

1 AN ACT relating to awarding of credit under articulation agreements.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 164.2951 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) Beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year and each academic year thereafter for  
5 first-time students enrolling in a public college or university, postsecondary  
6 education institutions are encouraged to limit the credit-hour requirements to sixty  
7 (60) credit hours for each associate of science or associate of arts degree program  
8 and to one hundred twenty (120) credit hours for each bachelor of arts or bachelor  
9 of science degree program, except in situations in which:

10 (a) Quality and content of a program would be negatively impacted; or

11 (b) A program must comply with specific program standards established by  
12 external accreditation bodies.

13 (2) The Council on Postsecondary Education, in collaboration with the public  
14 universities and community and technical colleges, shall:

15 (a) Facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide agreement for  
16 alignment of Kentucky Community and Technical College System lower-  
17 division associate of arts and associate of science coursework that shall be  
18 accepted and fully credited to related bachelors degree programs by all public  
19 universities. The agreement shall specify the general education learning  
20 outcomes and program-specific prerequisite learning outcomes of the  
21 coursework. Where applicable, curricula shall be reviewed to determine  
22 comparability of core content standards required under KRS 164.302. The  
23 agreement shall direct that the associate of arts and associate of science  
24 coursework meeting the learning outcomes specified shall be accepted for  
25 transfer and degree credit, whether earned as individual courses or within  
26 block programs;

27 (b) Develop, implement, and maintain a Kentucky Community and Technical

- 1 College System statewide course numbering system for lower-division general  
2 education and program-specific prerequisite courses that include the same  
3 learning outcomes;
- 4 (c) Establish a statewide course classification system and procedures to monitor  
5 the transfer and crediting of lower-division coursework, including a system of  
6 ongoing assessment that ensures comparability for transfer purposes;
- 7 (d) Establish a procedure for approval of changes in learning outcomes at public  
8 universities as described in subsection (3) of this section;
- 9 (e) Standardize credit-by-exam equivalencies and common passing scores for  
10 national exams transferable for general education courses and program-  
11 specific prerequisites courses;
- 12 (f) Develop policies to align statewide articulation and transfer procedures across  
13 educational institutions, including admissions criteria, student declaration of  
14 major, and student guidance and counseling policies designed to ensure that  
15 students pursuing an associate of arts or associate of science degree program  
16 provide timely notification of their intention to transfer to a public university;
- 17 (g) Develop uniform data collection and reporting methods to facilitate and  
18 ensure statewide and institutional compliance with course transfer and credit  
19 requirements;
- 20 (h) Guarantee that, upon admission to a public university, graduates of an  
21 associate of arts or an associate of science degree program approved by the  
22 council in consultation with public universities shall be deemed to have met  
23 all general education requirements;
- 24 (i) Provide that graduates of approved associate of arts and associate of science  
25 degree programs of Kentucky public postsecondary institutions who complete  
26 the prerequisite learning outcomes for a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science  
27 program while fulfilling the requirements for an associate of art or associate of

1 science degree, shall not be required to repeat or to take any additional lower-  
2 level courses to fulfill bachelor degree requirements in the same major, and  
3 these students shall be granted admission to related upper-division bachelors  
4 degree programs of a state public college or university on the same criteria as  
5 those students earning lower-division credits at the university to which the  
6 student transferred;

7 (j) Provide that graduates of approved associate of arts and associate of science  
8 degree programs shall receive priority for admission to a state public  
9 university over out-of-state students if they meet the same admission criteria;

10 (k) Establish a commonality in college transcripts to be used in all public colleges  
11 and universities to facilitate transfer from community and technical colleges;

12 (l) Encourage private colleges and universities to collaborate with public  
13 educational institutions in developing programs and agreement to expedite the  
14 transfer of students and credits between institutions;

15 (m) Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between transferring  
16 students and receiving educational institutions regarding the transfer and  
17 acceptance of credits earned at another institution;~~{and}~~

18 (n) Ensure that all articulation and transfer policies are consistent with the rules  
19 and regulations established by all appropriate discipline-specific accrediting  
20 bodies and institutional accrediting agencies as recognized by the United  
21 States Department of Education; and

22 (o) Facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide standardized  
23 articulation agreement to be executed by July 1, 2021, between public  
24 colleges and universities and the Kentucky Department of Education for  
25 each approved high school career pathway that leads to a postsecondary  
26 credential, certification, license, or degree. Upon meeting the requirements  
27 of the standardized articulation agreement, a student shall be awarded

1                   *postsecondary credit for prior learning at any public college or university.*

2       (3)   When an institution seeks to change learning outcomes for a bachelor of arts or  
3           bachelor of science program that affect lower-division courses, the university shall  
4           notify the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky Community and  
5           Technical College System of the proposed changes at the same time as the initiation  
6           of the university's approval process. If it is determined that the proposed change will  
7           have an adverse effect on transferability, the university proposing the change shall  
8           enter into discussion with the council and the Kentucky Community and Technical  
9           College System to verify there remains a clearly defined path to a bachelor's degree  
10          for those students who plan to transfer from the Kentucky Community and  
11          Technical College System to the public university.