

Oregon Council of Presidents



Testimony on SB207 to Senate Committee on Education

Good afternoon, Chair Roblan, Vice Chair Linthicum and Members of the Committee.

My name is Lita Colligan, Associate VP at Oregon Tech.

I am here today to provide comments on SB207 on behalf of Oregon's Public Universities, and offer our support for the intent of this bill.

Oregon's public universities have all worked together with our community college partners to develop the Statewide Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Policies that were originally adopted in 2005 and 2010, respectively. For over a decade, the universities and community colleges have collaborated, through the AP/IB work group, to evaluate the equivalency of advanced high school courses, and award credit by exam for proficiencies that map to college level courses. Our faculty work with AP/IB to assist in calibrating the exams and also participate in workshops to train high school faculty.

We fully support awarding university credit to high school students who receive successful grades on advanced placement tests, in addition to the thousands of college credits we award for other forms of accelerated credit.

Through our partnerships with the community colleges to evaluate exams and attach appropriate ranges of credits for each exam score, we seek to ensure that high school students advance as quickly as possible, do not repeat college courses unnecessarily, and are well-prepared to succeed in more advanced college courses.

The AP/IB Workgroup conducted its most recent annual review of our partnership on February 22, 2016 and updated the statewide course credit policy. The policy lists exam scores and a corresponding number or range of credits as recommended

minimums. We believe our efforts achieve a solid agreement between universities and community colleges regarding the transferability of credits and range of credits accepted in Oregon's public postsecondary institutions.

The Statewide Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Policies and the course scores and ranges of credits are available on the HECC website for students, parents, and the general public.

[https://www.oregon.gov/HigherEd/Documents/HECC/2016%20Full%20Commission%20Meetings/05_May-12-16/9.1AP-IBStatewideCourseCreditPolicyfor2016-17.pdf]

Senate Bill 207 requires public universities and community colleges to give credit, beginning with the 2018-19 school year, for students who participate in an advanced placement program and receive a successful grade on a nationwide examination. We fully support this policy and have been doing this work for many years.

The bill also suggests a definition of successful grade as a score of three or higher on an advanced placement exam. Right now, in many cases a score of 3 is considered a successful grade, and students receive a range of credits, based on a score of 3 or more. For more technical or specialized courses, scores of 4 or more are considered equivalent to college-level work.

We don't believe that specifying the score in statute is advisable because if testing procedures or metrics ever change, it would require a change in statute. We urge you to reconsider specifying specific scores in the bill and suggest instead that students and families refer to the AP/IB Policy approved by the HECC, rather than embed a specific score in statute that may require future statutory amendments and could cause confusion for students.

The AP/IB work group, and the colleges and universities they represent, intend to award as many credits as possible. It is motivating for students to understand that they are capable of college-level work and it encourages them to use their AP and IB credits and go to college.

We also want to ensure that students will be successful in the next course they take because their early college credits reflect their level of competency in a subject area.

Thank you for considering this input from the public universities.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.