contact Mr. Shannon Nichols at <a href="mailto:squiro">squiro</a> specific report for your institution, please contact Mr. Shannon Nichols at <a href="mailto:squiro">squiro</a> specific report for your institution, please contact Mr. Shannon Nichols at <a href="mailto:squiro">squiro</a> specific report for your institution, please contact Mr. Shannon Nichols at <a href="mailto:squiro">squiro</a> specific report for your institution in the squiro specific report for your institution in the your

#### ANNUAL STARS TWO-YEAR STUDENT USAGE REPORT BY TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION

This chart represents usage by two-year during the 2018-2019 academic year distributed by institution.



<sup>\*</sup> TOTAL AMOUNTS include the number of official guides obtained plus the number of unofficial guides obtained.

NOTE: For more detailed reports, please see the STARS website - <a href="http://www.gettheguide.net">http://www.gettheguide.net</a>.

If you need a specific report for your institution, please contact Mr. Shannon Nichols at <a href="mailto:squirose.gen">squirose.gen</a> dispersion of the squirose of the squ

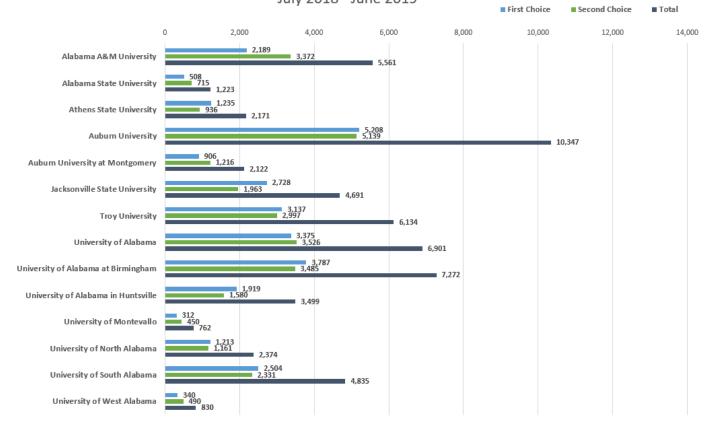
<sup>\*\*</sup> **UNIQUE STUDENTS** – The unique student totals take into account that many students who use STARS print multiple guides. Students who print multiple guides in a given major are only counted one time. This number should provide a more accurate picture of how many individual students have printed/obtained guides.

#### ANNUAL STARS STUDENT USAGE REPORT BY FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONAL CHOICE

NOTE: Each time a student requests a transfer guide, we ask them to tell us their first and second choices of possible transfer destinations. This report outlines their choices. It does not necessarily mean that is the institution that they actually have transferred to or will transfer to.



Transfer Institution Choices by Two-Year Students for July 2018 - June 2019



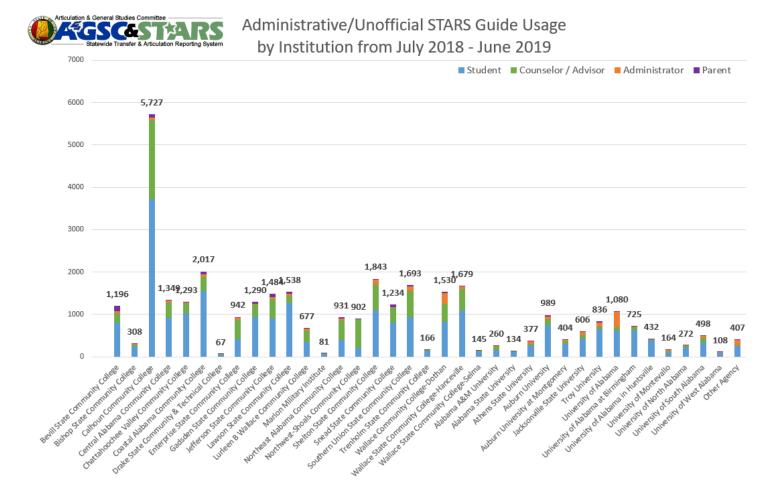
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#### STARS UNOFFICIAL GUIDES REPORT BY USER TYPE

2018-2019

NOTE: Each time a person uses the unofficial guide request we ask them to identify themselves as either a student, counselor/advisor, administrator or parent.



**NOTE:** For more detailed reports, please see the STARS website - <a href="http://www.gettheguide.net">http://www.gettheguide.net</a>.

If you need a specific report for your institution, please contact Mr. Shannon Nichols at <a href="mailto:squichols@troy.edu">squichols@troy.edu</a>

#### 2019-2020 AGSC/STARS Priorities and Goals

#### The Articulation & General Studies Committee (AGSC) will:

- 1. Host the 2nd Annual ACHIEVE Transfer Student Success Conference on the campus of The University of Alabama.
- 2. Analyze and consider possible changes and/or modifications to the existing AGSC General Studies Core (review of AREA I-V framework).
- 3. Continue to review AP Credit requirements and work with institutions to try to gain consensus regarding acceptable scores across the state.
- 4. Investigate current STARS System Usage and performance metrics.

#### The Statewide Transfer & Articulation Reporting System (STARS) Office will:

- 1. Revise, improve, and update current AGSC/STARS Website.
- 2. Continue to develop and create various AGSC/STARS training videos.
- 3. Work with institutions that have institution only templates to improve advising and communication regarding transfer into these specialized programs.



# **APPENDIX**

AGSC State Legislation—Act 94-202



#### AGSC/STARS LEGISLATION

#### Act 94-202: Section E



"The computerized advisement system for students operated by Troy State University which includes a comprehensive undergraduate program and course information for all public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education, existing on the effective date of this amendatory act, shall ensure students at each two-year institution accredited by the Southern Association's Commissions on Colleges, the opportunity to enter into a contract with a four-year institution guaranteeing the transfer of credit earned for courses taken at the two-year institution pursuant to the terms of the contract provided the student is admitted to the four-year institution. Under this contract, all agreed upon credits transferred from a two-year institution to a four-year institution shall fulfill degree requirements at the four-year institution as if they were earned at the four-year institution. Information regarding this advisement and contracting program shall be included in the official catalog of each institution of higher education. All public two-year and four-year institutions in the state accredited by the Commission on Colleges shall participate in this system.

"In addition, there is created an articulation and general studies committee which shall consist of ten members composed as follows: two representing the state's regional universities, three representing the state's two-year colleges (one of whom shall be black), one representing each of the following: Auburn University, the University of Alabama System, the University of South Alabama, Alabama State University, and Alabama A&M University. The Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and the Director of the computerized advising system operated by Troy State University shall serve as nonvoting members.

"Unless provided by the governing board of the respective institution, the representatives to the articulation and general studies committee shall be selected in the following manner: The presidents of the state's regional universities shall select the two representatives of these institutions on the committee. The State Board of Education shall select the representatives of the state's two-year colleges on the committee. The Chancellor of the University of Alabama System and the Presidents of Auburn University, the University of South Alabama, Alabama State University, and Alabama A&M University shall each select the representative of their institutions on the committee. It is the intent of the Legislature that women be represented on the committee. This committee, utilizing whatever resources and task forces it deems appropriate, shall develop no later that September 1, 1998, a statewide freshman and sophomore level general studies curriculum to be taken at all colleges and universities. Nothing herein shall be interpreted as restricting any institution from requiring additional general studies courses beyond the statewide general studies curriculum.

"This committee shall also develop and adopt no later than September 1, 1999, for the freshman and sophomore years, a statewide articulation agreement for the transfer of credit among all public institutions of higher education. Under this articulation agreement, all applicable credits transferred from a two-year institution to a four-year institution shall fulfill degree requirements at the four-year institution as if they were earned at the four-year institution. The committee shall further examine the need for a uniform course numbering system, course titles, and descriptions.

"A four-fifths vote of the entire voting membership of the committee shall be required for the adoption of the articulation agreement and general studies curriculum. Upon adoption of the articulation agreement and general studies curriculum, this committee shall continue its duty and authority prescribed herein. The committee shall meet at least annually, or at other times as convened by the chair. The committee shall elect annually a chair from its membership. The chair of the committee shall rotate annually between a representative of the four-year institutions and a representative of the two-year institutions.

"In case of problems in the administration or interpretation of the articulation agreement or the general studies curriculum, institutions shall present the problem to the articulation and general studies committee for resolution. A majority decision of the committee shall be final and binding.

Questions and/or comments regarding this report should be directed to:



#### C/O Keith Sessions

Executive Director of the AGSC/STARS Program 1101 South Brundidge Street – Suite 107 Troy University – ELC Building Troy, Alabama 36081

> ksessions1@troy.edu 334-670-3797 (office) 334-670-3695 (fax)

WEBSITE:
<a href="http://stars.troy.edu">http://stars.troy.edu</a>
or
<a href="http://www.gettheguide.net">http://www.gettheguide.net</a>

