

By: White

H.B. No. 1759

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the core curriculum at public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 61.821(1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1) "Core curriculum" means the basic curriculum in liberal arts, humanities, and sciences and political, social, and cultural history that all undergraduate students of an institution of higher education are expected to know and are required to complete before receiving an academic undergraduate degree.

SECTION 2. Section 61.822, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core curriculum of no less than 42 semester credit hours, including specific courses comprising the curriculum. The core curriculum shall:

(1) consist only of courses that:

(A) are listed in:

(i) the common course numbering system approved by the board; and

(ii) the board's manual of general academic transfer courses that may be offered for state funding by public

1 junior colleges, public state colleges, and public technical
2 institutes; or

3 (B) are the equivalent of courses described by
4 Paragraph (A), as determined by the board; and

5 (2) be consistent with [~~the common course numbering~~
6 ~~system approved by the board and with~~] the statement,
7 recommendations, and rules issued by the board.

8 (b-1) An institution may have a core curriculum of other
9 than 42 semester credit hours only if approved by the board.

10 SECTION 3. Section 130.0104(b), Education Code, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 (b) A multidisciplinary studies associate degree program
13 established at a junior college under this section must require a
14 student to successfully complete:

15 (1) the junior college's core curriculum adopted under
16 Section 61.822 [~~61.822(b)~~]; and

17 (2) after completion of the core curriculum under
18 Subdivision (1), the courses selected by the student in the
19 student's degree plan completed under Subsection (c).

20 SECTION 4. Sections 61.821 and 61.822, Education Code, as
21 amended by this Act, apply beginning with the 2020-2021 academic
22 year.

23 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.