

**CREDIT ACCEPTANCE BY HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS**

2018 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Howard A. Stephenson

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill requires an institution of higher education to accept certain competency-based credit.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ allows a student to transfer credit earned for a competency-based general education course offered by a regionally accredited institution or private provider under certain conditions;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Regents to enter into an articulation agreement with a private competency-based general education provider under certain conditions; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53B-16-105, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2004, Chapter 125



28

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

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

31 **53B-16-105. Common course numbering -- Credit by examination --**

32 **Transferability of credits -- Agreement with competency-based general education**
33 **provider -- Policies.**

34 (1) As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

45 (ii) awards academic credit; and

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

47 (d) "Institution of higher education" means an institution within the Utah System of
48 Higher Education.

49 (e) "Regionally accredited institution" means an institution that:

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

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

54 (f) "Utah System of Higher Education" means the institutions described in Subsection
55 [53B-1-102\(1\)\(a\)](#).

56 [(+)] (2) The board shall:

57 (a) facilitate articulation and the seamless transfer of courses within the [~~state system~~
58 ~~of higher education~~] Utah System of Higher Education;

59 (b) provide for the efficient and effective progression and transfer of students within
60 the ~~[state system of higher education]~~ Utah System of Higher Education;

61 (c) avoid the unnecessary duplication of courses; and

62 (d) allow ~~[students]~~ a student to proceed toward ~~[their]~~ the student's educational
63 objectives as rapidly as ~~[their]~~ the student's circumstances permit.

64 ~~[(2)]~~ (3) The board shall develop, coordinate, and maintain a transfer and articulation
65 system within the ~~[state system of higher education]~~ Utah System of Higher Education that:

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

68 (b) allows ~~[students]~~ a student to transfer courses among institutions of higher
69 education to meet requirements for general education and lower division courses that transfer
70 to baccalaureate majors;

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

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

75 ~~[(e)]~~ (e) improves program planning;

76 ~~[(f)]~~ (f) increases ~~[communications]~~ communication and coordination between
77 institutions of higher education; and

78 ~~[(g)]~~ (g) facilitates student acceleration and the transfer of students and credits between
79 institutions of higher education.

80 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) (a) The board shall identify general education courses in the humanities, social
81 sciences, arts, physical sciences, and life sciences with uniform prefixes and common course
82 numbers.

83 (b) ~~[All institutions]~~ An institution of higher education shall accept ~~[the courses]~~ a
84 course described ~~[under Subsection (3)(a)]~~ in Subsection (3)(c), (3)(d), or (4)(a) toward filling
85 specific area requirements for general education or lower division courses that transfer to
86 baccalaureate majors.

87 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) (a) The board shall identify common prerequisite courses and course
88 substitutions for degree programs across ~~[all]~~ institutions of higher education.

89 (b) The commissioner shall appoint committees of faculty members from the

90 institutions of higher education to recommend appropriate courses of similar content and
91 numbering that will satisfy requirements for lower division courses that transfer to
92 baccalaureate majors.

93 (c) ~~[All institutions]~~ An institution of higher education shall accept [the courses
94 approved under] a course described in Subsection [(4)(a)] (3)(c), (3)(d), or (5)(a) toward filling
95 graduation requirements.

96 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) The board shall identify minimum scores and maximum credit for each:

97 (a) College Level Examination Program (CLEP) general examination;

98 (b) College Level Examination Program (CLEP) subject examination;

99 (c) College Board advanced placement examination; and

100 (d) other examination for credit.

101 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) (a) ~~[Institutions]~~ An institution of higher education shall award credit [if
102 competencies have been demonstrated] to a student who demonstrates competency by passing a
103 challenge examination.

104 (b) ~~[Institutions]~~ An institution of higher education shall award credit for [the specific
105 courses] a course for which competency has been demonstrated by successfully passing a
106 challenge examination described [under] in Subsection [(5)] (6)(a) unless the award of credit
107 duplicates credit already awarded.

108 (8) (a) (i) The board shall seek proposals from providers to enter into articulation
109 agreements.

110 (ii) A proposal described in Subsection (8)(a)(i) shall include the general education
111 courses that the provider intends to include in an articulation agreement.

112 (b) The board shall:

113 (i) evaluate each general education course included in a proposal described in
114 Subsection (8)(a) to determine whether the course is equally rigorous and includes the same
115 subject matter as the equivalent course offered by any institution of higher education; and

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

119 ~~[(7)]~~ (9) The board shall establish policies to administer the policies and requirements
120 [under Subsections (2) through (6)] described in this section.

121 [~~(8)~~] (10) The board shall include information demonstrating that institutions of higher
122 education are complying with the provisions of this section and the policies established in
123 accordance with Subsection [~~(7)~~] (9) in the annual report [~~of its activities to the governor and to~~
124 ~~the Legislature required under~~] described in Section [53B-1-107](#).

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel