

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. By July 1, 2028, develop, implement, and maintain statewide transfer
6 pathways consisting of up to sixty (60) credit hours that shall be
7 applied to the requirements of baccalaureate degree programs at any
8 participating public university.

9 2. Statewide transfer pathways for baccalaureate degree programs shall
10 be identified based on relevant factors, including but not limited to:

11 a. Student demand;
12 b. Workforce demands as demonstrated through data from the
13 Kentucky Center for Statistics; and
14 c. Existing commonalities in student learning outcomes up to the
15 first sixty (60) credit hours of baccalaureate degree programs
16 among two (2) or more public universities.

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

24 4. A public institution offering a baccalaureate program that would
25 otherwise be included in a statewide transfer pathway but is not
26 participating due to limited alignment in student learning outcomes
27 shall identify those courses in the pathway that will not be eligible for

credit in a core course requirement and publish the list of courses on the institution's website.

5. The council shall publish on its website a list of pathways, including the existing statewide transfer pathways and participating institutions, available to students;

(d) 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;

(e) Establish a procedure for approval of changes in learning outcomes at public universities as described in subsection (3) of this section;

(f)(e) Standardize credit-by-exam equivalencies and common passing scores for national exams transferable for general education courses and program-specific prerequisites courses;

(g) 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;

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

(i)(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

1 science degree programs of Kentucky public postsecondary institutions who
2 complete the prerequisite learning outcomes for a bachelor of arts or bachelor
3 of science program while fulfilling the requirements for an associate of art or
4 associate of science degree, shall not be required to repeat or to take any
5 additional lower-level courses to fulfill bachelor degree requirements in the
6 same major, and these students shall be granted admission to related upper-
7 division bachelors degree programs of a state public college or university on
8 the same criteria as those students earning lower-division credits at the
9 university to which the student transferred;

10 **(k)** Provide that graduates of approved associate of arts and associate of
11 science degree programs shall receive priority for admission to a state public
12 university over out-of-state students if they meet the same admission criteria;

13 **(l)** Establish a commonality in college transcripts to be used in all public
14 colleges and universities to facilitate transfer from community and technical
15 colleges;

16 **(m)** Encourage private colleges and universities to collaborate with public
17 educational institutions in developing programs and agreement to expedite the
18 transfer of students and credits between institutions;

19 **(n)** Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between
20 transferring students and receiving educational institutions regarding the
21 transfer and acceptance of credits earned at another institution;

22 **(o)** Ensure that all articulation and transfer policies are consistent with the
23 rules and regulations established by all appropriate discipline-specific
24 accrediting bodies and institutional accrediting agencies as recognized by the
25 United States Department of Education; and

26 **(p)** Facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide
27 standardized articulation agreement to be executed ~~by July 1, 2021,~~ between

1 public colleges and universities and the Kentucky Department of Education
2 for each approved high school career pathway that leads to a postsecondary
3 credential, certification, license, or degree. Upon meeting the requirements of
4 the standardized articulation agreement, a student shall be awarded
5 postsecondary credit for prior learning at any public college or university.

6 (3) *Regardless of the existence of a council-identified statewide transfer pathway,*
7 when an institution seeks to *make changes to curricula that impacts the*
8 *transferability of credit*~~change learning outcomes}~~ for a bachelor of arts or
9 bachelor of science program that affect lower-division courses, the
10 *institution*~~university}~~ shall notify the council~~on Postsecondary Education~~ and
11 the Kentucky Community and Technical College System of the proposed changes
12 at the same time as the initiation of the *institution's*~~university's~~ approval process.
13 *The council shall then provide written notification to all other public*
14 *postsecondary education institutions of the proposed change.* If it is determined
15 that the proposed change will have an adverse effect on transferability, the
16 *institution*~~university}~~ proposing the change shall enter into discussion with the
17 council, *the other public postsecondary education institutions*, and the Kentucky
18 Community and Technical College System to verify there remains a clearly defined
19 path to *transfer credits*~~a bachelor's degree}~~ for those students who plan to transfer
20 from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System *or another public*
21 *postsecondary education institution* to the *institution*~~public university~~. *The*
22 *council shall be responsible for coordinating the discussion among the public*
23 *postsecondary education institutions.*

24 (4) ***Beginning July 1, 2028:***

25 (a) Any student who transfers among participating public postsecondary
26 education institutions shall be awarded credit by the receiving institution for
27 courses satisfactorily completed by the student at any participating public

1 postsecondary education institution when the credit was part of a statewide
2 transfer pathway available at both the earning institution and the receiving
3 institution; and

4 **(b) Public postsecondary education institutions receiving transfer course credit**
5 within a statewide transfer pathway shall accept and apply general
6 education courses and credit in the equivalent pathway at the receiving
7 institution. The credit shall be applied as first satisfying general education
8 core course credit requirements and program-specific general education
9 course credit requirements before being applied as elective credit.