

CHAPTER 4: RULES APPLYING TO ALL PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
IN TEXAS

SUBCHAPTER A: GENERAL PROVISIONS

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4.1. - 4.2. No change.

4.3. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1)[47] Active military service--Active service in the armed forces of the United States or in the National Guard or the Texas State Guard.

(2) [(4)] Associate of Science degree and the Associate of Arts degree--collegiate degrees consisting of lower-division courses designed to prepare students for transfer to a bachelor's degree program.

(3) [(2)] Associate of Applied Science degree and the Associate of Applied Arts degree--technical certificates issued to students who complete workforce education curricula of collegiate level.

(4) [(3)] Associate of Arts in Teaching degree--Board-approved collegiate degree programs consisting of lower-division courses intended for transfer to baccalaureate programs that lead to initial Texas teacher certification.

(5) [(4)] Bachelor of General Studies degree--a program designed principally for mature students who seek a flexible degree program and who do not desire or may not meet prerequisites of a highly structured traditional degree program, and to permit students to plan, with advisement, an individualized program with access to a wide range of academic disciplines and fields of professional study.

(6) [(5)] Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree--a program designed to provide a path to a bachelor's degree for students who have earned previous collegiate credit through workforce education curricula. The degree program combines general education requirements and a professional component designed to complement the student's technical or vocational competence.

(7) [(6)] Board--The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(8) College-Readiness Standards—The knowledge and skills expected of students to perform successfully in the workplace and in entry-level courses offered at institutions of higher education.

(9) [(7)] Commissioner--The Commissioner of Higher Education.

(10) [(8)] Common calendar--dates and information pertaining to the beginning and ending (and lengths) of academic semesters and sessions, applicable to all Texas public universities and community, technical and state colleges.

(11) [(9)] Consulting or testifying expert witness--any non-fact witness whose name must be disclosed during litigation as required by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

(12) [(10)] Degree program--any grouping of subject matter courses which, when satisfactorily completed by a student, will entitle the student to a degree from an institution of higher education.

(13) [(11)] Faculty or professional staff of an institution of higher education--a non-classified, full-time employee who is a member of the faculty or staff and whose duties include teaching, research, administration or performing professional services, including professional library services.

(14) [(12)] Fiscal year--the State of Texas' fiscal year, September 1 through August 31.

(15) [(13)] Institution of higher education or institution--any public technical institute, public junior college, public senior college or university, medical or dental unit, or other agency of higher education as defined in Texas Education Code, §61.003.

(16) [(14)] Interdisciplinary baccalaureate degrees--the Bachelor of General Studies degree (defined in paragraph (4) of this section) and such general degrees as liberal arts or humanities. These broad-based degrees vary in the amount of prescriptive structure but share the characteristics of flexibility for the student and interdisciplinary course selection.

(17) [(15)] Non-classified--an employee whose position is not controlled by the institution's classified personnel system or a person employed in a similar position if the institution does not have a classified personnel system.

(18) [(16)] Religious holy day--A holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under the Texas Tax Code, §11.20.

(19) Statewide Discipline-Based College-Readiness Vertical Teams--Teams composed of public school educators and higher education faculty whose duties are consistent with those provided under Section 28.008(b) of the Texas Education Code.

4.4 - 4.9. No change.

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SUBCHAPTER H: P-16 COLLEGE-READINESS AND SUCCESS

Section

4.171. Purpose.

4.172. Authority.

4.173. Composition and Duties of Statewide Discipline-Based College-Readiness Vertical Teams.

4.174. Appointment of Higher Education Faculty to the Statewide Discipline-Based College-Readiness Vertical Teams.

4.171. Purpose.

The purpose of this subchapter is to establish the composition and duties of the statewide discipline-based college-readiness vertical teams that have the responsibility to develop and recommend college-readiness standards to the commissioner and the commissioner of education.

4.172. Authority.

Texas Education Code, Section 28.008 provides the commissioner with the authority to determine, in cooperation with the commissioner of education, the composition of statewide discipline-based college-readiness vertical teams.

4.173. Composition and Duties of Statewide Discipline-Based College-Readiness Vertical Teams.

(a) There shall be a total of four statewide discipline-based college-readiness vertical teams: one each in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. All teams shall be composed of a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 20 members per subject area who represent the following:

(1) All levels of public school educators;

(2) Faculty from higher education to include public junior colleges, public community colleges, public technical institutes, public state colleges, public senior colleges or universities, and private or independent institutions of higher education as defined in Texas Education Code, Section 61.003;

(3) A balance between small and large districts;

(4) Various geographic regions of the state; and

(5) Overall demographics of the state.

(b) A maximum of 60 percent of the statewide discipline-based college-readiness vertical teams shall be composed of faculty from institutions of higher education.

(c) The statewide discipline-based college-readiness vertical teams shall develop college-readiness standards as defined in Texas Education Code, Section 28.008 (b) (1). The teams may create an interdisciplinary vertical team composed of one public education member and one higher education member from each discipline-based college-readiness vertical team

to review the standards and determine commonalities among the disciplines. The statewide discipline-based college-readiness vertical teams shall recommend the college-readiness standards to the commissioner of education and the commissioner.

(d) Upon completion of the development of college-readiness standards, the statewide discipline-based college-readiness vertical teams shall develop recommendations for curriculum alignment with college-readiness standards and other materials as defined in Texas Education Code, Section 28.008 (b) (2)-(5). The teams shall be re-constituted at that time to ensure that a maximum of 60 percent of each of the re-constituted statewide discipline-based college-readiness vertical teams shall be composed of secondary public education teachers employed full-time in Texas public school districts.

(e) In conjunction with the vertical teams, the Commissioner shall appoint an advisory committee of no fewer than 12 members and no greater than 15 members that include representatives from each of the six targeted cluster industries as defined by the governor, to review and make recommendations regarding development of college-readiness standards in each of the four subject matter areas.

#### 4.174. Appointment of Higher Education Faculty to the Statewide Discipline-Based College-Readiness Vertical Teams.

(a) The commissioner shall determine the criteria for selecting faculty from institutions of higher education for appointment to the four statewide discipline-based college-readiness vertical teams.

(b) The commissioner shall solicit recommendations for appointment from institutions of higher education and appropriate higher education organizations.

(c) Appointments by the commissioner to the statewide discipline-based college-readiness vertical teams outlined in section 4.173 (a) shall be made no later than December 29, 2006.

(d) Members representing institutions of higher education on the statewide discipline-based college-readiness vertical teams outlined in section 4.173(a) may be removed or replaced at the discretion of the commissioner.