

By: West

S.B. No. 2122

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education
3 Coordinating Board to develop and implement transfer policy for
4 lower division courses among Texas public institutions of higher
5 education.

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

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

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

13 (a-1) The board, with the assistance of advisory committees
14 composed of representatives of institutions of higher education,
15 shall develop a recommended core curriculum of at least ~~42~~ 39
16 semester credit hours, including a statement of the content,
17 component areas, and objectives of the core curriculum. At least a
18 majority of the members of any advisory committee named under this
19 section shall be faculty members of an institution of higher
20 education. An institution shall consult with the faculty of the
21 institution before nominating or recommending a person to the board
22 as the institution's representative on an advisory committee.

23 (a-2) The 39 semester credit hour core curriculum provides
24 the knowledge and academic competencies foundational for all future

1 learning. Courses in the core curriculum shall be general education
2 courses, broad in scope, and shall not narrowly focus on knowledge
3 and competencies specific to a particular occupation or profession.

4 (b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core
5 curriculum of no less than 39 semester credit hours, including
6 specific courses comprising the curriculum. The core curriculum
7 shall be lower division courses, consistent with the common course
8 numbering system, and approved by the board according to the
9 statement, recommendations, and rules issued by the board. ~~An~~
10 ~~institution may have a core curriculum of other than semester~~
11 ~~credit hours only if approved by the board.~~

12 (c) If a student successfully completes the ~~39~~ 42-hour core
13 curriculum at an institution of higher education, that block of
14 courses may be transferred to any other institution of higher
15 education and must be substituted for the receiving institution's
16 core curriculum. A student shall receive academic credit for each
17 of the courses transferred and may not be required to take
18 additional core curriculum courses at the receiving institution
19 unless the board has approved a larger core curriculum at the
20 institution.

21 (f) The Coordinating Board will annually identify in a
22 database determined by the Coordinating Board the state's top 25
23 majors among transfer students. General academic teaching
24 institutions will identify for each of the majors described above
25 the following:

26 (1) Required lower-division courses for which
27 equivalencies exist in the Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM).

1 (2) Required courses in the top 25 majors that would
2 satisfy Core Curriculum requirements at that institution.

3 (3) Required lower-division courses that are not in
4 the ACGM for the top 25 majors.

5 (g) Courses identified shall be applied to the appropriate
6 major for a time period equal to the period students may utilize any
7 given catalog to graduate at a receiving institution. For this
8 purpose the time period would start when a student first entered
9 college, but no more than three years after first entering college.

10 SECTION 2. Section 61.823, Education Code, is amended by
11 adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

12 (g) A public junior college and a technical institute as
13 described in 61.003 must adopt board approved fields of study for
14 any disciplines where they have similar programs.

15 SECTION 3. Section 51.9685, Education Code, is amended by
16 amending Subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows:

17 (b) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (c), each
18 student enrolled ~~in an associate or bachelor's degree program~~ at an
19 institution of higher education shall file a degree plan with the
20 institution not later than the end of the first ~~second~~ regular
21 semester after initially enrolling, or term immediately following
22 the semester or term in which the student ~~earned a cumulative total~~
23 ~~of 45 or more~~ has accumulated a total of 15 semester credit hours
24 and immediately following the term in which a student has
25 accumulated 30 semester credit hours for coursework attempted
26 ~~coursework successfully completed~~ by the student, including
27 transfer courses, international baccalaureate courses, dual credit

1 courses, and any other course for which the institution the student
2 attends has awarded the student college course credit, including
3 course credit awarded by examination.

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

10 SECTION 4. Section 61.059, Education Code, is amended by
11 amending Subsection (p) by adding paragraph (4) to read as follows:

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

17 (1) a course in the core curriculum of the institution
18 providing course credit;

19 (2) a career and technical education course that
20 applies to any certificate or associate 's degree offered by the
21 institution providing course credit; or

22 (3) a foreign language course.

23 (4) a course from a Board approved Field of Study or
24 Programs of Study offered by the institution providing course
25 credit.

26 SECTION 5. Section 61.832, Education code is amended by
27 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

1 (e) the Board is authorized to monitor the use of the Texas
2 Common Course Numbering System by general academic teaching
3 institutions to ascertain benefits and problems and provide a
4 report for implementation and a timeline for full compliance with
5 statute.

6 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.