



[ATAIN](#) FAQ: Information Sheet & Timeline

Table of Contents

[What is ATAIN?](#)

[Why Join ATAIN?](#)

[What is Required \(Data, Time Commitment, etc.\)?](#)

[What is Provided?](#)

[How Can We Apply and What are the Selection Criteria?](#)

[Who is Involved?](#)

[What are the Expected Timelines?](#)

[Who Can I Contact for More Information?](#)

What is ATAIN?

The AI Transfer and Articulation Infrastructure Network (ATAIN) is a groundbreaking national initiative supercharging credit mobility and college transfer success for learners across the country. By harnessing cutting-edge AI technology through a software platform called CourseWise, ATAIN aims to eliminate the frustration, friction, and uncertainty of credit transfer and empower institutions to best serve their students.

Imagine a future where learners' hard-earned credits follow them to any education opportunity, personalized course plans are tailored to their unique goals, and the path to their goals is clear and efficient.

ATAIN isn't just making transfer smoother—it's a catalyst for learners to take control of their educational journey, opening doors to new opportunities and making the dream of degree attainment more accessible than ever before.

Join ATAIN and help shape the future of higher education, unlocking the full potential of every learner.

Why Join ATAIN?

We expect the following benefits for institutions participating in ATAIN:

- Provide a smoother transfer experience for all learners and reduce credit loss
- Increase the number of learners transferring in and/or out of your institution
- Increase enrollment and on-time degree completion of students
- Equip student-facing staff and faculty with more time to engage with learners in meaningful ways
- Enhance institutional processes and efficiency
- Reduce institutional costs

What is Required (Data, Time Commitment, etc.)?

Below are the expectations and requirements for institutions participating in ATAIN:

- **Staffing:**
 - Each institution must designate an Executive-Level Sponsor, a Project Lead, and someone who can provide Institutional Research (IR) capacity. Please click [here](#) for more details.
- **Community of Practice Participation:**
 - Institutions will join a collaborative learning group. All activities and/or events will be conducted virtually.
- **Data Uploads:**
 - On a term-by-term basis, institutions will need to provide (data requirements are near-final and may be revised):
 - Catalog descriptions in .CSV format, to include: course_prefix, course_number, course_title, course_desc, num_units, dept_name, inst_ipeds
 - Course equivalencies/articulations in .CSV format, to include: sending_inst_ipeds, sending_course_prefix, sending_course_number, receiving_inst_ipeds, receiving_course_number, receiving_course_prefix

- **Feedback Opportunities:**
 - Institutions can optionally participate in sessions to help improve new features rolled out through early previews of the next software platform version.
- **Time Commitment:**
 - Estimated time commitment includes:
 - 3 hours for onboarding and training (most likely the Project Lead, Executive-Level Sponsor as needed/interested)
 - 4 hours for data submission (most likely IR capacity)
 - 2 hours per term for Community of Practice activities and networking (most likely the Project Lead)

What is Provided?

Participating institutions will be provided:

- Free tech access during the first year (grant-funded)
- Virtual support, including:
 - How-to webinars
 - Data submission templates
 - Direct contact with technical experts
- Key technology features:
 - Course equivalency database with input from institutions nationally
 - AI-powered course equivalency suggestions
 - Articulation request and decision management tool
 - Articulation coverage analytics tracking dashboard
 - Transcript evaluation workflow for automatic transferable credit analysis
- Future enhancements:
 - Personalized program mapping and course selection guidance for learners
 - Interoperability with other systems for sharing articulation data (planned for late 2025/early 2026)

How Can We Apply and What are the Selection Criteria?

You can submit a brief application [here](#). Institutions that apply will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- AACC and APLU members will be prioritized for selection, but all institutions are encouraged to submit an application
- Institutions that a) have transfer partners who also apply and b) name transfer partners in their application will be prioritized
- Institutions must submit a commitment letter (a [commitment letter template](#) is provided with the [application](#)) signed by the President or a Vice President outlining the following:
 - Leadership's interest in and prioritization of the project
 - Agreement to assign staffing capacity
 - Commitment to participate in a learning community
 - Commitment to submitting required data
- Institutions must demonstrate a commitment to equitable student success:
 - Submit a brief statement explaining how ATAIN will help achieve your institution's equity and student success goals
 - Include relevant institutional definitions or statements on equity and student success
- ATAIN will select transfer partner institutions that collectively:
 - Serve a large volume of students, transferring between them
 - Represent diverse institution types
 - Provide geographic and demographic diversity

Who is Involved?

- [Dr. Zach Pardos](#), Associate Professor of Education and Director of the University of California at Berkeley's Computational Approaches to Human Learning research lab and developer of the CourseWise software platform
- [The American Association of Community Colleges \(AACC\)](#)
- [The Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities \(APLU\)](#)
- [Sova](#)

What is the Expected Timeline?

The following timeline is expected. Please note: As the initiative progresses, timelines may shift.

- **January 24, 2025** | Deadline for submitting Applications

- **February 2025** | Notification of acceptance. Virtual online orientation held. Data usage agreements are due.
- **February – March 2025** | Data submission and feedback
- **April – August 2025** | Access to the system granted, including the national course equivalencies and AI-informed recommendations database, metrics dashboards, approval workflows, and transcript evaluation tool.
- **Summer/Fall 2025** | Information regarding the advanced features cohort (set to begin in late 2025 or early 2026) will be available. Advanced features include student-facing AI-assisted individualized program mapping, course selection guidance, and degree completion navigation.

Who Can I Contact for More Information?

Please email atain@sova.org