

# Developing Transfer Engineering Diploma Programs for Community College Students: KAAU Experience

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## Abstract

This paper presents handful transfer engineering diploma programs for community college students. These programs are tailored to industry requirement while giving the chance for excellent students to transfer to engineering colleges to get a bachelor of science degree. The transfer is made to any local engineering college with minimum loss in the transfer credits.

## Key Words

Engineering, Education, Transfer, Diploma, Program

## 1. Introduction

Communities colleges are somehow new to the educational environment in Saudi Arabia and the whole Arab World at large, but world-wide it has been in business for more than a century. The fast spread of these colleges in the Arab world specially in the Arabian Gulf area is attributed to so many causes including the high birth rate (up to 4% per year), the difficulties to restructure the existing universities, the theoretical abstracted aspect of the existing universities programs, the influence of the industrialized societies-driven in the current educational programs that does not meet the demand of the developing countries like most of the Arab world and the high unemployment rate.

However, the start of these community colleges is not up to the expectation due to some social and cultural adaptively challenges including the feeling of lower academic degree, the search for office type of job and titles. The current programs offered in 13 new community colleges aim to fit industry requirement in terms of specialty and subjects to teach. As a result of all of these factors top high school graduates do not join community colleges for the above reasons.