



Interstate Passport Guiding Principles

STUDENT FOCUSED. Interstate Passport® ensures that a student who earns a Passport at an Interstate Passport Network member institution and transfers to another one will be well prepared and will not have to repeat learning already achieved to meet lower-division General Education requirements at the new institution.

All students who complete the courses/learning experiences in the institution's Passport Block (earning a grade of C or equivalent in each course), earn a Passport—not just students intending to transfer.

The Passport transfers as a block, fulfilling the lower-division general education requirements at all two-year and four-year institutions in the Network. Receiving institutions may require additional lower-division General Education courses only if required for entry into a particular major or where specifically required by a state legislature.

FACULTY DRIVEN. Interstate faculty teams negotiated and agreed upon consensus Passport Learning Outcomes (PLOs). Institutions are not required to use the same language in their learning outcomes as that in the PLOs or to adopt them as their own. Rather, faculty at institutions participating in the Interstate Passport Network have determined that their school's lower-division General Education learning outcomes are consistent with and cover the same range of learning as the Passport Learning Outcomes (PLOs).

Each faculty member will have his/her own ways for students to demonstrate proficiency with the learning outcomes. The Passport's Proficiency Criteria (PC) are a reference, providing examples of ways some faculty ask their students to demonstrate proficiency of a "C" or better with one or more learning outcomes.

INSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY. Although the institution's learning outcomes will be categorized differently, the Passport Learning Outcomes are described in the following areas: oral communication, written communication, quantitative literacy, natural sciences, human cultures, creative expression, human society and the individual, critical thinking, and teamwork and value systems (<http://www.wiche.edu/passport/passport-framework>).

The Passport Blocks, menus of courses or learning experiences by which students can achieve the agreed upon outcomes, vary by institution. Faculty can update their institutions' Passport Block as they make changes to their curriculum without triggering a review as long as they ensure that the outcomes are still consistent with and cover the same range of learning as the PLOs.

QUALITY ASSURANCE. Interstate Passport's tracking system, developed by the National Student Clearinghouse, provides data back to the sending institution on the academic progress of Passport earners for two terms after transfer for use in continuous improvement efforts. Aggregate data is provided to the Passport Review Board for evaluation of the overall program. Data on the academic progress of non-Passport students, and of "native" students who earn a Passport, are also reported for comparison.