

1 AN ACT relating to postsecondary education.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 164.2951 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) ~~{Beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year and each academic year thereafter~~  
5 ~~}~~For first-time students enrolling in a public college or university, postsecondary  
6 education institutions ***shall***~~{are encouraged to}~~ limit the credit-hour requirements to  
7 sixty (60) credit hours for each associate ~~{of science or associate of arts}~~ degree  
8 program and to one hundred twenty (120) credit hours for each bachelor ~~{of arts or~~  
9 ~~bachelor of science}~~ degree program, except in situations in which:

10 (a) ~~{Quality and content of a program would be negatively impacted; or~~

11 ~~(b)}~~A program must comply with specific program standards established by  
12 external accreditation bodies;

13 ***(b) The program has submitted appropriate documentation from the external***  
14 ***accreditation body to the council demonstrating the necessity of the***  
15 ***additional hours required for the specific program; and***

16 ***(c) The council affirms the necessity of the additional hours required for the***  
17 ***specific program.***

18 (2) The council~~{ on Postsecondary Education}~~, in collaboration with the public  
19 universities and community and technical colleges, shall:

20 (a) Facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide agreement for  
21 alignment of Kentucky Community and Technical College System lower-  
22 division associate of arts and associate of science coursework that shall be  
23 accepted and fully credited to related bachelors degree programs by all public  
24 universities. The agreement shall specify the general education learning  
25 outcomes and program-specific prerequisite learning outcomes of the  
26 coursework. Where applicable, curricula shall be reviewed to determine  
27 comparability of core content standards required under KRS 164.302. The

1 agreement shall direct that the associate of arts and associate of science  
2 coursework meeting the learning outcomes specified shall be accepted for  
3 transfer and degree credit, whether earned as individual courses or within  
4 block programs;

5 (b) Develop, implement, and maintain a Kentucky Community and Technical  
6 College System statewide course numbering system for lower-division  
7 general education and program-specific prerequisite courses that include the  
8 same learning outcomes;

9 (c) By July 1, 2026, develop, implement, and maintain statewide transfer  
10 pathways consisting of sixty (60) credit hours that shall be applied to the  
11 requirements of high-demand baccalaureate degree programs at any  
12 institution.

13 1. High-demand baccalaureate degree programs shall be defined by the  
14 council based on student and workforce demands. Once a statewide  
15 transfer pathway has been developed and implemented by the council,  
16 it shall be maintained, even if the council determines the pathway is  
17 no longer in a high-demand baccalaureate program. The council shall  
18 publish on its website a list of the existing statewide transfer pathways  
19 available to students.

20 2. Each statewide transfer pathway shall consist of sixty (60) credit hours  
21 that shall be available for transfer and application to degree  
22 requirements in the corresponding degree program at each institution.  
23 Students may earn credit in statewide transfer pathways through any  
24 means prescribed by the institution, including but not limited to credit  
25 for prior learning and dual credit as defined by the council.

26 (d) Establish a statewide course classification system and procedures to monitor  
27 the transfer and crediting of lower-division coursework, including a system of

- 1 ongoing assessment that ensures comparability for transfer purposes;
- 2 ~~(e)~~~~(d)~~ Establish a procedure for approval of changes in learning outcomes at  
3 public universities as described in subsection (3) of this section;
- 4 ~~(f)~~~~(e)~~ Standardize credit-by-exam equivalencies and common passing scores  
5 for national exams transferable for general education courses and program-  
6 specific prerequisites courses;
- 7 ~~(g)~~~~(f)~~ Develop policies to align statewide articulation and transfer procedures  
8 across educational institutions, including admissions criteria, student  
9 declaration of major, and student guidance and counseling policies designed  
10 to ensure that students pursuing an associate of arts or associate of science  
11 degree program provide timely notification of their intention to transfer to a  
12 public university;
- 13 ~~(h)~~~~(g)~~ Develop uniform data collection and reporting methods to facilitate and  
14 ensure statewide and institutional compliance with course transfer and credit  
15 requirements;
- 16 ~~(i)~~~~(h)~~ Guarantee that, upon admission to a public university, graduates of an  
17 associate of arts or an associate of science degree program approved by the  
18 council in consultation with public universities shall be deemed to have met  
19 all general education requirements;
- 20 ~~(j)~~~~(i)~~ Provide that graduates of approved associate of arts and associate of  
21 science degree programs of Kentucky public postsecondary institutions who  
22 complete the prerequisite learning outcomes for a bachelor of arts or bachelor  
23 of science program while fulfilling the requirements for an associate of art or  
24 associate of science degree, shall not be required to repeat or to take any  
25 additional lower-level courses to fulfill bachelor degree requirements in the  
26 same major, and these students shall be granted admission to related upper-  
27 division bachelors degree programs of a state public college or university on

1 the same criteria as those students earning lower-division credits at the  
2 university to which the student transferred;

3 ~~(k)(j)~~ Provide that graduates of approved associate of arts and associate of  
4 science degree programs shall receive priority for admission to a state public  
5 university over out-of-state students if they meet the same admission criteria;

6 ~~(l)(k)~~ Establish a commonality in college transcripts to be used in all public  
7 colleges and universities to facilitate transfer from community and technical  
8 colleges;

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

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

15 ~~(o)(n)~~ Ensure that all articulation and transfer policies are consistent with the  
16 rules and regulations established by all appropriate discipline-specific  
17 accrediting bodies and institutional accrediting agencies as recognized by the  
18 United States Department of Education; and

19 ~~(p)(o)~~ Facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide  
20 standardized articulation agreement to be executed ~~by July 1, 2021,~~ between  
21 public colleges and universities and the Kentucky Department of Education  
22 for each approved high school career pathway that leads to a postsecondary  
23 credential, certification, license, or degree. Upon meeting the requirements of  
24 the standardized articulation agreement, a student shall be awarded  
25 postsecondary credit for prior learning at any public college or university.

26 (3) When an institution seeks to change learning outcomes for a bachelor of arts or  
27 bachelor of science program that affect lower-division courses, the university shall

1 notify the council ~~{on Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky Community and~~  
2 ~~Technical College System }~~of the proposed changes at the same time as the  
3 initiation of the university's approval process. If it is determined that the proposed  
4 change will have an adverse effect on transferability, the university proposing the  
5 change shall enter into discussion with the council, **the other public universities,**  
6 and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to verify there  
7 remains a clearly defined path to **transfer credits**~~{a bachelor's degree}~~ for those  
8 students who plan to transfer from the Kentucky Community and Technical College  
9 System **or another public university** to the public university.

10 **(4) Beginning July 1, 2026, any student who transfers among public postsecondary**  
11 **institutions shall be awarded credit by the receiving institution for courses**  
12 **satisfactorily completed by the student at the previous institutions when the credit**  
13 **was part of a statewide transfer pathway available at both the earning institution**  
14 **and the receiving institution.**

15 **(5) Beginning July 1, 2026, participating institutions receiving transfer course credit**  
16 **within a statewide transfer pathway shall accept and apply general education**  
17 **courses and credit in the equivalent pathway at the receiving institution. The**  
18 **credit shall be applied as first satisfying general education core course credit**  
19 **requirements and program specific general education course credit requirements**  
20 **before applying the course credit as elective credit.**