

AN^[ao1] ACT relating to the establishment of common undergraduate college course credits for transfer and the awarding of degrees.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

+SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) *Beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year for first time students, no ~~bachelor of arts, or bachelor of science~~ bachelors degree program shall exceed one hundred and twenty (120) credit hours and no associate of arts or associate of science degree program shall exceed sixty (60) credit hours. The Council on Postsecondary Education may approve exceptions to the requirements of this subsection for specialized programs that must comply with specific program standards established by external accreditation bodies.*
- (2) *The Council on Postsecondary Education in collaboration with KCTCS and the state public universities shall:*
 - (a) *Facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide agreement for alignment of KCTCS lower division coursework that shall be accepted and fully credited to related bachelors degree programs by all public colleges and universities. The agreement shall specify the number of general education student learning outcomes credit hours, program specific prerequisite credit hours, and comparable course titles which shall be accepted for transfer and fully credited within bachelors degree programs. The agreement shall direct that courses specified within the agreement shall be accepted for transfer and degree credit whether earned as individual courses, or with-in block programs, or associate degree programs;*
 - (b) *Develop, implement, and maintain a KCTCS stateswide course numbering system for lower-division general education and program specific*

prerequisite courses that include the same student learning outcomes content;

(c) Establish procedures under a statewide course numbering system to monitor the transfer and crediting of lower-division coursework, including a system of ongoing assessment of that coursework in terms of level, content, quality, comparability, and degree program relevance.

~~(d)~~(d) Standardize credit-by-exam equivalencies and common passing scores for general education credit-by-exam courses and program specific prerequisites credit-by-exam courses;

~~(e)~~(e) Provide for uniform end-of-course testing, in specific courses where appropriate;

~~(f)~~(f) Develop policies to align statewide articulation and transfer procedures across educational institutions, including admissions criteria, student declaration of major, and student guidance and counseling policies designed to ensure that students pursuing an associate of arts or associate of sciences degree program provide timely notification of their intention to transfer to a state public university;

~~(g)~~(g) Develop uniform data collection and reporting methods to facilitate and ensure statewide and institutional compliance with course transfer and credit requirements;

~~(h)~~(c) Guarantee that upon admission to a public university, graduates of an associate of arts; or an associate of science or associate in applied science degree program approved by the council shall be deemed to have met all general education and program specific course prerequisites and must be granted admission to related upper division degree programs of a state public college or university on the same criteria as those students earning lower division credits at the university to which the student

~~transferred. except to a limited access program or a program that has audition or other specialized admission requirements;~~

~~(d)~~ Provide that graduates of approved associate of arts and associate of sciences degree programs who transfer to a bachelors degree of arts or bachelor of science program shall not be required to repeat or to take any additional lower-level courses to fulfill bachelors degree requirements in the same major;

~~(e)~~ Provide that graduates of approved associate of arts or associate of science degree programs shall receive priority for admission to a ~~state~~ public university over out-of-state students if they met the same admission criteria;

~~(f)~~ Establish a common college transcript to be used in KCTCS and all- public colleges and universities;

~~(g)~~ Encourage private colleges and universities to collaborate with public educational institutions in developing programs and agreement to expedite the transfer of students and credits between institutions; and

~~(m)~~ Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between transferring students and receiving educational institutions regarding the transfer and acceptance of credits earned at another institution.

(3) ~~(3)~~—The Council on Postsecondary Education shall ensure that all articulation and transfer policies are compliant with the rules and regulations established by all appropriate institutional accrediting agencies as recognized by the United States Department of Education.

(4) When a public university changes the learning outcomes within any course or program identified as a transfer equivalent, the state public university must communicate the change to KCTCS within a reasonable amount of time and either identify other KCTCS course equivalencies that will satisfy the new learning outcomes or collaborate with KCTCS to develop curriculum that ensures equivalent learning outcomes and thus transferability. Transferability must be resolved before the change is implemented. If disputes arise between public postsecondary institutions due to course and program revisions, the Council is

empowered to appoint a committee, chaired by the Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Council, and comprised of distinguished faculty, with equal representation from KCTCS and the public universities, to resolve the dispute through evidence-based alignment of learning outcomes.