

By: West, Taylor of Collin

S.B. No. 2122

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the coordination of the transfer of course credit
3 between public institutions of higher education.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 51.9685(b), (c), and (d), Education
6 Code, are amended to read as follows:

7 (b) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (c), not
8 later than the end of the first regular semester or term immediately
9 following the semester or term in which the student earned the
10 following number of semester credit hours for coursework
11 successfully completed by the student, including transfer courses,
12 international baccalaureate courses, dual credit courses, and any
13 other course for which the institution the student attends has
14 awarded the student college course credit, including course credit
15 awarded by examination, each student enrolled [~~in an associate or~~
16 ~~bachelor's degree program~~] at an institution of higher education
17 shall:

18 (1) following a semester or term in which the student
19 earned a cumulative total of 15 or more semester credit hours,
20 receive formal advising regarding the student's degree plan; and

21 (2) following a semester or term in which the student
22 earned a cumulative total of 30 or more semester credit hours, file
23 a degree plan with the institution [~~not later than the end of the~~
24 ~~second regular semester or term immediately following the semester~~

1 ~~or term in which the student earned a cumulative total of 45 or more~~
2 ~~semester credit hours for coursework successfully completed by the~~
3 ~~student, including transfer courses, international baccalaureate~~
4 ~~courses, dual credit courses, and any other course for which the~~
5 ~~institution the student attends has awarded the student college~~
6 ~~course credit, including course credit awarded by examination].~~

7 (c) A student to whom this section applies who begins the
8 student's first semester or term at an institution of higher
9 education with 30 [45] or more semester credit hours of course
10 credit for courses described by Subsection (b) shall file a degree
11 plan with the institution not later than the end of the student's
12 second regular semester or term at the institution.

13 (d) An institution of higher education shall provide to
14 students to whom this section applies information regarding the
15 requirement for formal advising and the degree plan filing
16 requirement under this section and options for consulting with an
17 academic advisor for those purposes [~~that purpose~~], which may
18 include consultation through electronic communication.

19 SECTION 2. Section 61.059(p), Education Code, is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (p) In its instruction and operations formula applicable to
22 an institution of higher education, the board may not include any
23 semester credit hours earned for dual course credit by a high school
24 student for high school and college credit at the institution
25 unless those credit hours are earned through any of the following:

26 (1) a course in the core curriculum of the institution
27 providing course credit;

1 (2) a career and technical education course that
2 applies to any certificate or associate's degree offered by the
3 institution providing course credit; ~~[or]~~

4 (3) a foreign language course; or

5 (4) a course in a field of study curriculum approved by
6 the board under Section 61.823 offered by the institution providing
7 course credit.

8 SECTION 3. Section 61.822, Education Code, is amended by
9 amending Subsections (a), (a-1), and (b) and adding Subsections
10 (a-2), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

11 (a) The board shall develop and implement a policy regarding
12 ~~[encourage]~~ the transferability of lower division course credit
13 among institutions of higher education.

14 (a-1) The board, with the assistance of advisory committees
15 composed of representatives of institutions of higher education,
16 shall develop a recommended core curriculum of at least 42 semester
17 credit hours, including a statement of the content, component
18 areas, and objectives of the core curriculum. The core curriculum
19 must provide the knowledge and academic competencies foundational
20 for all future learning. Courses in the core curriculum shall be
21 general education courses, broad in scope, and may not narrowly
22 focus on knowledge and competencies specific to a particular
23 occupation or profession.

24 (a-2) At least a majority of the members of any advisory
25 committee named under this section shall be faculty members of an
26 institution of higher education. An institution shall consult with
27 the faculty of the institution before nominating or recommending a

1 person to the board as the institution's representative on an
2 advisory committee.

3 (b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core
4 curriculum of no less than 42 semester credit hours, including
5 specific courses comprising the curriculum. The core curriculum
6 must be approved by the board and shall be consistent with the
7 common course numbering system approved by the board under Section
8 61.832 and with the statement, recommendations, and rules issued by
9 the board. [~~An institution may have a core curriculum of other than~~
10 ~~42 semester credit hours only if approved by the board.~~]

11 (f) The board shall establish a database and collect
12 information as determined by the board to annually identify the 25
13 degree programs that have the greatest transfer student enrollment.
14 Each general academic teaching institution must identify for each
15 of those degree programs:

16 (1) a list of the lower-division courses offered by
17 institutions of higher education that are considered by the board
18 to be general academic transfer courses that may be offered for
19 state funding by public junior colleges, public state colleges, and
20 public technical institutes;

21 (2) the required courses for the degree program that
22 satisfy the core curriculum requirements at the institution; and

23 (3) any additional lower-division requirements for
24 the degree program at the institution.

25 (g) Courses identified by a general academic teaching
26 institution under Subsection (f) are only required to be applied to
27 the appropriate degree program for a student in the period of the

1 institution's course catalog beginning with the student's first
2 enrollment in an institution of higher education.

3 SECTION 4. Section 61.823, Education Code, is amended by
4 adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

5 (f) Each public junior college, public state college, and
6 public technical institute that offers a degree program for which a
7 field of study curriculum is developed shall adopt the field of
8 study curriculum.

9 SECTION 5. Section 61.832, Education Code, is amended by
10 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

11 (e) The board may monitor the use of the common course
12 numbering system by general academic teaching institutions to
13 ascertain benefits and problems with the implementation of the
14 system and issue an annual report, including a timeline for
15 statutory compliance, to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the
16 speaker of the house of representatives, the chair of the senate
17 finance committee, and the chair of each standing committee in the
18 legislature with jurisdiction over higher education.

19 SECTION 6. The changes in law made by this Act apply
20 beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year.

21 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.