

TRANSFER OF ACADEMIC CREDIT

350.395 Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities; standards for applying community college credits toward baccalaureate degrees; annual report. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Associate transfer degree” means an associate degree that is awarded by a community college and that is intended to allow a student to apply the credits earned for the degree toward a baccalaureate degree.

(b) “Community college” means a community college operated under ORS chapter 341.

(c) “Public university” means a public university listed in ORS 352.002.

(d) “Transfer program” means a one-year program that is designed to allow a student to apply the credits earned through the program toward a baccalaureate degree.

(2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall develop standards related to the ability of students to apply credits earned through courses of study at community colleges to baccalaureate degrees awarded by public universities. The standards shall be known as the “Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.”

(3) The standards developed under this section must include:

(a) Admission standards to public universities for students who have earned an associate transfer degree.

(b) Processes to align requirements for community college courses and public university courses to ensure that credits earned for completion of sufficiently similar courses are fully transferable between all community colleges and public universities.

(c) Processes to minimize the number of credits that students who have earned an associate transfer degree would need to complete prior to receiving various types of baccalaureate degrees at public universities, including identifying majors in baccalaureate degree programs that require more than two years to complete after a student has earned an associate transfer degree.

(d) Processes to minimize the number of credits that students who have completed a transfer program would need to complete prior to receiving various types of baccalaureate degrees at public universities.

(e) Processes by which a community college would award an associate degree to a student upon completion of necessary credits, regardless of whether the student applied to receive the degree or whether the student earned the credits for the degree at a community college or a public university.

(f) Processes to evaluate and make recommendations for the development of associate transfer degrees in specific areas of study, including engineering.

(g) Any other issues identified by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission that relate to courses of study at community colleges and the ability of a student to transfer credits to a community college or a public university, to be admitted to a public university or to earn a degree at a community college or a public university.

(h) Requirements that students must meet in order to benefit from the standards described in paragraphs (a) to (g) of this subsection.

(4) Each community college and public university shall submit annual reports to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission related to:

(a) The number of students who attend a community college and then a public university, or a public university and then a community college.

(b) The number of students who attend one community college and then a different community college.

(c) The number of students who transfer from a community college to a public university and who have an associate transfer degree or have completed a transfer program.

(d) The average number of credits students have when they transfer from a community college to a public university.

(e) The average number of credits students have when they attend one community college and then a different community college.

(f) The average number of credits that a student earning an associate transfer degree completed at a community college.

(g) The average number of credits students who have transferred from a community college to a public university must earn prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree compared to the average number of credits students who did not transfer from a community college must earn prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree. [Formerly 341.430]

350.400 Establishment of foundational curricula; requirements. (1) Community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall:

(a) Evaluate existing one-year curricula for students at a public post-secondary institution of education who plan to transfer to a different public post-secondary institution of education; and

(b) Establish a foundational curriculum, or foundational curricula, for the first year of coursework at public post-secondary institutions of education in this state.

(2) A foundational curriculum established under subsection (1) of this section must contain a minimum of 30 college-level academic credits.

(3) Students at a community college who complete a foundational curriculum established under subsection (1) of this section shall:

(a) Be able to transfer each academic credit contained within the foundational curriculum from a community college to any public university listed in ORS 352.002; and

(b) Have each academic credit from the foundational curriculum be counted toward the student's degree requirements at any public university listed in ORS 352.002. [2017 c.669 §1]

Note: Section 2, chapter 669, Oregon Laws 2017, provides:

Sec. 2. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall convene community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 to ensure that at least one foundational curriculum described in section 1 of this 2017 Act [350.400] is established and available for use by community college students by the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year. [2017 c.669 §2]

350.404 Unified statewide transfer agreements; requirements. (1) Community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall collaborate to develop a unified statewide transfer agreement, based on the foundational curricula established under ORS 350.400, for each major course of study. Each unified statewide transfer agreement developed under this section must:

(a) Enable a student to transfer from a community college to a public university listed in ORS 352.002 without the loss of academic credit or the requirement to retake a course at a public university that the student has successfully completed at a community college, provided that the grade in each course that is transferred meets the degree requirements established by the unified statewide transfer agreement;

(b) Contain provisions that identify the optimal number of academic credits, including credits in the major course of study, that the student should have when the student transfers from a community college to a public university listed in ORS 352.002 in order for the student to efficiently receive a bachelor's degree;

(c) Define the classes and completion standards for the optimal number of academic credits identified in paragraph (b) of this subsection that may be taken at a community college;

(d) Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this subsection, ensure that if a student at a community college has completed 90 academic credits of coursework in conformity with the completion standards identified in paragraph (c) of this subsection and transfers to a public university listed in ORS 352.002, the student will:

(A) Receive junior status in the major course of study at the public university; and

(B) Be able to receive a bachelor's degree in the major course of study by completing the additional academic credits identified in the unified statewide transfer agreement after transferring, based on the total number of academic credits and standards approved by the accrediting body for the public university; and

(e) For unified statewide transfer agreements that in paragraph (b) of this subsection identify an optimal number of academic credits to transfer other than 90, ensure that if a student at a community college has completed the identified number of academic credits of coursework in conformity with the completion standards identified in paragraph (c) of this subsection and transfers to a public university listed in ORS 352.002, the student will:

(A) Receive status at the public university, based on the number of academic credits referenced in the transfer agreement, that is comparable to the status of students with the same number of academic credits in the major course of study who began their post-secondary studies at the public university; and

(B) Be able to receive a bachelor's degree in the major course of study by completing the additional academic credits identified in the unified statewide transfer agreement after transferring, based on the total number of academic credits and standards approved by the accrediting body for the public university.

(2) In designing unified statewide transfer agreements under subsection (1) of this section, community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall:

(a) Focus on ensuring that community college students who transfer to public universities to complete a bachelor's degree are able to obtain the bachelor's degree with a similar number of academic credits to those required for students who begin their post-secondary studies at a public university;

(b) Seek to minimize student debt;

(c) Seek to increase the rate at which community college students who transfer to public universities receive bachelor's degrees; and

(d) Seek to maintain the standards of intellectual and academic rigor at community colleges and public universities.

(3)(a) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall regularly convene and consult with community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 in order to determine the major courses of study for which a unified statewide transfer agreement will be established.

(b) Determinations made under this subsection must identify a sufficient number of major courses of study to enable colleges and public universities to comply with subsection (4) of this section.

(c) The commission shall publicly identify the criteria used to make determinations under this subsection, which must include, but need not be limited to, a consideration of:

(A) The major courses of study with the most workforce demand; and

(B) The most common major courses of study among students who transfer from a community college to a public university.

(4) Community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall establish a unified statewide transfer agreement for three major courses of study per year. [2017 c.669 §3]

Note: Section 4, chapter 669, Oregon Laws 2017, provides:

Sec. 4. Notwithstanding section 3 (4) of this 2017 Act [350.404 (4)], community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall develop the first three unified statewide transfer agreements required under section 3 of this 2017 Act under the following time frame:

(1) The first unified statewide transfer agreement must be established by December 1, 2018;

(2) The second unified statewide transfer agreement must be established by April 1, 2019;

and

(3) The third unified statewide transfer agreement must be established by December 1, 2019. [2017 c.669 §4]

350.408 Community college obligations when informed that enrolled student intends to pursue bachelor's degree. When a student attending a community college informs the community college that the student intends to pursue a bachelor's degree by transferring to a public university listed in ORS 352.002, the community college shall:

(1) Provide the student with information on potential major courses of study that the community college has received from the public university;

(2) Provide the student with a list of existing unified statewide transfer agreements; and

(3) Encourage the student to identify a potential major course of study or unified statewide transfer agreement prior to the student completing 45 academic credits. [2017 c.669 §5]

350.412 Role of Higher Education Coordinating Commission in facilitating foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements; annual reports. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall regularly convene representatives from community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 in order to:

(a) Facilitate the coordination and establishment of foundational curricula described in ORS 350.400; and

(b) Facilitate the development, and ensure the continued alignment, of the unified statewide transfer agreements described in ORS 350.404.

(2) The commission shall provide staffing for each meeting held under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The commission shall seek to ensure that community colleges, public universities listed in ORS 352.002 and students are informed and engaged on the current status and developments of foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements.

(4) Each community college and public university listed in ORS 352.002 shall report annually to the commission, for each unified statewide transfer agreement established under ORS 350.404, the number of academic credits that were successfully transferred in that major course of study by students who transfer from a community college to a public university.

(5) To the extent relevant data is available, the commission shall report annually to the Legislative Assembly on whether existing unified statewide transfer agreements are meeting the goals set forth in ORS 350.404 (2). [2017 c.669 §6]

Note: Section 7, chapter 669, Oregon Laws 2017, provides:

Sec. 7. No later than June 1, 2018, community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall submit a joint report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly relating to higher education regarding best practices for advising students about:

- (1) Foundational curricula established under section 1 of this 2017 Act [350.400];
- (2) Unified statewide transfer agreements established under section 3 of this 2017 Act [350.404];
- (3) Methods for identifying a major course of study no later than the student's second year of post-secondary education;
- (4) Strategies and resources available to enhance student advising effectiveness and increase student access to information about unified statewide transfer agreements; and
- (5) Academic support services, with an emphasis on assisting students enrolled in courses or major courses of study with high rates of incompleteness. [2017 c.669 §7]