

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 are encouraged to limit the credit-hour requirements to sixty  
7 (60) credit hours for each associate of science or associate of arts degree program  
8 and to one hundred twenty (120) credit hours for each bachelor of arts or bachelor  
9 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 (2) The council~~{on Postsecondary Education}~~, in collaboration with the public  
14 universities and **the Kentucky Community and Technical College**  
15 **System**~~{community and technical colleges}~~, shall:
- 16 (a) Facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide agreement for  
17 alignment of Kentucky Community and Technical College System lower-  
18 division associate of arts and associate of science coursework that shall be  
19 accepted and fully credited to related bachelors degree programs by all public  
20 universities. The agreement shall specify the general education learning  
21 outcomes and program-specific prerequisite learning outcomes of the  
22 coursework. Where applicable, curricula shall be reviewed to determine  
23 comparability of core content standards required under KRS 164.302. The  
24 agreement shall direct that the associate of arts and associate of science  
25 coursework meeting the learning outcomes specified shall be accepted for  
26 transfer and degree credit, whether earned as individual courses or within  
27 block programs;

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

5 (c) 1. Establish a statewide course classification system and procedures to  
6 monitor the transfer and crediting of lower-division coursework,  
7 including a system of ongoing assessment that ensures comparability for  
8 transfer purposes.

9 2. As part of the statewide course classification system, the council shall  
10 require each public postsecondary institution to provide a publicly  
11 available, comprehensive online resource that demonstrates to  
12 students and prospective students whether credits earned from another  
13 postsecondary institution will transfer into the public postsecondary  
14 institution, and if so, information and resources on how those credits  
15 will transfer.

16 3. Each public postsecondary institution shall conduct an annual review  
17 of their publicly available, comprehensive online resource to ensure  
18 that credit transfer information remains current.

19 4. Each public postsecondary institution shall maintain and regularly  
20 update on its public website a clear, comprehensive, and readily  
21 accessible list of statewide transfer pathways available at the  
22 institution. The list of available statewide transfer pathways shall  
23 identify the coursework that a student may complete at another  
24 postsecondary institution participating in the pathway and apply the  
25 completed coursework towards the requirements of a corresponding  
26 degree program at the receiving postsecondary institution. Each public  
27 postsecondary institution shall ensure the information provided in the

1                   *list of statewide transfer pathways shall be periodically reviewed by the*  
2                   *institution to ensure accuracy, including providing updated*  
3                   *information no later than sixty (60) days after any curricular or*  
4                   *programmatic changes that impact transfer applicability;*

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

- 1 and these students shall be granted admission to related upper-division  
2 bachelors degree programs of a state public college or university on the same  
3 criteria as those students earning lower-division credits at the university to  
4 which the student transferred;
- 5 (j) Provide that graduates of approved associate of arts and associate of science  
6 degree programs shall receive priority for admission to a state public  
7 university over out-of-state students if they meet the same admission criteria;
- 8 (k) Establish a commonality in college transcripts to be used in all public colleges  
9 and universities to facilitate transfer from community and technical colleges;
- 10 (l) Encourage private colleges and universities to collaborate with public  
11 educational institutions in developing programs and agreement to expedite the  
12 transfer of students and credits between institutions;
- 13 (m) Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between transferring  
14 students and receiving educational institutions regarding the transfer and  
15 acceptance of credits earned at another institution;
- 16 (n) Ensure that all articulation and transfer policies are consistent with the rules  
17 and regulations established by all appropriate discipline-specific accrediting  
18 bodies and institutional accrediting agencies as recognized by the United  
19 States Department of Education; and
- 20 (o) Facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide standardized  
21 articulation agreement to be executed ~~by July 1, 2021,~~ between public  
22 colleges and universities and the Kentucky Department of Education for each  
23 approved high school career pathway that leads to a postsecondary credential,  
24 certification, license, or degree. Upon meeting the requirements of the  
25 standardized articulation agreement, a student shall be awarded postsecondary  
26 credit for prior learning at any public college or university.
- 27 (3) When an institution seeks to *make changes to curricula that impacts the*

1 transferability of credit~~[change learning outcomes]~~ for a bachelor of arts or  
 2 bachelor of science program that affect lower-division courses, the  
 3 institution~~[university]~~ shall notify the council~~[on Postsecondary Education]~~ and  
 4 the Kentucky Community and Technical College System of the proposed changes  
 5 at the same time as the initiation of the institution's~~[university's]~~ approval process.  
 6 The council shall then provide written notification to all other public  
 7 postsecondary education institutions of the proposed change. If it is determined  
 8 that the proposed change will have an adverse effect on transferability, the  
 9 institution~~[university]~~ proposing the change shall enter into discussion with the  
 10 council, the other public postsecondary education institutions, and the Kentucky  
 11 Community and Technical College System to verify there remains a clearly defined  
 12 path to transfer credits~~[a bachelor's degree]~~ for those students who plan to transfer  
 13 from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System or another public  
 14 postsecondary education institution to the institution~~[public university]~~. The  
 15 council shall be responsible for coordinating the discussion among the public  
 16 postsecondary education institutions.

17 (4) The council shall electronically publish the Uniform Resource Locator (URL), a  
 18 Quick Response (QR) code, or similar resource to access:

19 (a) The publicly available, comprehensive online resource for each public  
 20 postsecondary institution created pursuant to subsection (2)(c) of this  
 21 section;

22 (b) The official, comprehensive, and annual publication of academic programs  
 23 and course offerings for each public postsecondary institution; and

24 (c) The information required to be published pursuant to KRS 164.0284.

25 ➔Section 2. (1) The Council on Postsecondary Education is hereby directed  
 26 to establish a study and report on statewide transfer pathways. In studying statewide  
 27 transfer pathways, the council shall:

1 (a) Consult with the chief academic officer of each public postsecondary  
2 education institution or his or her designee;

3 (b) Consult with the chief academic officer or his or her designee of the private  
4 colleges and universities that may wish to be involved in statewide transfer pathways;

5 (c) Assess the viability of statewide transfer pathways in high-demand program  
6 areas, including but not limited to:

7 1. Teacher preparation programs; and

8 2. Nursing programs;

9 (d) Assess the commonalities in program-specific prerequisite requirements  
10 relevant to potential statewide transfer pathways; and

11 (e) Identify discrepancies or barriers to creating or implementing statewide  
12 transfer pathways in high-demand program areas.

13 (2) The council shall submit a report no later than December 1, 2026, to the  
14 Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate Interim Joint Committee  
15 on Education. The report shall include the results of the study required under subsection  
16 (1) of this section and recommendations on the creation and implementation of statewide  
17 transfer pathways.