

AN 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 and each academic year thereafter for first-time students enrolling in a public college or university, postsecondary education institutions are encouraged to limit the credit-hour requirements to sixty (60) credit hours for each associate of science or associate of arts degree program and to one hundred twenty (120) credit hours for each bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree program, except in situations in which:*

(a) *Quality and content of a program would be negatively impacted; or*

(b) *A program must comply with specific program standards established by external accreditation bodies.*

(2) *The Council on Postsecondary Education, in collaboration with the public universities and community and technical colleges, shall:*

(a) *Facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide agreement for alignment of Kentucky Community and Technical College System lower-division associate of arts and associate of science coursework that shall be accepted and fully credited to related bachelors degree programs by all public universities. The agreement shall specify the general education learning outcomes and program-specific prerequisite learning outcomes of the coursework. Where applicable, curricula shall be reviewed to determine comparability of core content standards required under KRS 164.302. The agreement shall direct that the associate of arts and associate of science coursework meeting the learning outcomes specified shall be accepted for transfer and degree credit, whether earned as individual courses or within*

block programs;

- (b) Develop, implement, and maintain a Kentucky Community and Technical College System statewide course numbering system for lower-division general education and program-specific prerequisite courses that include the same learning outcomes;
- (c) Establish a statewide course classification system and procedures to monitor the transfer and crediting of lower-division coursework, including a system of ongoing assessment that ensures comparability for transfer purposes;
- (d) Establish a procedure for approval of changes in learning outcomes at public universities as described in subsection (3) of this section;
- (e) Standardize credit-by-exam equivalencies and common passing scores for national exams transferable for general education courses and program-specific prerequisites courses;
- (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 science degree program provide timely notification of their intention to transfer to a public university;
- (g) Develop uniform data collection and reporting methods to facilitate and ensure statewide and institutional compliance with course transfer and credit requirements;
- (h) Guarantee that, upon admission to a public university, graduates of an associate of arts or an associate of science degree program approved by the council in consultation with public universities shall be deemed to have met all general education requirements;

- (i) Provide that graduates of approved associate of arts and associate of science degree programs of Kentucky public postsecondary institutions who complete the prerequisite learning outcomes for a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science program while fulfilling the requirements for an associate of art or associate of science degree, shall not be required to repeat or to take any additional lower-level courses to fulfill bachelor degree requirements in the same major, and these students shall be granted admission to related upper-division bachelors 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;
- (j) Provide that graduates of approved associate of arts and associate of science degree programs shall receive priority for admission to a state public university over out-of-state students if they meet the same admission criteria;
- (k) Establish a commonality in college transcripts to be used in all public colleges and universities to facilitate transfer from community and technical colleges;
- (l) 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;
- (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;
- (n) Ensure that all articulation and transfer policies are consistent with the rules and regulations established by all appropriate discipline-specific accrediting bodies and institutional accrediting agencies as recognized by the United States Department of Education.

(3) When an institution seeks to change learning outcomes for a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science program that affect lower-division courses, the university shall notify the Council of Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System of the proposed changes at the same time as the initiation of the university's approval process. If it is determined that the proposed change will have an adverse effect on transferability, the university proposing the change shall enter into discussion with the council and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to verify there remains a clearly defined path to a bachelor's degree for those students who plan to transfer from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to the public university.

➔Section 2. KRS 164.020 is amended to read as follows:

The Council on Postsecondary Education in Kentucky shall:

- (1) Develop and implement the strategic agenda with the advice and counsel of the Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education. The council shall provide for and direct the planning process and subsequent strategic implementation plans based on the strategic agenda as provided in KRS 164.0203;
- (2) Revise the strategic agenda and strategic implementation plan with the advice and counsel of the committee as set forth in KRS 164.004;
- (3) Develop a system of public accountability related to the strategic agenda by evaluating the performance and effectiveness of the state's postsecondary system. The council shall prepare a report in conjunction with the accountability reporting described in KRS 164.095, which shall be submitted to the committee, the Governor, and the General Assembly by December 1 annually. This report shall include a description of contributions by postsecondary institutions to the quality of elementary and secondary education in the Commonwealth;
- (4) Review, revise, and approve the missions of the state's universities and the

- Kentucky Community and Technical College System. The Council on Postsecondary Education shall have the final authority to determine the compliance of postsecondary institutions with their academic, service, and research missions;
- (5) Establish and ensure that all postsecondary institutions in Kentucky cooperatively provide for an integrated system of postsecondary education. The council shall guard against inappropriate and unnecessary conflict and duplication by promoting transferability of credits and easy access of information among institutions;
  - (6) Engage in analyses and research to determine the overall needs of postsecondary education and adult education in the Commonwealth;
  - (7) Develop plans that may be required by federal legislation. The council shall for all purposes of federal legislation relating to planning be considered the "single state agency" as that term may be used in federal legislation. When federal legislation requires additional representation on any "single state agency," the Council on Postsecondary Education shall establish advisory groups necessary to satisfy federal legislative or regulatory guidelines;
  - (8) Determine tuition and approve the minimum qualifications for admission to the state postsecondary educational system. In defining residency, the council shall classify a student as having Kentucky residency if the student met the residency requirements at the beginning of his or her last year in high school and enters a Kentucky postsecondary education institution within two (2) years of high school graduation. In determining the tuition for non-Kentucky residents, the council shall consider the fees required of Kentucky students by institutions in adjoining states, the resident fees charged by other states, the total actual per student cost of training in the institutions for which the fees are being determined, and the ratios of Kentucky students to non-Kentucky students comprising the enrollments of the respective institutions, and other factors the council may in its sole discretion deem pertinent;

- (9) Devise, establish, and periodically review and revise policies to be used in making recommendations to the Governor for consideration in developing recommendations to the General Assembly for appropriations to the universities, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, and to support strategies for persons to maintain necessary levels of literacy throughout their lifetimes including but not limited to appropriations to the Kentucky Adult Education Program. The council has sole discretion, with advice of the Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education and the executive officers of the postsecondary education system, to devise policies that provide for allocation of funds among the universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System;
- (10) Lead and provide staff support for the biennial budget process as provided under KRS Chapter 48, in cooperation with the committee;
- (11) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, review and approve all capital construction projects covered by KRS 45.750(1)(f), including real property acquisitions, and regardless of the source of funding for projects or acquisitions. Approval of capital projects and real property acquisitions shall be on a basis consistent with the strategic agenda and the mission of the respective universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.
- (b) The organized groups that are establishing community college satellites as branches of existing community colleges in the counties of Laurel, Leslie, and Muhlenberg, and that have substantially obtained cash, pledges, real property, or other commitments to build the satellite at no cost to the Commonwealth, other than operating costs that shall be paid as part of the operating budget of the main community college of which the satellite is a branch, are authorized to begin construction of the satellite on or after January 1, 1998;
- (12) Require reports from the executive officer of each institution it deems necessary for

the effectual performance of its duties;

- (13) Ensure that the state postsecondary system does not unnecessarily duplicate services and programs provided by private postsecondary institutions and shall promote maximum cooperation between the state postsecondary system and private postsecondary institutions. Receive and consider an annual report prepared by the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities stating the condition of independent institutions, listing opportunities for more collaboration between the state and independent institutions and other information as appropriate;
- (14) **Establish course credit, transfer and degree components as required in Section 1 of this Act**~~Develop a university track program within the Kentucky Community and Technical College System consisting of sixty (60) hours of instruction that can be transferred and applied toward the requirements for a bachelor's degree at the public universities. The track shall consist of general education courses and pre-major courses as prescribed by the council. Courses in the university track program shall transfer and apply toward the requirements for graduation with a bachelor's degree at all public universities. Successful completion of the university track program shall meet the academic requirement for transfer to a public university as a junior. By fall semester of 1997, requirements for track programs shall be established for all majors and baccalaureate degree programs];~~
- (15) Define and approve the offering of all postsecondary education technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree, certificate, or diploma programs in the public postsecondary education institutions. The council shall expedite wherever possible the approval of requests from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System board of regents relating to new certificate, diploma, technical, or associate degree programs of a vocational-technical and occupational nature. Without the consent of the General Assembly, the council shall not abolish or limit the total enrollment of the general program offered at any community

college to meet the goal of reasonable access throughout the Commonwealth to a two (2) year course of general studies designed for transfer to a baccalaureate program. This does not restrict or limit the authority of the council, as set forth in this section, to eliminate or make changes in individual programs within that general program;

- (16) Eliminate, in its discretion, existing programs or make any changes in existing academic programs at the state's postsecondary educational institutions, taking into consideration these criteria:
  - (a) Consistency with the institution's mission and the strategic agenda;
  - (b) Alignment with the priorities in the strategic implementation plan for achieving the strategic agenda;
  - (c) Elimination of unnecessary duplication of programs within and among institutions; and
  - (d) Efforts to create cooperative programs with other institutions through traditional means, or by use of distance learning technology and electronic resources, to achieve effective and efficient program delivery;
- (17) Ensure the governing board and faculty of all postsecondary education institutions are committed to providing instruction free of discrimination against students who hold political views and opinions contrary to those of the governing board and faculty;
- (18) Review proposals and make recommendations to the Governor regarding the establishment of new public community colleges, technical institutions, and new four (4) year colleges;
- (19) Postpone the approval of any new program at a state postsecondary educational institution, unless the institution has met its equal educational opportunity goals, as established by the council. In accordance with administrative regulations promulgated by the council, those institutions not meeting the goals shall be able to

- obtain a temporary waiver, if the institution has made substantial progress toward meeting its equal educational opportunity goals;
- (20) Ensure the coordination, transferability, and connectivity of technology among postsecondary institutions in the Commonwealth including the development and implementation of a technology plan as a component of the strategic agenda;
  - (21) Approve the teacher education programs in the public institutions that comply with standards established by the Education Professional Standards Board pursuant to KRS 161.028;
  - (22) Constitute the representative agency of the Commonwealth in all matters of postsecondary education of a general and statewide nature which are not otherwise delegated to one (1) or more institutions of postsecondary learning. The responsibility may be exercised through appropriate contractual relationships with individuals or agencies located within or without the Commonwealth. The authority includes but is not limited to contractual arrangements for programs of research, specialized training, and cultural enrichment;
  - (23) Maintain procedures for the approval of a designated receiver to provide for the maintenance of student records of the public institutions of higher education and the colleges as defined in KRS 164.945, and institutions operating pursuant to KRS 165A.310 which offer collegiate level courses for academic credit, which cease to operate. Procedures shall include assurances that, upon proper request, subject to federal and state laws and regulations, copies of student records shall be made available within a reasonable length of time for a minimum fee;
  - (24) Monitor and transmit a report on compliance with KRS 164.351 to the director of the Legislative Research Commission for distribution to the Health and Welfare Committee;
  - (25) Develop in cooperation with each state postsecondary educational institution a comprehensive orientation program for new members of the council and the

- governing boards. The orientation program shall include but not be limited to the information concerning the roles of the council, the strategic agenda and the strategic implementation plan, and the respective institution's mission, budget, plans, policies, strengths, and weaknesses;
- (26) Develop a financial reporting procedure to be used by all state postsecondary education institutions to ensure uniformity of financial information available to state agencies and the public;
  - (27) Select and appoint a president of the council under KRS 164.013;
  - (28) Employ consultants and other persons and employees as may be required for the council's operations, functions, and responsibilities;
  - (29) Promulgate administrative regulations, in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A, governing its powers, duties, and responsibilities as described in this section;
  - (30) Prepare and present by January 31 of each year an annual status report on postsecondary education in the Commonwealth to the Governor, the Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education, and the Legislative Research Commission;
  - (31) Consider the role, function, and capacity of independent institutions of postsecondary education in developing policies to meet the immediate and future needs of the state. When it is found that independent institutions can meet state needs effectively, state resources may be used to contract with or otherwise assist independent institutions in meeting these needs;
  - (32) Create advisory groups representing the presidents, faculty, nonteaching staff, and students of the public postsecondary education system and the independent colleges and universities;
  - (33) Develop a statewide policy to promote employee and faculty development in all postsecondary institutions and in state and locally operated secondary area technology centers through the waiver of tuition for college credit coursework in the public postsecondary education system. Any regular full-time employee of a

postsecondary public institution or a state or locally operated secondary area technology center may, with prior administrative approval of the course offering institution, take a maximum of six (6) credit hours per term at any public postsecondary institution. The institution shall waive the tuition up to a maximum of six (6) credit hours per term;

(34) Establish a statewide mission for adult education and develop a twenty (20) year strategy, in partnership with the Kentucky Adult Education Program, under the provisions of KRS 164.0203 for raising the knowledge and skills of the state's adult population. The council shall:

- (a) Promote coordination of programs and responsibilities linked to the issue of adult education with the Kentucky Adult Education Program and with other agencies and institutions;
- (b) Facilitate the development of strategies to increase the knowledge and skills of adults in all counties by promoting the efficient and effective coordination of all available education and training resources;
- (c) Lead a statewide public information and marketing campaign to convey the critical nature of Kentucky's adult literacy challenge and to reach adults and employers with practical information about available education and training opportunities;
- (d) Establish standards for adult literacy and monitor progress in achieving the state's adult literacy goals, including existing standards that may have been developed to meet requirements of federal law in conjunction with the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development: Early Childhood through Adulthood; and
- (e) Administer the adult education and literacy initiative fund created under KRS 164.041;

(35) Participate with the Kentucky Department of Education, the Kentucky Board of

Education, and postsecondary education institutions to ensure that academic content requirements for successful entry into postsecondary education programs are aligned with high school content standards and that students who master the high school academic content standards shall not need remedial courses. The council shall monitor the results on an ongoing basis;

- (36) Cooperate with the Kentucky Department of Education and the Education Professional Standards Board in providing information sessions to selected postsecondary education content faculty and teacher educators of the high school academic content standards as required under KRS 158.6453(2)(j); and
- (37) Exercise any other powers, duties, and responsibilities necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to grant the Council on Postsecondary Education authority to disestablish or eliminate any college of law which became a part of the state system of higher education through merger with a state college.

➔Section 3. KRS 164.001 is amended to read as follows:

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) "Administrator" means the chief executive officer of the institution;
- (2) "Adult basic education" means instruction in mathematics, science, social studies, reading, language arts, and related areas to enable individuals to better function in society;
- (3) "Benchmarks" means objective measures developed where applicable or practical by the Council on Postsecondary Education to judge the performance of the postsecondary education system and progress toward the goals as stated in KRS 164.003(2);
- (4) "Board" or "governing board" means the board of trustees for the University of Kentucky or the University of Louisville, the board of regents for a comprehensive university, or the board of regents for the Kentucky Community and Technical

College System;

- (5) "Board of regents" means the governing board of each comprehensive university and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System;
- (6) "Committee" means the Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education created in KRS 164.004;
- (7) "Comprehensive university" means the following public institutions: Eastern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University, and Western Kentucky University;
- (8) "Council" means the Council on Postsecondary Education created in KRS 164.011;
- (9) "Customized training" means training in specific academic areas, work processes, or technical skills that are designed to serve a specific industry or industries to upgrade worker skills;
- (10) "Goals" means the six (6) goals specified in KRS 164.003(2);
- (11) "Independent institution" means a nonpublic postsecondary education institution in Kentucky whose instruction is not solely sectarian in nature, is accredited by a regional accrediting association recognized by the United States Department of Education, and is licensed by the Council on Postsecondary Education;
- (12) "Institution" means a university, college, community college, health technology center, vocational-technical school, technical institute, technical college, technology center, or the Kentucky Community and Technical College System;
- (13) "Kentucky Community and Technical College System" means the system composed of public community and technical colleges, including those postsecondary institutions operated by the former Cabinet for Workforce Development and those community colleges in the University of Kentucky Community College System on May 30, 1997.

The system also includes institutions created by the board of regents for the

Kentucky Community and Technical College System and approved by the General Assembly;

- (14) "Literacy" means an individual's ability to read, write, and speak in English and compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job and in society to achieve one's goals and develop one's knowledge and potential;
- (15) "Lower division academic course" means any academic course offered for college or university credit that is designated as a freshman or sophomore level academic course;
- (16) "Nonteaching personnel" means any employee who is a full-time staff member, excluding a president, chancellor, vice president, academic dean, academic department chair, or administrator;
- (17) "Postsecondary education system" means the following public institutions: University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, Eastern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System;
- (18) "P-16 council" or "council of partners" means a local or state council that is composed of educators from public and private preschools, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education institutions, local board of education members, and may include community and business representatives that have voluntarily organized themselves for the purpose of improving the alignment and quality of the education continuum from preschool through postsecondary education as well as student achievement at all levels;
- (19) "Public" means operated with state support;
- (20) "Relative" means a person's father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, son, daughter, aunt, uncle, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law;

- (21) "Remedial education" means any program, course, or activity that is designed specifically for students who have basic deficiencies in reading, written or oral communication, mathematics, study skills, or other skills necessary to do beginning postsecondary work as defined by the institution;
- (22) "Standardized degree program" means a program, approved by the Council on Postsecondary Education, that consists of specific competencies, curriculum, and performance requirements regardless of the providing institution;
- (23) "Strategic agenda" means the state strategic postsecondary education agenda described in KRS 164.0203;~~and~~
- (24) "Technical institution" means an educational institution that offers certificates, diplomas, or technical degrees in technical or occupational-related programs, including a facility called a vocational-technical school, technical institute, health technology center, technology center, technical college, or similar designation; ***and***
- (25) "Learning outcomes" means the knowledge, skills, and abilities that students have attained as a result of their involvement in a particular set of educational experiences.***