TCA
It's Only a Mystery Until You Learn the Truth

**University of California, Office of the President –
Transfer Articulation
April 4, 2025**
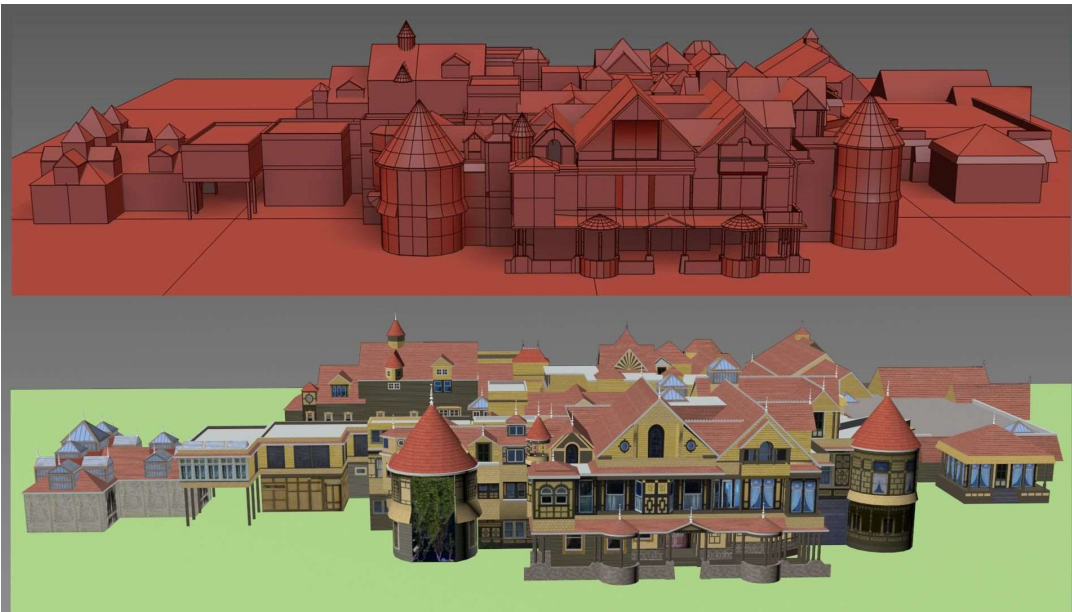
Important Information about UC and the TCA process
        (If you knew Sarah Winchester, you would know none of the gossip was true)

- Community College courses must be reviewed for transferability to the UC system.

- TCA review happens over the summer for courses starting the next academic year and after.

- Schools are assigned a month – June, July or August

- Appeals for courses denied during the summer are reviewed in October with all TCAs being published on or before October 31st.

- Informative Websites:
    - https://ucop.edu/transfer-articulation/transfer-course-agreements/index.html
    - https://ucop.edu/transfer-articulation/transfer-course-agreements/tca-policy/regulations-by-subject-area.html
    - https://www.assist.org/

TCA – starting from the floorplan outward

- TCAs are the baseline for establishing transferability of CCC courses to UC.

- Courses approved for the TCA count as advanced standing elective credit toward an undergraduate degree at any UC campus and may also be submitted for campus-specific articulation or for IGETC.

- There are almost 50,000 community college courses approved for UC TCAs on ASSIST.

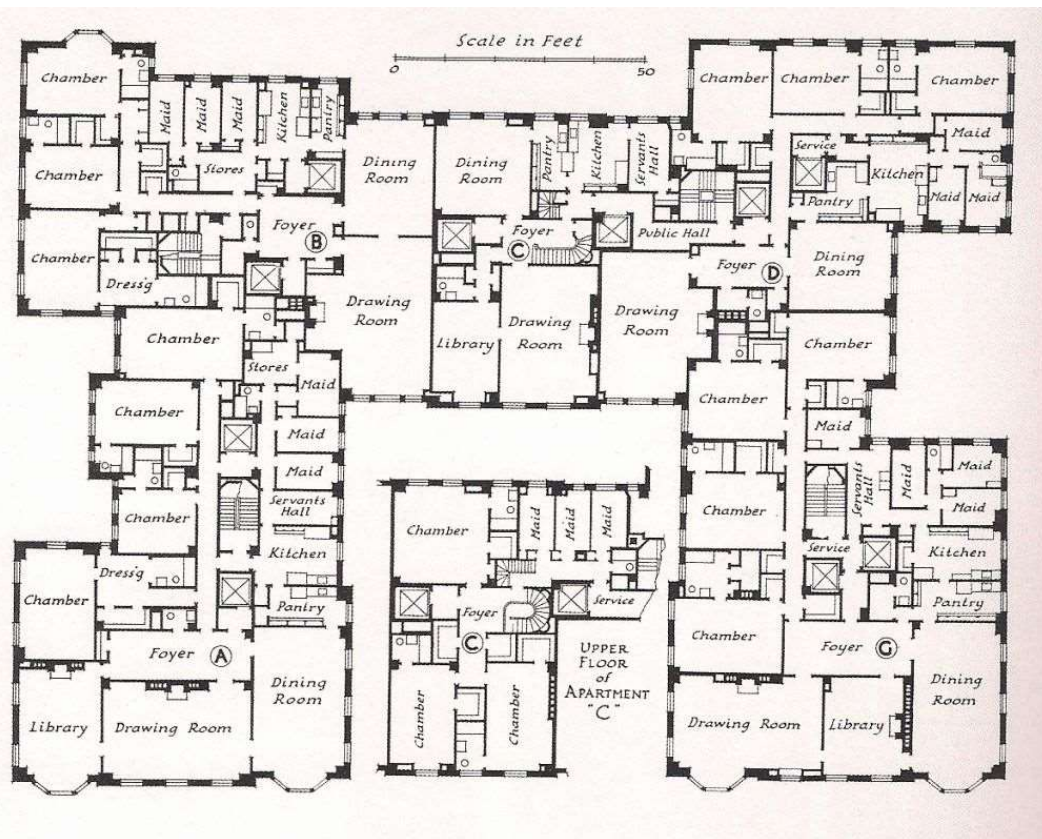- Historically, 85-90% of courses submitted for the TCA are approved.

We review based on the outline in ASSIST. It's important that this outline is accurate in all aspects. Missing or incorrect information leads to a denial.

Common examples of this:

- incorrect hours per term listed;
- missing methods of evaluation;
- textbooks out of date and not listed as classic texts.

Some of these problems occur when uploading from your curriculum management system to ASSIST. It is important to review your submission after uploading to ensure information is present and accurate.

Recent issues that may lead to denial of a submission:

Submissions for the TCA in 2024 and recent submissions for Cal-GETC included some language that could be problematic for approval. Phrases such as:

- "including but not limited to"
- "such as"

Such language, intended to convey that the information in the outline is representative, can instead lead to the impression that the outline is not a truly accurate representation of what will be taught in the course. We advise caution when including this language.

When to Submit:
Two Staircases that go places

When to Submit for TCA Review:
New Courses; and **Significant or Substantive Changes** to UC-transferable Course Outlines.
These include changes in:
- Course Content
- Course Objectives
- Prerequisite(s)
- Corequisite(s)
- Decrease in Units
- Change in hours from Lecture to Lab or Lab to Lecture

No Need to Submit for TCA Review:
Technical Changes.
These include changes in:
- Course Title
- Course Prefix
- Course Number
- Textbook Updates
- Increase in Units
- Cross-listing a course

https://ucop.edu/transfer-articulation/transfer-course-agreements/tca-update-process/when-to-update.html

Layers of Articulation – viewing the same thing through different lenses

In addition to baseline transferability, courses are reviewed during the TCA cycle for Eligibility Areas for the UC 7-course pattern.

- If you think a course is missing an eligibility area, you may ask us to review for that during the appeals cycle. (Please ensure that there is a current outline in ASSIST to review – no more than three years old.)

Cal-GETC: courses on the TCA may be submitted and approved for Cal-GETC – submission is during the winter for the next academic year. A course must be approved for the TCA to be submitted for Cal-GETC.

TCA – A drone's eye view

Between November 1st and December 15th, please review your TCA holistically, paying special attention to the courses you submitted this past cycle.

- Do the courses appear correct – are the course prefix, number, title and units accurate?
  - Please ensure that the information is ASSIST matches the information in your school's catalog and transcript.
- Do courses have the expected Eligibility Areas attached to them?
- Are footnotes appearing when appropriate and do they appear to be correct?

If there are honors versions of any courses there must be a separate outline reviewed in ASSIST in order for students to get credit for that course.

Future of LOTE

- Courses still may be submitted for UCTCA footnote inclusion indicating course equivalent to 2 years of high school instruction.

- For those UC campuses still utilizing option LOTE certification on Cal-GETC, this indicates the course is acceptable to meet the requirement.

- Course Outline of Record **MUST** clearly state the course is equivalent to two years or more of HS instruction to receive the footnote.

UC TCA Review Exceptions for CCN Courses

- Phase I courses MUST be submitted for review in summer 2025.
- Failure to submit courses will result in a two-year phase-out being applied to the course until it is submitted for review.

- Phase II courses that are *modified* versions of existing courses may be submitted for Cal-GETC review without first going through UC TCA review.
- Courses must be submitted for UC TCA review in summer 2026 if not already reviewed.
- Failure to submit courses for review will result in a two-year phase-out being applied to the course.
- Courses can be submitted for review during the summer 2025 UC TCA review cycle.

Questions?

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Please email all three of us with any questions that arise, so that we can respond quickly and efficiently.