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HOUSE BILL 108

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Stephanie Garcia Richard

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AMENDING THE POST-SECONDARY
EDUCATION ARTICULATION ACT TO ESTABLISH AND CLARIFY CONDITIONS
UNDER WHICH STUDENTS MAY TRANSFER EARNED CREDITS BETWEEN AND
AMONG NEW MEXICO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

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~~] courses that fulfill a
graduation requirement for a student's chosen degree program;

B. "department" means the higher education
department;

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1 ~~[G. "discipline module" means lower-division~~
2 ~~courses, including the general education core, that meet the~~
3 ~~lower-division college-level requirements for a specific~~
4 ~~degree;~~

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

10 C. "general education core curriculum" means the
11 group of lower-division courses approved by the department as
12 fulfilling general education requirements;

13 ~~[E.]~~ D. "institution" means an accredited, public
14 post-secondary educational institution operating in the state;
15 [and

16 ~~F. "module" or "transfer module" means a~~
17 ~~standardized list of courses established by the department for~~
18 ~~which credit is accepted for transfer from one institution to~~
19 ~~another.]~~

20 E. "meta-major" means fifteen credits of lower-
21 division courses that are established by the department and
22 that include general education courses and prerequisite courses
23 and that can articulate to multiple degree programs;

24 F. "transfer" means the transfer of course credits
25 from one institution to another; and

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1 G. "transfer module" means a list of lower-division
2 courses established by the department that fulfill graduation
3 requirements for a specific degree program."

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

6 "21-1B-3. ARTICULATION PLAN--DEVELOPMENT--
7 IMPLEMENTATION--ESTABLISHMENT OF META-MAJOR AND TRANSFER
8 MODULE.--

9 A. The department shall establish and maintain a
10 comprehensive statewide plan to provide for the articulation of
11 educational programs and facilitate the transfer of [~~students~~]
12 course credits between institutions.

13 B. In establishing a statewide articulation plan,
14 the department shall:

15 (1) by August 1, 2017, establish a common
16 course naming and numbering system for courses identified as
17 substantially equivalent lower-division courses; provided that
18 the department shall establish an interim mechanism of a
19 statewide equivalency table that uses a universal taxonomy to
20 identify substantially equivalent courses until the common
21 system is in place;

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

24 (a) include a procedure for each course
25 whereby faculty members from each segment teaching the academic

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1 discipline will reach mutual agreement on the material to be
2 taught and the competencies to be gained;

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

5 (c) ensure that substantially all the
6 content agreed to among the institutions as the content to be
7 covered by a course is in fact covered in that course and that
8 students successfully completing the course will achieve like
9 competencies with respect to the content covered; and

10 (d) ensure that the content requirements
11 for each course will be sufficient to prepare students for
12 upper-division coursework in that field; ~~and]~~

13 (3) ~~[define, publish and]~~ maintain ~~[modules]~~ a
14 list of lower-division courses [accepted for transfer at all
15 institutions and meeting requirements for lower-division
16 requirements established for associate and baccalaureate
17 degree-granting programs] offered at higher education
18 institutions in New Mexico. All courses assigned the same
19 number shall transfer between institutions as that course name
20 and number; and

21 (4) develop a process for reviewing, updating
22 and maintaining the common course numbering system.

23 C. The department shall ~~[ensure that institutions~~
24 ~~develop transfer modules that include approximately sixty-four~~
25 ~~hours of lower-division college-level credit.~~

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

15 E. ~~Any course in the general education core may be~~
16 ~~offered for dual credit to secondary school students and, upon~~
17 ~~successful completion, the course shall be transferable to any~~
18 ~~institution and shall count as fulfilling a required lower-~~
19 ~~division course.~~

20 F. ~~A discipline module shall consist of an agreed-~~
21 ~~upon number of hours and courses, including the general~~
22 ~~education core, of approximately sixty-four hours applicable to~~
23 ~~the discipline and any course within the discipline module is~~
24 ~~transferable and shall count toward fulfilling degree~~
25 ~~requirements at a four-year institution] facilitate the~~

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1 development and approval of statewide meta-majors.

2 D. The department, in consultation with faculty,
3 shall develop a statewide general education core curriculum of
4 not less than fifteen hours for an associate in applied science
5 degree, twenty-four hours for an associate in arts or associate
6 in science degree and thirty hours for a bachelor of arts or
7 bachelor of science degree. The statewide general education
8 core curriculum shall include a comprehensive array of lower-
9 division college-level courses designed to provide a foundation
10 for a liberal education. The department shall develop a
11 process for maintaining and updating the statewide general
12 education core curriculum. The department shall review and
13 approve proposed statewide general education core curriculum
14 requirements. For every institution, each approved course in
15 the general education core curriculum shall be transferable,
16 and its credit hours shall count toward fulfilling general
17 education core curriculum requirements at any institution to
18 which they are transferred."

19 SECTION 3. Section 21-1B-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
20 Chapter 224, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

21 "21-1B-4. ~~[USE OF TRANSFER MODULE]~~ TRANSFER OF CREDITS.--

22 A. ~~[Each]~~ Courses that have a New Mexico common
23 course number shall be accepted as the equivalent courses
24 offered at the receiving institution ~~[shall accept for transfer~~
25 ~~course credits earned by a student at any other institution~~

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1 ~~that are included in a transfer module. Transfer credits shall~~
2 ~~be accepted to meet lower-division graduation requirements of~~
3 ~~an institution's degree-granting programs. This provision also~~
4 ~~applies to any course that is part of a transfer module].~~

5 B. Courses taken as part of an approved meta-major
6 or transfer module shall be accepted to meet lower-division
7 graduation requirements of a degree-granting program to which
8 the meta-major or transfer module articulates.

9 [B-] C. An institution shall not increase
10 requirements for degree-granting programs as a result of the
11 use of a meta-major or transfer module or acceptance of a
12 course that is part of a meta-major or transfer module. An
13 institution may specify additional lower-division or
14 upper-division requirements not included in a [discipline]
15 meta-major or transfer module for one or more programs of
16 study; provided that those requirements apply equally to
17 transfer students and students originating their study at the
18 institution.

19 ~~[G. Each institution shall accept completed~~
20 ~~transfer modules in total as a block and shall count the~~
21 ~~modules, whether they are the general education core or a~~
22 ~~specific discipline module, as fulfilling required~~
23 ~~lower-division coursework. Upon transfer of a completed~~
24 ~~discipline module, a student shall be granted admission to the~~
25 ~~upper-division program, except in limited access programs.]"~~

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1 SECTION 4. Section 21-1B-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
2 Chapter 224, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

3 "21-1B-5. OVERSIGHT OF ARTICULATION PROGRAMS--COMPLAINT
4 PROCEDURES.--

5 A. The [~~commission~~] department shall establish and
6 maintain a process to monitor and improve articulation through
7 frequent and systematic consultation with institutions.
8 [~~Institutions shall monitor the progress of each transfer~~
9 ~~student and provide appropriate information to the student's~~
10 ~~originating institution.~~]

11 B. The [~~commission~~] department shall establish a
12 complaint procedure for transfer students who fail to receive
13 credit for courses that have a common course number or are
14 contained in [æ] an approved meta-major or transfer module
15 taken at another institution. The [~~commission~~] department may
16 set standards for determining bona fide complaints, including a
17 requirement that students follow institutions' internal
18 procedures for resolving complaints prior to submitting them to
19 the [~~commission~~] department. The [~~commission~~] department shall
20 investigate all articulation complaints and render decisions as
21 to the appropriateness of the actions of the participants.

22 C. Prior to December 31 of each year, the
23 [~~commission~~] department shall summarize all articulation
24 complaints filed with the [~~commission~~] department and the
25 decisions of the [~~commission~~] department with regard to those

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1 complaints. [~~For those complaints for which the commission~~
2 ~~finds merit, the commission shall calculate the number of~~
3 ~~credits refused at the receiving institution and recommend a~~
4 ~~corresponding reduction of legislative funding to the next~~
5 ~~session of the legislature.]~~

6 D. [~~When a module becomes effective as provided in~~
7 ~~Subsection F of Section 21-1B-6 NMSA 1978]~~ If a student's
8 articulation complaint regarding commonly numbered courses or
9 courses contained in a meta-major or transfer module is upheld,
10 the receiving institution shall reimburse the student the
11 complete cost, including tuition, books and fees, of each
12 course the student was required to repeat at the receiving
13 institution."

14 SECTION 5. Section 21-1B-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
15 Chapter 224, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

16 "21-1B-6. REPORTING.--

17 A. Prior to December 31 of each year, the
18 [~~commission~~] department shall report to the legislative finance
19 committee [~~the legislative education study committee~~] and the
20 governor regarding the status of articulation programs and the
21 transfer of students between institutions.

22 B. The report developed by the [~~commission~~]
23 department shall include the statewide meta-major and transfer
24 modules available, an analysis of the number of students
25 transferring between [~~campuses, the number of credits being~~

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1 ~~requested and accepted for transfer, institutions denying~~
2 ~~transfer of credits and reasons for denial]~~ New Mexico's higher
3 education institutions, the [progress] graduation rates and
4 time to earn degrees of transfer students at receiving
5 institutions, the average number of credit hours earned by
6 graduating transfer students compared to the average number of
7 credit hours earned by graduates who originated at the
8 institution and a summary of student complaints regarding
9 articulation. The report shall include data and other
10 information obtained on both a statewide and individual
11 institution basis.

12 C. The report shall look at outcomes with regard to
13 such factors as transfer rates, persistence rates after
14 transfer and graduation rates.

15 D. The report shall identify each institution
16 against which a meritorious complaint has been filed. The
17 report shall summarize the recommendations of the [~~commission~~]
18 department with regard to those complaints.

19 E. All institutions shall provide articulation
20 information required by the [~~commission~~] department for the
21 development of the annual report prior to September 30 of each
22 year.

23 [~~F. The general education core, the discipline~~
24 ~~module for business and early childhood education and the~~
25 ~~common course numbering and naming system for all courses in~~

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1 ~~those modules shall be effective by spring semester 2006, and~~
2 ~~the printed materials of all institutions shall conform to the~~
3 ~~system by fall 2006. A minimum of three additional discipline~~
4 ~~modules shall be effective not later than fall semester 2007~~
5 ~~and an additional three discipline modules by fall semester~~
6 ~~2008.]"~~

7 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
8 provisions of this act is July 1, 2017.

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