

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 2525**

Ordered by the House April 8  
Including House Amendments dated April 8

Sponsored by Representatives WITT, KOMP; Representatives EVANS, SMITH WARNER (Pre-session filed.)

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to develop standards related to transferability of credits [*and acceptance of test scores*] for community colleges and public universities.

**Directs commission to convene work group to determine how to provide students with information about transfers and to develop research plan related to transfers of credits.**

**Declares emergency, effective on passage.**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to college credit; creating new provisions; amending ORS 341.430; and declaring an emer-  
3 gency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 341.430 is amended to read:

6 341.430. (1) As used in this section:

7 (a) "Associate transfer degree" means an associate degree that is awarded by a community  
8 college and that is intended to allow a student to apply the credits earned for the degree toward a  
9 baccalaureate degree.

10 (b) "Community college" means a community college operated under ORS chapter 341.

11 (c) "Public university" means a public university listed in ORS 352.002.

12 (d) "Transfer program" means a one-year program that is designed to allow a student to apply  
13 the credits earned through the program toward a baccalaureate degree.

14 (2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall develop standards related to the ability  
15 of students to apply credits earned through courses of study at community colleges to baccalaureate  
16 degrees awarded by public universities. The standards shall be known as the "Transfer Student Bill  
17 of Rights and Responsibilities."

18 (3) The standards developed under this section must include:

19 (a) Admission standards to public universities for students who have earned an associate trans-  
20 fer degree.

21 **(b) Processes to align requirements for community college courses and public university**  
22 **courses to ensure that credits earned for completion of sufficiently similar courses are fully**  
23 **transferable between all community colleges and public universities.**

24 *[(b)]* **(c) Processes to minimize the number of credits that students who have earned an associate**  
25 **transfer degree would need to complete prior to receiving various types of baccalaureate degrees**  
26 **at public universities, including identifying majors in baccalaureate degree programs that re-**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **quire more than two years to complete after a student has earned an associate transfer de-**  
2 **gree.**

3 [(c)] (d) Processes to minimize the number of credits that students who have completed a  
4 transfer program would need to complete prior to receiving various types of baccalaureate degrees  
5 at public universities.

6 [(d)] (e) Processes by which a community college would award an associate degree to a student  
7 upon completion of necessary credits, regardless of whether the student applied to receive the de-  
8 gree or whether the student earned the credits for the degree at a community college or a public  
9 university.

10 [(e)] (f) Processes to evaluate and make recommendations for the development of associate  
11 transfer degrees in specific areas of study, including engineering.

12 [(f)] (g) Any other issues identified by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission that re-  
13 late to courses of study at community colleges and the ability of a student to transfer credits to a  
14 community college or a public university, to be admitted to a public university or to earn a degree  
15 at a community college or a public university.

16 [(g)] (h) Requirements that students must meet in order to benefit from the standards described  
17 in paragraphs (a) to [(f)] (g) of this subsection.

18 (4) Each community college and public university shall submit annual reports to the Higher  
19 Education Coordinating Commission related to:

20 (a) The number of students who attend a community college and then a public university, or a  
21 public university and then a community college.

22 (b) The number of students who attend one community college and then a different community  
23 college.

24 (c) The number of students who transfer from a community college to a public university and  
25 who have an associate transfer degree or have completed a transfer program.

26 (d) The average number of credits students have when they transfer from a community college  
27 to a public university.

28 (e) The average number of credits students have when they attend one community college and  
29 then a different community college.

30 (f) The average number of credits that a student earning an associate transfer degree completed  
31 at a community college.

32 (g) The average number of credits students who have transferred from a community college to  
33 a public university must earn prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree compared to the average  
34 number of credits students who did not transfer from a community college must earn prior to re-  
35 ceiving a baccalaureate degree.

36 **SECTION 2. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall:**

37 **(1) Convene a work group that includes representatives of students, community colleges**  
38 **and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 for the purposes of:**

39 **(a) Assessing the information that is available to students to determine admission stan-**  
40 **dards and identify the number of credits and the types of courses that fulfill baccalaureate**  
41 **degree requirements;**

42 **(b) Determining the feasibility and cost to implement a transfer credit evaluation system**  
43 **that has data from all community colleges and public universities in this state and that may**  
44 **be used by students to determine which credits will transfer among the community colleges**  
45 **and public universities in this state; and**

1       (c) Determining how to implement best practices for providing students with the infor-  
2 mation described in paragraph (a) of this subsection and making students aware of the in-  
3 formation available as described in paragraph (b) of this subsection.

4       (2) Develop and initiate a research plan to analyze:

5       (a) Which credits for an associate transfer degree are not applicable toward a  
6 baccalaureate degree;

7       (b) Whether credits for an associate transfer degree that are not applicable toward a  
8 baccalaureate degree are considered to be elective credits; and

9       (c) Why some credits for an associate transfer degree are not applicable toward a  
10 baccalaureate degree.

11       (3) Submit a report no later than July 1, 2016, to the interim legislative committees on  
12 education that summarizes the results of the work group and the research plan and that  
13 may make recommendations for legislation.

14       SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2015 Act is repealed on July 1, 2016.

15       SECTION 4. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
16 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect  
17 on its passage.

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