

HIGHER EDUCATION CREDIT AMENDMENTS

2019 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Val L. Peterson

Senate Sponsor: Ann Millner

LONG TITLE

Committee Note:

The Education Interim Committee recommended this bill.

General Description:

This bill enacts and amends provisions related to credit in higher education.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ amends provisions related to the State Board of Regents' duties regarding articulation, transfers, and course identification;
- ▶ enacts provisions requiring the State Board of Regents to:
 - develop a systemwide plan for advising and communicating about student credit for prior learning; and
 - establish policies related to student credit for prior learning;
- ▶ enacts other provisions related to prior learning;
- ▶ amends other provisions related to student credit; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None



28 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

29 AMENDS:

30 **53B-16-105**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 435

31 **53B-16-107**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 39

32 ENACTS:

33 **53B-16-110**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



35 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

36 Section 1. Section **53B-16-105** is amended to read:

37 **53B-16-105. Common course numbering -- Transferability of credits --**

38 **Agreement with competency-based general education provider -- Policies.**

39 (1) As used in this section:

40 (a) "Articulation agreement" means an agreement between the board and a provider
41 that allows a student to transfer credit awarded by the provider for a general education course
42 to any institution of higher education.

43 (b) "Competency-based" means a system where a student advances to higher levels of
44 learning when the student demonstrates competency of concepts and skills regardless of time,
45 place, or pace.

46 (c) "Competency-based general education provider" or "provider" means a private
47 institution that:

48 (i) offers a postsecondary competency-based general education course online or in
49 person;

50 (ii) awards academic credit; and

51 (iii) does not award degrees, including associates degrees or baccalaureate degrees.

52 (d) "Credit for prior learning" means the same as that term is defined in Section
53 **53B-16-110**.

54 [~~(d)~~] (e) "Institution of higher education" means an institution within the Utah System
55 of Higher Education.

56 [~~(e)~~] (f) "Regionally accredited institution" means an institution that:

57 (i) offers a competency-based postsecondary general education course online or in
58 person; and

59 (ii) is accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the United States
60 Department of Education.

61 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) "Utah System of Higher Education" means the institutions described in
62 Subsection [53B-1-102\(1\)\(a\)](#).

63 (2) The board shall:

64 (a) facilitate articulation and the seamless transfer of courses, programs, and credit for
65 prior learning within the Utah System of Higher Education;

66 (b) provide for the efficient and effective progression and transfer of students within
67 the Utah System of Higher Education;

68 (c) avoid the unnecessary duplication of courses; ~~[and]~~

69 (d) communicate ways in which a student may earn credit for prior learning; and

70 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) allow a student to proceed toward the student's educational objectives as
71 rapidly as the student's circumstances permit.

72 (3) The board shall develop, coordinate, and maintain a transfer and articulation system
73 within the Utah System of Higher Education that:

74 (a) maintains a course numbering system that assigns common numbers to specified
75 courses of similar level with similar curricular content, rigor, and standards;

76 (b) allows a student to ~~[transfer]~~ track courses that transfer among institutions of higher
77 education to meet requirements for general education and lower division courses that transfer
78 to baccalaureate majors;

79 (c) allows a student to transfer courses from a provider with which the board has an
80 articulation agreement to any institution of higher education;

81 (d) allows a student to transfer competency-based general education courses from a
82 regionally accredited institution to an institution of higher education;

83 (e) improves program planning;

84 (f) increases communication and coordination between institutions of higher education;

85 ~~[and]~~

86 (g) facilitates student acceleration and the transfer of students and credits between
87 institutions of higher education~~[-];~~ and

88 (h) if the system includes a software or data tool;

89 (i) provides predictive analysis that models probabilities of student success; and

90 (ii) develops tailored strategies to best support students.

91 (4) (a) The board shall identify general education courses in the humanities, social
92 sciences, arts, physical sciences, and life sciences with uniform prefixes and common course
93 numbers.

94 (b) An institution of higher education shall annually identify institution courses that
95 satisfy requirements of courses described in Subsection (4)(a).

96 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) An institution of higher education shall accept a course described in
97 Subsection (3)(c), (3)(d), or (4)(a) toward filling specific area requirements for general
98 education or lower division courses that transfer to baccalaureate majors.

99 (5) (a) The board shall identify common prerequisite courses and course substitutions
100 for degree programs across institutions of higher education.

101 (b) The commissioner shall appoint committees of faculty members from the
102 institutions of higher education to recommend appropriate courses of similar content and
103 numbering that will satisfy requirements for lower division courses that transfer to
104 baccalaureate majors.

105 (c) An institution of higher education shall annually identify institution courses that
106 satisfy requirements of courses described in Subsection (5)(a).

107 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) An institution of higher education shall accept a course described in
108 Subsection (3)(c), (3)(d), or (5)(a) toward filling graduation requirements.

109 ~~[(6) The board shall identify minimum scores and maximum credit for each:]~~

110 ~~[(a) College Level Examination Program (CLEP) general examination;]~~

111 ~~[(b) College Level Examination Program (CLEP) subject examination;]~~

112 ~~[(c) College Board advanced placement examination; and]~~

113 ~~[(d) other examination for credit.]~~

114 ~~[(7) (a) An institution of higher education shall award credit to a student who~~
115 ~~demonstrates competency by passing a challenge examination.]~~

116 ~~[(b) An institution of higher education shall award credit for a course for which~~
117 ~~competency has been demonstrated by successfully passing a challenge examination described~~
118 ~~in Subsection (6)(a) unless the award of credit duplicates credit already awarded.]~~

119 ~~[(8)]~~ (6) (a) (i) The board shall seek proposals from providers to enter into articulation
120 agreements.

121 (ii) A proposal described in Subsection ~~[(8)]~~ (6)(a)(i) shall include the general
122 education courses that the provider intends to include in an articulation agreement.

123 (b) The board shall:

124 (i) evaluate each general education course included in a proposal described in
125 Subsection ~~[(8)]~~ (6)(a) to determine whether the course is equally rigorous and includes the
126 same subject matter as the equivalent course offered by any institution of higher education; and

127 (ii) if the board determines that a course included in a provider's proposal is equally
128 rigorous and includes the same subject matter as the equivalent course offered by any
129 institution of higher education, enter into an articulation agreement with the provider.

130 ~~[(9)]~~ (7) The board shall establish policies to administer the policies and requirements
131 described in this section.

132 ~~[(10)]~~ (8) The board shall include information demonstrating that institutions of higher
133 education are complying with the provisions of this section and the policies established in
134 accordance with Subsection ~~[(9)]~~ (7) in the annual report described in Section 53B-1-107.

135 Section 2. Section 53B-16-107 is amended to read:

136 **53B-16-107. Credit for military service and training -- Notification --**
137 **Transferability -- Reporting.**

138 (1) As used in this section, "credit" includes proof of equivalent noncredit course
139 completion awarded by a technical college.

140 (2) An institution of higher education listed in Section 53B-2-101 shall provide written
141 notification to each student applying for admission that the student is required to meet with a
142 college counselor in order to receive credit for military service and training as recommended by
143 a postsecondary accreditation agency or association designated by the board or the Utah System
144 of Technical Colleges Board of Trustees if:

145 (a) credit for military service and training is requested by the student; and

146 (b) the student has met with an advisor at an institution of higher education listed in
147 Section 53B-2-101 at which the student intends to enroll to discuss applicability of credit to
148 program requirements, possible financial aid implications, and other factors that may impact
149 attainment of the student's educational goals.

150 (3) Upon transfer within the state system of higher education, a student may present a
151 transcript to the receiving institution of higher education for evaluation and to determine the

152 applicability of credit to the student's program of study, and the receiving institution of higher
153 education shall evaluate the credit to be transferred [~~pursuant to~~] in accordance with Subsection
154 (2) and the policies described in Section 53B-16-110.

155 (4) The board and the Utah System of Technical Colleges Board of Trustees shall
156 annually report the number of credits awarded under this section by each institution of higher
157 education to the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs.

158 Section 3. Section **53B-16-110** is enacted to read:

159 **53B-16-110. Credit for prior learning -- Board plan and policies -- Reporting.**

160 (1) As used in this section:

161 (a) "Credit for prior learning" means credit awarded by an institution to a student who
162 demonstrates, through a prior learning assessment, that the student's prior learning meets
163 college-level competencies.

164 (b) "Institution" means an institution of higher education that is within the Utah System
165 of Higher Education.

166 (c) "Prior learning" means knowledge, skills, or competencies acquired through formal
167 or informal education outside the traditional postsecondary academic environment.

168 (d) "Prior learning assessment" means a method of evaluating or assessing an
169 individual's prior learning.

170 (e) "Utah System of Higher Education" means the institutions described in Subsection
171 53B-1-102(1)(a).

172 (2) On or before November 1, 2019, the board shall develop a systemwide plan for
173 advising and communicating with students and the public about credit for prior learning in the
174 Utah System of Higher Education.

175 (3) (a) On or before November 1, 2019, the board shall establish policies that provide
176 minimum standards for all institutions regarding:

177 (i) accepted forms of prior learning assessments;

178 (ii) awarding credit for prior learning;

179 (iii) transferability of credit for prior learning between institutions;

180 (iv) transcription of credit for prior learning;

181 (v) institutional procedures for maintaining transparency and consistency in awarding
182 credit for prior learning;

183 (vi) communication to faculty, advisors, current students, and prospective students
184 regarding standards and cost related to credit for prior learning and prior learning assessments;
185 (vii) required training of faculty and advisors on prior learning assessment standards
186 and processes; and
187 (viii) portfolio-specific prior learning assessments.
188 (b) The board shall ensure that accepted forms of prior learning assessments described
189 in Subsection (3)(a) include at least the following:
190 (i) program evaluations, completed by an institution, of noncollegiate programs or
191 training courses to recognize proficiencies;
192 (ii) nationally recognized, standardized examinations, including:
193 (A) Advanced Placement examinations;
194 (B) College Level Exam Program general examinations;
195 (C) College Level Exam Program subject examinations; and
196 (D) DANTES Subject Standardized Tests;
197 (iii) customized examinations offered by an institution to verify an individual's learning
198 achievement that may include course final examinations or other examinations that assess
199 general disciplinary knowledge or skill;
200 (iv) evaluations of corporate or military training; and
201 (v) assessments of individuals' portfolios.
202 (4) (a) The board shall establish minimum scores and maximum credit for each
203 standardized examination described in Subsection (3)(b)(ii).
204 (b) An institution shall award credit to a student who demonstrates competency by
205 passing a standardized examination described in Subsection (3)(b)(ii) unless the award of credit
206 duplicates credit already awarded.
207 (5) The board shall:
208 (a) create and maintain a website that provides systemwide and institutional
209 information on prior learning assessments and credit for prior learning; and
210 (b) identify a software or data tool that will support the board in:
211 (i) implementing the plan described in Subsection (2); and
212 (ii) fulfilling the board's requirements described in Section [53B-16-105](#).
213 (6) On or before the November 2019 interim meeting, the board shall report to the

214 Education Interim Committee on:

215 (a) the plan described in Subsection (2);

216 (b) the policies described in Subsection (3); and

217 (c) the software or data tool described in Subsection (5).

218 (7) On or before May 1, 2020, an institution shall report to the board:

219 (a) steps the institution will take to:

220 (i) implement the plan described in Subsection (2) and the policies described in

221 Subsection (3); and

222 (ii) communicate to students about credit for prior learning, including about the

223 policies described in Subsection (3);

224 (b) a timeline for the steps described in Subsection (7)(a); and

225 (c) each form of prior learning assessment for which the institution provides credit for

226 prior learning that is not described in Subsection (3)(b).

227 (8) An institution shall annually report to the board on:

228 (a) each form of prior learning assessment for which the institution provides credit for

229 prior learning; and

230 (b) the total amount of credit for prior learning the institution provides to students.