

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Requires public institutions of higher education to award academic credit in each instance in which enrolled student completed high school class or participated in high school program that offered learning and experiences comparable to introductory communications, public speaking or argumentation course offered at institution.

Requires institution to award two academic credits to each student who participated in DECA program, FFA program or speech and debate program for two or three years while at high school.

Requires institution to award four academic credits to each student who participated in DECA program, FFA program or speech and debate program for four years while at high school. Prohibits institution from requiring these students to take introductory communications, public speaking or argumentation course offered at institution as prerequisite for taking more advanced courses at institution.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to academic credits at public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. (1) **As used in this section:**

(a) **“Certified by the student’s high school” means that a high school previously attended by an incoming student enrolled at a public institution of higher education has certified, in a manner determined by the Department of Education by rule, that the student has completed a specified number of years in a DECA program, FFA program or speech and debate program.**

(b) **“DECA program” means a high school program that is affiliated with the national DECA Inc. nonprofit corporation.**

(c) **“FFA program” means a high school program that is considered**

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 under ORS 327.910 to be an approved agriculture, science and technol-
2 ogy program of study as a member of the National FFA Organization.

3 (d) "Public institution of higher education" has the meaning given
4 that term in ORS 350.350.

5 (e) "Speech and debate program" means a high school program that
6 is affiliated with the National Speech and Debate Association.

7 (2) An award of academic credit by a public institution of higher
8 education under this section must align with state statutes, rules,
9 standards and requirements regarding the transfer of academic credits
10 to public institutions of higher education.

11 (3)(a) Each public institution of higher education shall award aca-
12 demic credit in each instance in which an incoming student enrolled
13 at the institution has completed high school classes or participated in
14 high school programs that offer learning and experiences comparable
15 to an introductory communications, public speaking or argumentation
16 course offered at the public institution of higher education.

17 (b) A student who is certified by the student's high school as having
18 completed a DECA program, FFA program or speech and debate pro-
19 gram for two or three academic years shall:

20 (A) Be considered to have fulfilled the requirements set forth in
21 paragraph (a) of this subsection; and

22 (B) Receive two academic credits at the public institution of higher
23 education.

24 (c) A student who is certified by the student's high school as having
25 completed a DECA program, FFA program or speech and debate pro-
26 gram for four academic years:

27 (A) Shall be considered to have fulfilled the requirements set forth
28 in paragraph (a) of this subsection;

29 (B) Shall receive four academic credits at the public institution of
30 higher education; and

31 (C) May not be required by the public institution of higher educa-

tion to take an introductory communications, public speaking or argumentation course offered at the public institution of higher education as a prerequisite to taking more advanced courses at the institution.

(4) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the Department of Education may enact rules necessary for the implementation of this section.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2021 Act first applies to the 2022-2023 academic year.
