

HOUSE BILL 282

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Rod Montoya

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; REQUIRING A COMMON COURSE NAMING AND NUMBERING SYSTEM BY AUGUST 1, 2017; UPDATING REFERENCES TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1.** Section 21-1B-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 224, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-1B-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Post-Secondary Education Articulation Act:

A. "articulation" means the transfer of course credit from one institution to another;

B. [~~commission~~] "department" means the [~~commission on~~] higher education department;

C. "discipline module" means lower-division courses, including the general education core, that meet the

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1 lower-division college-level requirements for a specific  
2 degree;

3 D. "general education core" means the grouping of  
4 lower division general education courses of at least  
5 thirty-five hours that are established by the [~~commission~~]  
6 department for transfer and that are accepted by all  
7 institutions for transfer purposes;

8 E. "institution" means an accredited, public  
9 post-secondary educational institution operating in the state;  
10 and

11 F. "module" or "transfer module" means a  
12 standardized list of courses established by the [~~commission~~]  
13 department for which credit is accepted for transfer from one  
14 institution to another."

15 SECTION 2. Section 21-1B-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,  
16 Chapter 224, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

17 "21-1B-3. ARTICULATION PLAN--DEVELOPMENT--  
18 IMPLEMENTATION--ESTABLISHMENT OF TRANSFER MODULE.--

19 A. The [~~commission~~] department shall establish and  
20 maintain a comprehensive statewide plan to provide for the  
21 articulation of educational programs and facilitate the  
22 transfer of students between institutions.

23 B. In establishing a statewide articulation plan,  
24 the [~~commission~~] department shall:

25 (1) by August 1, 2017, establish a common

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1 course naming and numbering system for courses identified as  
2 substantially equivalent lower-division courses; provided that  
3 the ~~[commission]~~ department shall establish an interim  
4 mechanism of a statewide equivalency table that uses a  
5 universal taxonomy to identify substantially equivalent courses  
6 until the common system is in place;

7 (2) establish a process to identify courses as  
8 substantially equivalent. The process shall:

9 (a) include a procedure for each course  
10 whereby faculty members from each segment teaching the academic  
11 discipline will reach mutual agreement on the material to be  
12 taught and the competencies to be gained;

13 (b) ensure that the content of each  
14 course is comparable across institutions offering that course;

15 (c) ensure that substantially all the  
16 content agreed to among the institutions as the content to be  
17 covered by a course is in fact covered in that course and that  
18 students successfully completing the course will achieve like  
19 competencies with respect to the content covered; and

20 (d) ensure that the content requirements  
21 for each course will be sufficient to prepare students for  
22 upper-division coursework in that field; and

23 (3) define, publish and maintain modules of  
24 lower-division courses accepted for transfer at all  
25 institutions and meeting requirements for lower-division

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1 requirements established for associate and baccalaureate  
2 degree-granting programs.

3 C. The [~~commission~~] department shall ensure that  
4 institutions develop transfer modules that include  
5 approximately sixty-four hours of lower-division college-level  
6 credit.

7 D. Transfer modules shall include a common general  
8 education core component of not less than thirty-five semester  
9 hours. This general education core shall include a  
10 comprehensive array of lower-division college-level courses  
11 designed to demonstrate skills in communication, mathematics,  
12 science, social and behavioral science, humanities, fine arts  
13 or comparable areas of study coordinated for the purpose of  
14 providing a foundation for a liberal education for all programs  
15 normally leading to a baccalaureate degree. The general  
16 education core shall transfer as a block and count as required  
17 lower-division coursework toward a degree, and any course in  
18 the core shall be transferable and shall count as credit hours  
19 toward fulfilling an institution's general education core  
20 requirements.

21 E. Any course in the general education core may be  
22 offered for dual credit to secondary school students and, upon  
23 successful completion, the course shall be transferable to any  
24 institution and shall count as fulfilling a required lower-  
25 division course.

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1 F. A discipline module shall consist of an  
2 agreed-upon number of hours and courses, including the general  
3 education core, of approximately sixty-four hours applicable to  
4 the discipline and any course within the discipline module is  
5 transferable and shall count toward fulfilling degree  
6 requirements at a four-year institution."

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