

Facilitating Baccalaureate Program Enrollment for Two-Year College Students: A Case Study

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Advantages of four-year degree:

- higher graduate salary
- access to additional careers (i.e. high school agriculture teacher)
- additional technical and professional expertise

Disincentives for continuing after AS degree:

- additional education cost
- lost earnings due to delayed employment
- fewer technicians entering the workforce

Goal:

Increase percentage of 2 yr college graduates transferring to baccalaureate programs to 25%



Partnering Institutions:

University of Nebraska – Lincoln

- College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
- 26,000 student land-grant university
- flagship of the University of Nebraska system

Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

- two-year, open admissions institution, AAS, AS, certificates
- statewide mission, 270 students
- nationally recognized for graduate success (employment, salary)
- sole two-year college in the University of Nebraska system
- Independently accredited, separate appropriation
- “assisted by” UNL

Strategies Employed:

1. Implementation of a detailed articulation agreement including multiple degree plans for baccalaureate completion in four years
 - Agricultural Education
 - Agriculture Business/ Ag Economics
 - Agronomy Integrated Crop Management
 - Agronomy Business Option
 - Animal Science
 - Animal Science - Business and Communication
 - Horticulture Entrepreneurship
 - Mechanized Systems
 - Veterinary Technology



Strategies Employed:

2. “Link to Lincoln” agreement facilitating
 - joint advising
 - coordinated financial aid & scholarships
 - visiting student status prior to transfer (“intercampus exchange agreement”)
 - a multi-semester series of “transfer track” activities:
 - **Semester 1:** advised into AS transfer degrees by 2-yr advisors
 - **Semester 2:** 4-yr transfer advisors travel to 2-yr college to meet students, discuss transfer deficiencies
 - **Semester 3:** transfer students travel to 4-yr college, meet faculty, coaches, advisors, and tour facilities
 - **Semester 4:** 4-yr transfer advisors travel to 2-yr college to meet students, discuss transfer deficiencies



Strategies Employed:

3. UNL faculty status for selected NCTA faculty.
NCTA faculty teach courses for UNL credit on the NCTA campus.
 - Pilot: Fall 2017 – Introduction to Secondary Agriscience Education



Strategies Employed:

4. Modify NCTA general education courses to include the same course name and student learning outcomes as the analogous UNL course.

Examples:

NCTA Course Prefix & Title	UNL Course Prefix & Title	Academic Council Approved 2018 NCTA Course Prefix & Title Changes
CHM 1014: Intro to Chemistry I	CHEM 105: Chemistry in Context I	CHM 1014: Chemistry in Context I
ENG 1503: Bus. & Tech. Writing	JGEN 200: Tech. Communication I	ENG 1503: Tech. Communication I
ENG 1903: College Composition	ENGL 150: Writing & Inquiry	ENG 1903: Writing & Inquiry
ENG 2203: Adv. College Comp.	ENGL 151: Writing & Argument	ENG 2203: Writing & Argument
ENG 2223: Intr. to Creative Writing	ENGL 170: Begin. Creative Writing	ENG 2223: Begin. Creative Writing
SPC 1113: Speech	COMM 209: Public Speaking	SPC 1113: Public Speaking

Strategies Employed:

5. Implement a reverse transfer agreement.
6. Modify selected NCTA AS degree plans to facilitate easy transfer.



Strategies Employed:

7. Fall 2018: Offer NCTA AS degree to selected UNL non-completers.

HLC Assumed Practices B.1.b.

(<https://www.hlcommission.org/Policies/assumed-practices.html>):

“The institution maintains structures or practices that ensure the coherence and quality of the programs for which it awards a degree.

...15 of the 60 credits for the associate’s degree be credits earned at the institution itself, (or) through arrangements with other accredited institutions...”



Six options:

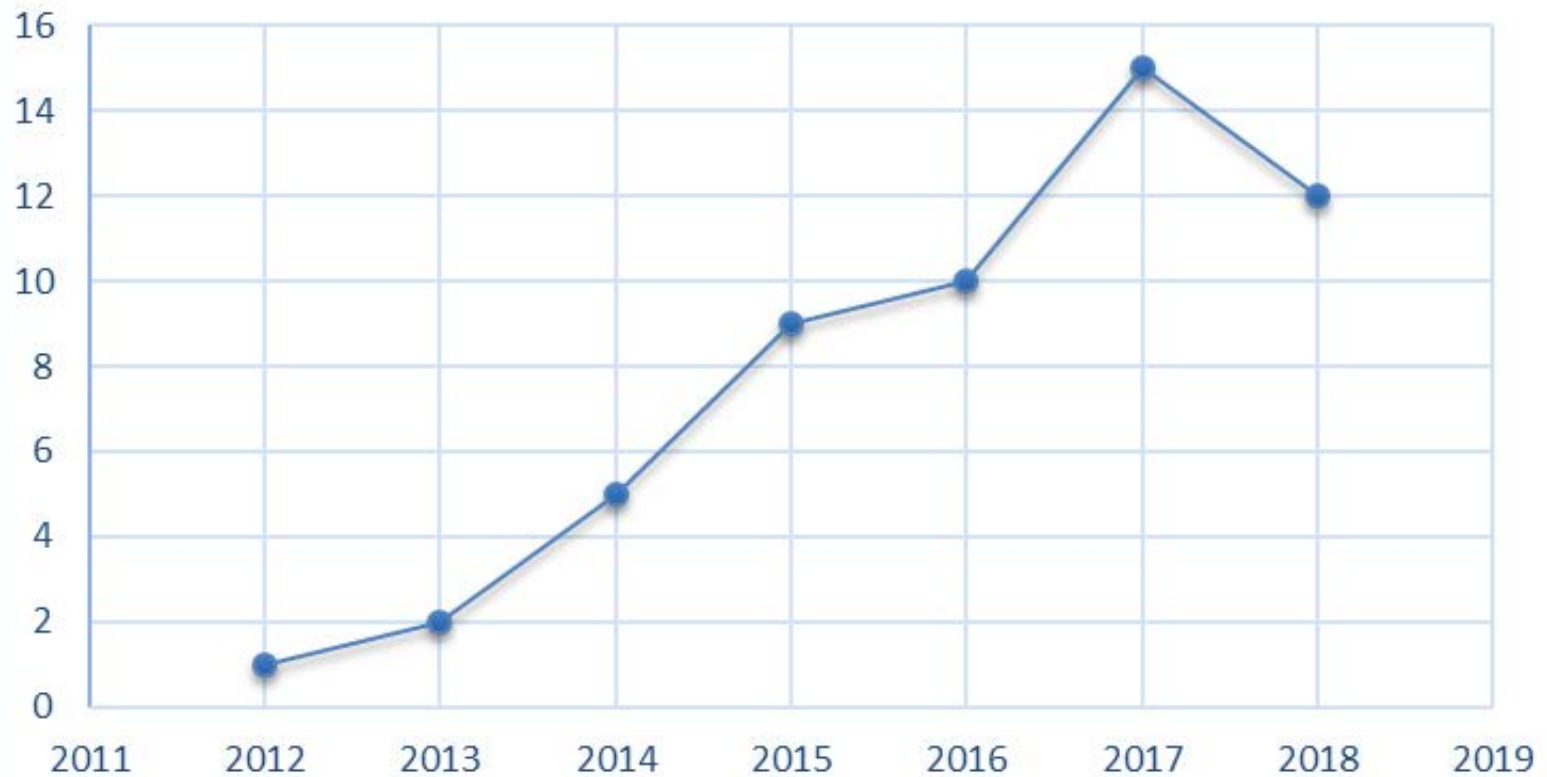
- Agribusiness management
- Agricultural education
- Agronomy
- Animal science
- Horticulture
- Mechanized Systems Management

Credits required from identified courses in 3 areas:

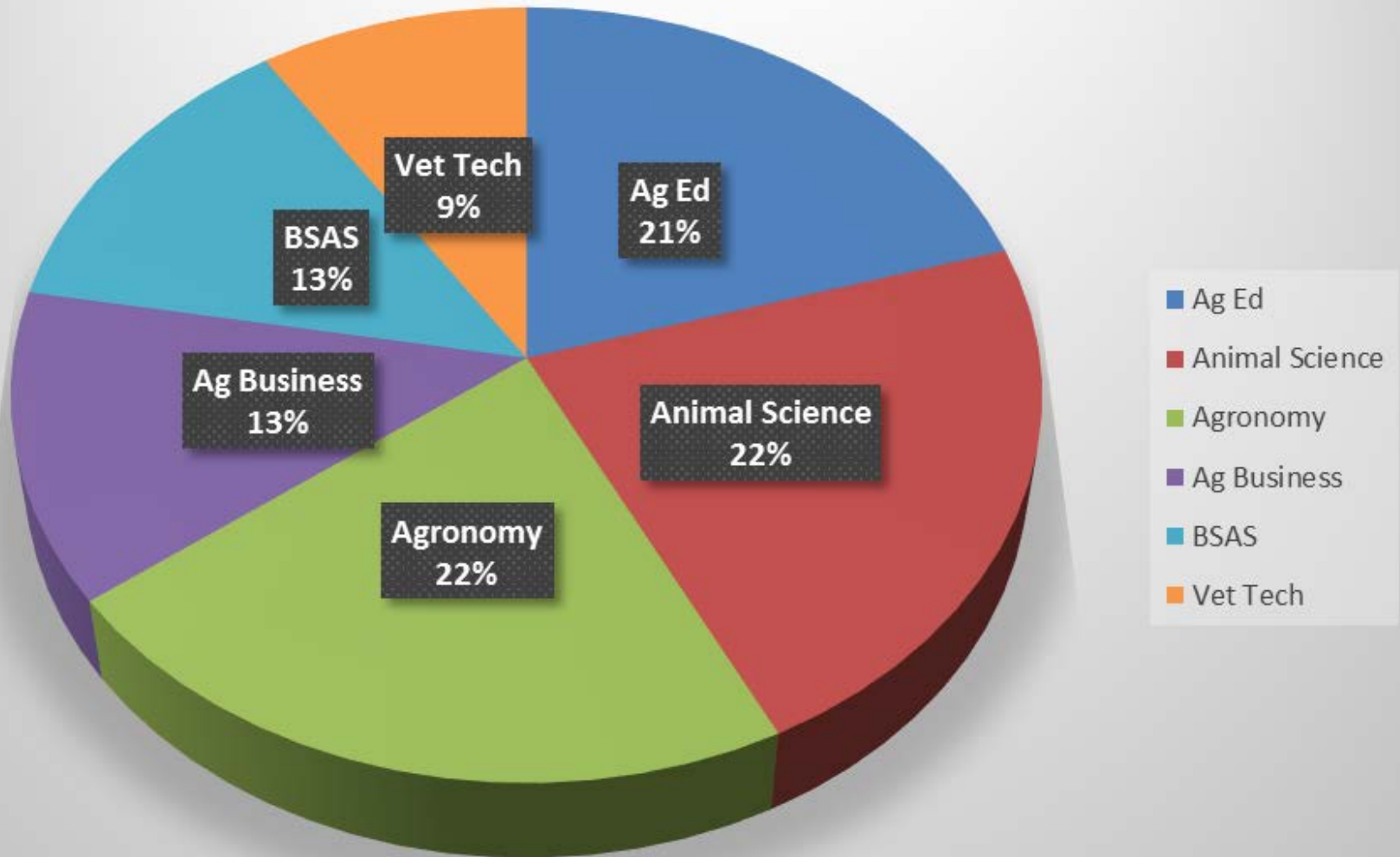
- **Associate of Science Gen Ed Core (26 credit hours required)**
 - Written communication; critical thinking (3 hours required)
 - Oral communication (3 hours required)
 - Quantitative literacy (5 hours required)
 - Problem solving (8 hours required)
 - Intercultural knowledge & competence (3 hours required)
 - Information literacy (3 hours required)
 - Civic engagement (1 hour required)
- **Advisor guided disciplinary electives (11 or 12 credit hours required)**
- **Specialization core courses (24 to 26 credit hours required)**

Results

Transfer Headcount, 2012-2018



Disciplinary Totals 2012-2018



Conclusion:

Partnership initiatives between two and four-year institutions may significantly increase transfer to baccalaureate programs.

