

CHAPTER 329

**EDUCATION - UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES**

**HOUSE BILL 01-1263**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) King, Crane, Lee, Daniel, Hoppe, Mace, Rippy, Smith, Spence, Williams S.;  
also SENATOR(S) Teck, Arnold, Chlouber, Hagedorn, May, Nichol, and Tupa.

**AN ACT**

CONCERNING STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREE REQUIREMENTS.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1.** Article 1 of title 23, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

**23-1-125. Commission directive - student bill of rights - degree requirements - implementation of core courses - on-line catalogue - competency test.**

(1) **Student bill of rights.** THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS THAT STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:

(a) STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THEIR ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN NO MORE THAN SIXTY CREDIT HOURS OR THEIR BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS IN NO MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY CREDIT HOURS UNLESS THERE ARE ADDITIONAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE COMMISSION;

(b) A STUDENT CAN SIGN A TWO-YEAR OR FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION AGREEMENT THAT FORMALIZES A PLAN FOR THAT STUDENT TO OBTAIN A DEGREE IN TWO OR FOUR YEARS, UNLESS THERE ARE ADDITIONAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE COMMISSION;

(c) STUDENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO CLEAR AND CONCISE INFORMATION CONCERNING WHICH COURSES MUST BE COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY TO COMPLETE THEIR DEGREES;

(d) STUDENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHICH COURSES ARE TRANSFERABLE AMONG THE STATE PUBLIC TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

EDUCATION;

(e) STUDENTS, UPON COMPLETION OF CORE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES, REGARDLESS OF THE DELIVERY METHOD, SHOULD HAVE THOSE COURSES SATISFY THE CORE COURSE REQUIREMENTS OF ALL COLORADO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

(f) STUDENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW IF COURSES FROM ONE OR MORE PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS SATISFY THE STUDENTS' DEGREE REQUIREMENTS;

(g) A STUDENT'S CREDIT FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE CORE REQUIREMENTS AND CORE COURSES SHALL NOT EXPIRE FOR TEN YEARS FROM THE DATE OF INITIAL ENROLLMENT AND SHALL BE TRANSFERRABLE.

(2) **Degree requirements.** THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH A STANDARD OF A ONE-HUNDRED-TWENTY-HOUR BACCALAUREATE DEGREE, NOT INCLUDING SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS THAT HAVE ADDITIONAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE COMMISSION.

(3) **Core courses.** THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH EACH COLORADO PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, IS DIRECTED TO OUTLINE A PLAN TO IMPLEMENT A CORE COURSE CONCEPT, WHICH DEFINES THE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE GUIDELINES FOR ALL PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. THE CORE OF COURSES SHALL BE DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCY IN READING, CRITICAL THINKING, WRITTEN COMMUNICATION, MATHEMATICS, AND TECHNOLOGY. THE CORE OF COURSES SHALL CONSIST OF AT LEAST THIRTY CREDIT HOURS, BUT SHALL NOT EXCEED FORTY CREDIT HOURS. INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL CONFORM THEIR OWN CORE COURSE REQUIREMENTS WITH THE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSION AND SHALL IDENTIFY THE SPECIFIC COURSES THAT MEET THE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE GUIDELINES. IF A STATEWIDE MATRIX OF CORE COURSES IS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION, THE COURSES IDENTIFIED BY THE INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONS AS MEETING THE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE GUIDELINES SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE MATRIX. THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT SUCH POLICIES TO ENSURE THAT INSTITUTIONS DEVELOP THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO IMPLEMENT THE TRANSFERABILITY OF CORE COURSE CREDITS.

(4) **Competency testing.** THE COMMISSION SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, DEFINE A PROCESS FOR STUDENTS TO TEST OUT OF CORE COURSES, INCLUDING SPECIFYING USE OF A NATIONAL TEST OR THE CRITERIA FOR APPROVING INSTITUTIONALLY DEvised TESTS. STUDENTS SHALL BE GRANTED CREDIT FOR THE CORE COURSES THEY SUCCESSFULLY TEST OUT OF, FREE OF TUITION FOR THOSE COURSES.

**SECTION 2. Future appropriations.** Although no appropriation is included in this act for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, it appears that this act will require appropriations from the general fund for subsequent fiscal years, and the amount required to be appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002, is estimated to be sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000).

**SECTION 3. Applicability.** This act shall apply to all students first enrolling as freshman for the academic year 2003-04 and subsequent academic years.

**SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: June 6, 2001