

LC 599
2021 Regular Session
52500-009
8/11/20 (DRG/ps)

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Integrates foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements into Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to develop standards for minimizing complexity of unified statewide transfer agreements and to develop processes for resolving requests for variances to unified statewide transfer agreements and disagreements over what courses are included in unified statewide transfer agreements. Requires commission to annually report to committees of Legislative Assembly on number, nature and determinations reached regarding requests for variances to unified statewide transfer agreements and disagreements over courses to be included in unified statewide transfer agreements.

Requires commission to establish advisory committee to advise commission staff on designing standards to implement Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and developing electronic system for disseminating information regarding foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements.

Directs commission to convene specified persons for purpose of assisting in alignment of credits earned through dual credit programs with requirements of foundational curricula. Requires reports to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to education.

Directs commission to collect data related to acceptance of credits from foundational curriculum.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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Relating to credit transfers; creating new provisions; amending ORS 350.395 and 350.412 and section 1, chapter 113, Oregon Laws 2018; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

1 **SECTION 1.** ORS 350.395 is amended to read:

2 350.395. (1) As used in this section:

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

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

8 **(c) “Foundational curriculum” means a curriculum established un-**
9 **der ORS 350.400.**

10 [(c)] **(d) “Public university” means a public university listed in ORS**
11 **352.002.**

12 [(d)] **(e) “Transfer program” means a one-year program that is designed**
13 **to allow a student to apply the credits earned through the program toward**
14 **a baccalaureate degree.**

15 **(f) “Unified statewide transfer agreement” means an agreement es-**
16 **tablished under ORS 350.404.**

17 (2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall develop stan-
18 dards related to the ability of students to apply credits earned through
19 courses of study at community colleges to baccalaureate degrees awarded by
20 public universities. The standards shall be known as the “Transfer Student
21 Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.” **In developing these standards, com-**
22 **mission staff shall consult with the advisory committee established in**
23 **section 3 of this 2021 Act.**

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

25 (a) Admission standards to public universities for students who have
26 earned an associate transfer degree **or who have attained the optimal**
27 **number of academic credits identified in a unified statewide transfer**
28 **agreement.**

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

1 colleges and public universities.

2 (c) Processes to minimize the number of credits that students who **either**
3 have earned an associate transfer degree **or have completed all**
4 **coursework in a transfer program, foundational curriculum or unified**
5 **statewide transfer agreement** would need to complete prior to receiving
6 various types of baccalaureate degrees at public universities[, *including*
7 *identifying majors in baccalaureate degree programs that require more than*
8 *two years to complete after a student has earned an associate transfer*
9 *degree*].

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

13 (d) **Methods for minimizing the complexity of unified statewide**
14 **transfer agreements.**

15 (e) **Processes requiring:**

16 (A) **The chief academic officer of a community college or public**
17 **university requesting a variance to an established unified statewide**
18 **transfer agreement to, at the request of the advisory committee es-**
19 **tablished in section 3 of this 2021 Act, provide information to the**
20 **committee on the pedagogical requirements supporting the position**
21 **of the community college or public university; and**

22 (B) **The chief academic officers of community colleges or public**
23 **universities who disagree over the inclusion or exclusion of courses in**
24 **a unified statewide transfer agreement to, at the request of the advi-**
25 **sory committee established in section 3 of this 2021 Act, provide in-**
26 **formation to the committee on the pedagogical requirements**
27 **supporting the positions of the community colleges or public univer-**
28 **sities.**

29 [(e)] (f) Processes by which a community college would award an associ-
30 ate degree to a student upon completion of necessary credits, regardless of
31 whether the student applied to receive the degree or whether the student

1 earned the credits for the degree at a community college or a public uni-
2 versity.

3 [(f)] (g) Processes to evaluate and make recommendations for the devel-
4 opment of associate transfer degrees **or unified statewide transfer agree-**
5 **ments** in specific areas of study[, *including engineering*].

6 [(g)] (h) Any other issues identified by the Higher Education Coordinat-
7 ing Commission that relate to courses of study at community colleges and
8 the ability of a student to transfer credits to a community college or a public
9 university, to be admitted to a public university or to earn a degree at a
10 community college or a public university.

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

13 (4) [*Each community college and public university shall submit annual re-*
14 *ports to*] The Higher Education Coordinating Commission [*related to*] **shall**
15 **annually submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 to the**
16 **appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly setting**
17 **forth:**

18 (a) The number of students who attend a community college and then a
19 public university[, *or a public university and then a community college*].

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

22 (c) The number of students who transfer from a community college to a
23 public university and who have an associate transfer degree or have com-
24 pleted a transfer program.

25 (d) The average number of credits students have when they transfer from
26 a community college to a public university **and the average number of**
27 **credits accepted by the public university.**

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

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

1 (g) The average number of credits students who have transferred from a
2 community college to a public university must earn prior to receiving a
3 baccalaureate degree compared to the average number of credits students
4 who did not transfer from a community college must earn prior to receiving
5 a baccalaureate degree.

6 **(h)(A) The number and nature of the requests and disagreements**
7 **submitted under subsection (3)(e) of this section to the advisory com-**
8 **mittee established in section 3 of this 2021 Act; and**

9 **(B) The determination reached by the committee for each request**
10 **or disagreement described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.**

11 **SECTION 2.** ORS 350.412 is amended to read:

12 350.412. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall regu-
13 larly convene representatives from community colleges and public universi-
14 ties listed in ORS 352.002 in order to:

15 (a) Facilitate the coordination and establishment of foundational curric-
16 ula described in ORS 350.400; and

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

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

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

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

30 (5) [*To the extent relevant data is available,*] The commission shall report
31 annually to the Legislative Assembly on:

1 (a) Whether existing unified statewide transfer agreements are meeting
2 the goals set forth in ORS 350.404 (2)[.];

3 (b) Whether, in meeting the goals set forth in ORS 350.404 (2), there
4 are differences in outcomes for students on a disaggregated basis;

5 (c) The rates and numbers of completion of the foundational cur-
6 ricula and unified statewide transfer agreements on a disaggregated
7 basis; and

8 (d) Recommendations for improving the equity, consistency and
9 efficiency of credit transfer.

10 (6) Each community college and public university listed in ORS
11 352.002 shall timely provide the commission with any requested data
12 necessary for the commission to comply with the reporting require-
13 ments set forth in subsection (5) of this section.

14 **SECTION 3.** The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall
15 establish an advisory committee consisting of faculty, staff and ad-
16 ministration representatives from community colleges and public uni-
17 versities listed in ORS 352.002, and any other parties the commission
18 deems necessary. The advisory committee shall provide advice and
19 recommendations to commission staff on:

20 (1) Designing standards to effectively implement ORS 350.395;

21 (2) Developing an electronic system for the dissemination of infor-
22 mation regarding foundational curricula established under ORS 350.400
23 and unified statewide transfer agreements established under ORS
24 350.404; and

25 (3) Any other needs and processes that may be required for the
26 implementation of ORS 350.395 to 350.412.

27 **SECTION 3a.** Section 3 of this 2021 Act is added to and made a part
28 of ORS 350.395 to 350.412.

29 **SECTION 4.** Not later than December 15, 2021, the Higher Education
30 Coordinating Commission shall submit a report to the interim com-
31 mittees of the Legislative Assembly related to education describing

1 any additional legislation or funding that is required to develop an
2 electronic system for the dissemination of information regarding
3 foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements in
4 the manner set forth in section 3 (2) of this 2021 Act.

5 **SECTION 5. (1) As used in this section:**

6 (a) “Dual credit programs” includes dual credit programs, sponsored
7 dual credit programs and assessment-based learning credit programs,
8 as those terms are defined by the Higher Education Coordinating
9 Commission by rule.

10 (b) “Foundational curricula” means curricula established for public
11 post-secondary institutions of education in this state under ORS
12 350.400.

13 (2) No later than December 1, 2021, the commission shall convene:

14 (a) High school teachers of courses that are offered as part of a dual
15 credit program;

16 (b) Administrators at high schools that offer dual credit programs;

17 (c) Faculty at community colleges and public universities listed in
18 ORS 352.002 that teach courses as part of a dual credit program; and

19 (d) Administrators at community colleges or public universities
20 listed in ORS 352.002 that are in a partnership to offer dual credit
21 programs.

22 (3) The persons convened as provided by subsection (2) of this sec-
23 tion shall assist in aligning credits earned through dual credit pro-
24 grams with requirements of foundational curricula by:

25 (a) Prescribing guidance for determining which courses offered in
26 dual credit programs are aligned with foundational curricula.

27 (b) Documenting dual credit program courses that are within
28 foundational curricula.

29 (c) Identifying criteria that support articulation of credits earned
30 through dual credit programs offered in high school to credits accepted
31 by community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002.

1 **(d) Developing additional foundational curricula lists upon approval**
2 **of unified statewide transfer agreements developed under ORS 350.404.**

3 **(4) The commission shall submit reports detailing its compliance**
4 **with this section to the interim or regular committees of the Legisla-**
5 **tive Assembly related to education as follows:**

6 **(a) A preliminary report no later than March 31, 2022.**

7 **(b) A final report no later than August 31, 2022.**

8 **SECTION 6. Sections 4 and 5 of this 2021 Act are repealed on De-**
9 **cember 31, 2022.**

10 **SECTION 7.** Section 1, chapter 113, Oregon Laws 2018, as amended by
11 section 3, chapter 113, Oregon Laws 2018, is amended to read:

12 **Sec. 1.** (1) As used in this section:

13 (a) “Accelerated college credit program” has the meaning given that term
14 in [*section 6 of this 2018 Act*] **ORS 350.420.**

15 (b) “Credit toward general education” has the meaning given that term
16 in [*section 6 of this 2018 Act*] **ORS 350.420.**

17 (2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall prepare an an-
18 nual report on accelerated college credit programs in the manner provided
19 by this section.

20 (3) For the purpose of the report required by this section, the commission
21 shall collaborate with public post-secondary institutions of education in this
22 state to determine the method for providing a representative sampling of:

23 (a) Students from each institution who are:

24 (A) Graduates of a high school in this state;

25 (B) Enrolled in the first year at a post-secondary institution of education
26 for the first time, except for any enrollment related to an accelerated college
27 credit program; and

28 (C) Seeking a post-secondary certificate or degree.

29 (b) The number of credits from an accelerated college credit program that
30 a student attempted to transfer to the post-secondary institution of educa-
31 tion.

1 (4) The report required by this section must include the following infor-
2 mation from the representative sampling based on the previous school year:

3 (a) The number and percentage of students who attempted to transfer a
4 credit from an accelerated college credit program to a public post-secondary
5 institution of education in this state.

6 (b) Of the students identified under paragraph (a) of this subsection, the
7 number and percentage of students whose credits were accepted.

8 (c) Of the credits accepted, the number and percentage that were accepted
9 as credit toward general education.

10 (d) Of the students identified under paragraph (a) of this subsection, the
11 number and percentage of students whose credits were not accepted.

12 (e) Of the students identified under paragraph (a) of this subsection, the
13 high schools from which the students graduated, if available.

14 **(f) Of the students identified under paragraph (a) of this subsection,**
15 **the number and percentage of students whose credits were from the**
16 **foundational curricula established under ORS 350.400.**

17 (5) To the extent practicable, and in addition to the information described
18 in subsection (4) of this section, the report must include, from all students
19 in this state described in subsection (3)(a) of this section, the number of
20 students who attempted to transfer a credit from an accelerated college
21 credit program to a public post-secondary institution of education in this
22 state.

23 (6) To the extent practicable, the information collected under subsections
24 (4) and (5) of this section must be disaggregated by:

25 (a) The student's characteristics, including race, ethnicity and gender;

26 (b) The post-secondary institution of education that accepted or did not
27 accept a transfer of a credit from an accelerated college credit program;

28 (c) The type of accelerated college credit program in which the student
29 participated; and

30 (d) The class of the accelerated college credit program in which the stu-
31 dent participated.

1 (7) No later than September 1 of each year, each public post-secondary
2 institution of education must provide to the Higher Education Coordinating
3 Commission the information required under this section.

4 (8) No later than December 1 of each year, the report required under this
5 section must be:

6 (a) Submitted to the Governor, the Department of Education, the interim
7 committees of the Legislative Assembly related to education, the board of
8 education of each community college district in this state and the governing
9 board of each public university listed in ORS 352.002; and

10 (b) Made available to each school district in this state.

11 (9) Nothing in this section is intended to supersede the authority of a
12 post-secondary institution of education, or the faculty of an institution, to
13 prescribe an educational program or a course of study as provided by ORS
14 341.290 (3) or 352.146.

15 **SECTION 8. The amendments to section 1, chapter 113, Oregon**
16 **Laws 2018, by section 7 of this 2021 Act become operative on July 1,**
17 **2021.**

18 **SECTION 9. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-**
19 **ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-**
20 **clared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect on its passage.**

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