

ENROLLED ACT NO. 80, SENATE

SIXTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING  
2019 GENERAL SESSION

AN ACT relating to postsecondary education; amending authorized academic programs at the community colleges; providing for community college commission approval of the baccalaureate degree programs; conforming Hathaway scholarship statutes; requiring reports; and providing for an effective date.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

**Section 1.** W.S. 21-16-1303(f)(iv), 21-16-1304(b), 21-16-1305(a)(iii), 21-18-102(a)(i), 21-18-202(d)(i) and (h)(ii) and 21-18-303(a)(xvi) are amended to read:

**21-16-1303. Hathaway scholarship program; eligibility requirements.**

(f) Students meeting the requirements of this subsection shall not be subject to the six (6) academic year limitation on scholarships under this article, the satisfactory academic progress requirements of W.S. 21-16-1304(c)(i) and 21-16-1305(b)(i) or the continuous enrollment requirements of W.S. 21-16-1304(c)(ii) and 21-16-1305(b)(ii), but shall be subject to the following:

(iv) Within the earlier of eight (8) years of initial Hathaway scholarship eligibility or four (4) years of last attending an eligible institution while receiving a Hathaway scholarship, have enrolled at the University of Wyoming or a Wyoming community college to complete a baccalaureate of applied science degree and have applied for reinstatement of the student's Hathaway scholarship;

**21-16-1304. Hathaway opportunity, performance and honor scholarships.**

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(b) Scholarships under this section shall be for a maximum of the equivalent of eight (8) full-time semesters. ~~Except as specified under subsection (g) of this section, A~~ scholarship under this section shall be available for attendance at a Wyoming community college for not more than a maximum of the equivalent of four (4) full-time semesters. ~~except as follows:~~

(i) As specified under subsection (g) of this section; or

(ii) A scholarship for a student enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at a Wyoming community college shall be for a maximum of the equivalent of eight (8) full-time semesters.

**21-16-1305. Hathaway provisional opportunity scholarships.**

(a) Any student who meets the criteria under W.S. 21-16-1303 is eligible to receive a Hathaway provisional opportunity scholarship to pursue a certificate or degree as follows:

(iii) A student who receives a scholarship under paragraph (i) of this subsection and who earns a certificate from the community college with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 may extend the provisional opportunity scholarship to pursue either a certificate or a degree at a Wyoming community college or if the student earns a degree from the community college with a minimum GPA of 2.25, may extend the scholarship to pursue a degree at the University of Wyoming if the student maintains a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 and otherwise remains eligible for a scholarship under this article. A student who receives a scholarship under paragraph (i) of

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this subsection, is enrolled in a community college applied baccalaureate program and has received a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 after four (4) full-time semesters may extend the provisional opportunity scholarship for an additional four (4) full-time semesters to complete the baccalaureate degree if the student maintains a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 and otherwise remains eligible for a scholarship under this article. The scholarship under this paragraph shall be for the same amounts and subject to the same limitations as provided for scholarships under paragraph (a)(i) of this section, except that the student may continue a baccalaureate program or pursue either an additional certificate or a degree and the student may use this scholarship while attending a Wyoming community college or the University of Wyoming.

**21-18-102. Definitions.**

(a) As used in this act:

(i) "Academic program" means those programs approved by the commission which provide credits:

(A) Resulting in a two (2) year associate degree;

(B) Resulting in an applied baccalaureate degree;

(C) Resulting in a credit bearing credential such as a certificate; or

(D) Which may be transferred to an accredited four (4) year college or university.

**21-18-202. Powers and duties of the commission.**

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(d) The commission shall perform the following approval functions:

(i) Approve all new academic programs, including applied baccalaureate degree programs, qualifying for state funding pursuant to the statewide community college strategic plan developed under subsection (h) of this section;

(h) The commission shall prior to the beginning of each biennial budget period, review, update and modify the statewide college system strategic plan. The plan shall clearly prescribe the components of the educational program and attach program components to statewide system priorities. This plan shall serve as the basis for state operational and capital construction budget requests and funding of the statewide college system for the applicable biennial budget period. In developing, reviewing and updating the strategic plan, the commission shall:

(ii) Include mechanisms within the planning process which adhere to the state's interests in establishing a statewide college system identified as assuring statewide access to:

(A) Academic programs, including applied baccalaureate degree programs;

(B) Career-technical education and training programs;

(C) Dual and concurrent enrollment programs; and

(D) Remedial and continuing education programs responding to needs of students, employers and the

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state workforce, including program access through outreach or coordinated electronic system technology.†

**21-18-303. District board generally; powers; board approved additional mill levy.**

(a) The community college district board may:

(xvi) Confer degrees and certificates, including applied baccalaureate degrees approved by the commission, and grant diplomas as are usual for community colleges and authorized under its accreditation by the regional accrediting agency;

**Section 2.**

(a) The community college commission shall report to the joint education interim committee and the joint appropriations committee on the status of the applied baccalaureate programs implemented or planned to be implemented under this act by November 1 of each year.

(b) The community college commission, in consultation with the Wyoming community colleges, shall evaluate the financial impacts of this act to the community colleges and the state. The evaluation shall separately consider near-term and long-term financial impacts to initiate and sustain applied baccalaureate programs at the community colleges, including facilities requirements for the programs, personnel costs and student enrollment impacts on state funding requirements. The evaluation shall, at a minimum, identify financial impacts for the 2021-2022 biennium and for the 2023-2024 biennium. The commission shall report its evaluation to the joint education interim committee and the joint appropriations committee not later than November 1, 2019.

ORIGINAL SENATE  
FILE NO. SF0111

ENGROSSED

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**Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

(END)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

TIME APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this act originated in the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk