

Summary of -2 amendments to HB 2998
4/18/17

Section 1 and 2: Foundational Curricula, Convening, and Timeline

- Community colleges and public universities shall be convened by the HECC to review the Oregon Transfer Module (OTM) and establish a transferable set of general education requirements
 - The OTM is Oregon's current framework for general education requirements. The OTM is not in statute and there is no guarantee for transfer or acceptance of credits towards a student's degree
- The result of this review shall be the creation of a foundational curricula (plural options depending on STEM or CTE pathways with specific general education requirements)
- Foundational curricula must be a minimum of 30 credits
- Guaranteed transfer between a community college and a public university (and subsequently between community college institutions). Further review included in the bill to identify whether the curricula should transfer between public universities as well (Section 8 (4))
- Foundational curricula must be available for students entering an Oregon community college by fall, 2018

Section 3: Unified Transfer Agreements

- A unified transfer agreement (UTA) will be established for each major designated by the HECC.
- UTA will outline courses required to achieve a degree as a student begins at an Oregon community college and transfers to an Oregon public university.
- The UTA will guarantee:
 - Transfer without loss of academic credit so long as a student takes the courses outlined in UTA and receives the required grade
 - Courses will be applied to the student's major (as opposed to transferring as elective credit)
- UTA will include the 30 credits of a foundational curricula
- Agreements will outline 90 credits at an Oregon community college (including the foundational curricula) and the 90+ credits required at an Oregon public university
 - Students are guaranteed transfer to an Oregon public university with Junior status *in their major*, which ensures that they will only need to take the remaining credits necessary as students who began their studies at the public university
 - 90+ credits included as an option in case certain majors require more than 180 total credits or if the universities accrediting body
- Exceptions can be made for majors identified as having an 'optimal transfer point' meaning there is a benefit for the student to transfer to an Oregon public university prior to earning 90 credits at an Oregon community college.
 - For UTA containing optimal transfer point, students are guaranteed transfer with the same status as a student who began their course of study at a public university
- Focus of UTA will remain on
 - Reducing student debt
 - Increasing rate at which community college students who transfer to public universities receive bachelor's degree

- Maintain standards of intellectual and academic rigor across institutions
- Role of the HECC as convener:
 - HECC shall regularly convene faculty representative's (intent to have faculty do the work, not to have an open workgroup with students involved*)
 - HECC has authority to determine the majors that will have transfer agreements and the priority by which they are completed
 - Consideration will include majors that have a high rate of transfer and;
 - Majors with high workforce demand
- UTA will be established at a rate of three per year, with the first three having a designated completion timeline

Section 4: Timeline for First Three UTA

- 1st UTA will be established by December 1, 2018;
- 2nd UTA will be established by April 1, 2019;
- 3rd UTA will be established by December 1, 2019
- **Reminder: Foundational curricula must be available by fall, 2018**

Section 5: Helping Students Identify a Pathway

- Community college students who inform their institution of intent to transfer, must be provided information on:
 - Potential major courses of study
 - List of existing UTA
- The community college must encourage the student to identify a potential major or UTA prior to completing 45 academic credits

Section 6: HECC Convening and Data Collection

- HECC shall convene regularly representatives from Oregon community college and public universities to:
 - Facilitate establishment of foundational curricula
 - Facilitate development and ensure continued alignment of UTA
 - Note that continued alignment is necessary to account for any changes that occur at institutions
 - Staffing will be provided by the HECC
 - Institutions shall be regularly informed about progress*Students*
- Number of academic credits successfully transferred in a major course of study outlined by a UTA by students transferring from an Oregon community college to a public university shall be reported to the HECC annually
- The HECC will report annually to the Legislature on whether existing UTA are meeting the goals set forth in section 3 (2) of this legislation

Section 7: Advising

- Community colleges and public universities shall submit a single report to the legislature by June 1, 2018 regarding best practices for advising students about:

- Foundational curricula
- UTA
- Methods for identifying a major course of study
- Strategies and resources available to enhance student advising effectiveness and increasing student access to information about UTA
- Academic services with an emphasis on assisting students enrolled in courses with high rates of incompleton

Section 8: Reporting

- The HECC shall report to the legislature no later than February 1, 2018:
 - Definition of 'lost academic credit'
 - Typical number of lost academic credits by current students who transfer
 - Recommendation on whether more than one foundational curriculum should be established
 - Recommendation on whether foundational curriculum should transfer between public universities
 - Identifies the initial major courses of study the first three UTA will be