

By: Wu

H.B. No. 1409

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the granting of undergraduate course credit by  
3 examination at public institutions of higher education;  
4 authorizing a fee.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 51.968, Education Code,  
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.968. UNDERGRADUATE COURSE CREDIT BY EXAMINATION OR  
9 ~~[FOR]~~ HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION OF ~~[STUDENTS COMPLETING]~~  
10 POSTSECONDARY-LEVEL PROGRAM.

11 SECTION 2. Section 51.968(a)(4), Education Code, is amended  
12 to read as follows:

13 (4) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning  
14 assigned ~~[means an institution of higher education, as defined]~~ by  
15 Section 61.003~~[, that offers freshman-level courses]~~.

16 SECTION 3. Section 51.968, Education Code, is amended by  
17 adding Subsections (a-1), (a-2), (a-3), (d-1), and (f-1) and  
18 amending Subsections (b), (c), and (e) to read as follows:

19 (a-1) This section applies only to an institution of higher  
20 education that offers freshman-level and sophomore-level courses.

21 (a-2) To maximize opportunities for students to earn  
22 undergraduate course credit at the institution, each institution of  
23 higher education shall develop and, at least once during each  
24 academic year, administer one or more institution-specific

1 examinations by which entering or current undergraduate students  
2 may earn freshman-level or sophomore-level course credit in the  
3 same manner as an entering freshman student may earn course credit  
4 through a CLEP examination or advanced placement examination. The  
5 institution may charge students a reasonable fee for taking an  
6 examination described by this subsection. The institution shall  
7 develop and administer examinations for course credit for as many  
8 freshman-level and sophomore-level courses as practicable and may  
9 develop those examinations using source material from other  
10 institutions of higher education.

11 (a-3) Each institution of higher education that ceases to  
12 offer credit through the College-Level Examination Program or the  
13 Advanced Placement Program for a specific course shall offer credit  
14 for the course through an institution-specific examination  
15 administered under Subsection (a-2).

16 (b) Each institution of higher education [~~that offers~~  
17 ~~freshman-level courses~~] shall adopt and implement a policy to grant  
18 [~~undergraduate~~] course credit for freshman-level and  
19 sophomore-level courses to undergraduate [~~entering freshman~~]  
20 students who have:

21 (1) successfully completed the International  
22 Baccalaureate Diploma Program;

23 (2) [~~who have~~] achieved required scores on one or more  
24 examinations in the Advanced Placement Program or the College-Level  
25 Examination Program;

26 (3) [~~or who have~~] successfully completed one or more  
27 courses offered through concurrent enrollment in high school and at

1 an institution of higher education; or  
2 (4) achieved required scores on one or more  
3 institution-specific examinations administered by the institution  
4 under Subsection (a-2).

5 (c) In the policy, the institution shall:

6 (1) establish the institution's conditions for  
7 granting course credit, including the minimum required scores on  
8 CLEP examinations, Advanced Placement examinations, ~~[and]~~  
9 examinations for courses constituting the International  
10 Baccalaureate Diploma Program, and institution-specific  
11 examinations administered by the institution under Subsection  
12 (a-2); and

13 (2) based on the correlations identified under  
14 Subsections ~~[Subsection]~~ (f) and (f-1), identify the specific  
15 freshman-level or sophomore-level course credit or other academic  
16 requirements of the institution, including the number of semester  
17 credit hours or other course credit, that the institution will  
18 grant to a student who successfully completes a course or program or  
19 achieves a required score on an examination as described by  
20 Subsection (b) ~~[the diploma program, who successfully completes a~~  
21 ~~course through concurrent enrollment, or who achieves required~~  
22 ~~scores on CLEP examinations or Advanced Placement examinations]~~.

23 (d-1) Each institution of higher education shall:

24 (1) report to the coordinating board:

25 (A) a list of courses for which the institution  
26 offers undergraduate students the opportunity to earn course credit  
27 through an institution-specific examination; and

1                    (B) the institution's policy adopted under this  
2 section; and

3                    (2) include a copy of the list and policy with the  
4 institution's undergraduate student application materials,  
5 including application materials available on the institution's  
6 Internet website.

7                    (e) On request of an applicant for admission as an entering  
8 undergraduate student [~~freshman~~], an institution of higher  
9 education, based on information provided by the applicant, shall  
10 determine and notify the applicant regarding:

11                    (1) the amount and type of any course credit that would  
12 or could be granted to the applicant under the policy; and

13                    (2) any other academic requirement that the applicant  
14 would satisfy under the policy.

15                    (f-1) An institution of higher education shall:

16                    (1) identify correlations between the subject matter  
17 and content of courses offered by the institution and the subject  
18 matter and content of institution-specific examinations  
19 administered by the institution under Subsection (a-2); and

20                    (2) make that information available to the public on  
21 the institution's Internet website.

22                    SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies  
23 beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year. An academic year  
24 occurring before that academic year is covered by the law in effect  
25 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is  
26 continued in effect for that purpose.

27                    SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.