

PROPOSED RULES AMENDMENT PREAMBLE

Brief explanation of proposed rule amendment

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board proposes amendments to Section 9.74 concerning, Program Development in Public Two-Year Colleges – Unique Need Courses. The intent of the amendments is to reduce the amount of time spent by community college personnel and Board staff in submitting, reviewing, and approving upper-division courses that are used in applied baccalaureate degrees. These amendments would streamline the applied baccalaureate course approval process found in Chapter 9, Subchapter D, and make those approvals good for as long as the requesting college has the related applied baccalaureate degree on its approved program inventory.

Fiscal note and estimated cost to state and local government (or estimated reduction in costs to state and local government, and/or estimated loss of increase in revenue to state and local government)

Dr. MacGregor M. Stephenson, Assistant Commissioner for Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research, has determined that for the first five years there will be no fiscal implications for state or local governments as a result of amending this section.

Public benefit and local employment impact

Dr. Stephenson has also determined that for the first five years the amendments are in effect, the public benefits anticipated as a result of administering the sections will be to reduce the amount of time spent by community college personnel and Board staff in submitting, reviewing, and approving upper-division courses that are used in applied baccalaureate degrees. There is no effect on small businesses. There are no anticipated economic costs to persons who are required to comply with the section as proposed. There is no impact on local employment.

Request for comments

Comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted by mail to MacGregor M. Stephenson, Assistant Commissioner, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, P.O. Box 12788, Austin, Texas, 78711 or via email at WAARcomments@theccb.state.tx.us. Comments will be accepted for 30 days following publication of the proposal in the <eti>Texas Register<et>.

Statutory basis for amendment

The amendments are proposed under the Texas Education Code, Chapter 61, Subchapter C, Section 61.051(g), which provides the Coordinating Board with the authority to provide for the free transferability of lower division course credit among institutions of higher education.

Statutes, articles, codes affected by the proposed action

The amendments affect the Texas Education Code, Section 61.051.

Chapter 9. Program Development in Public Two-Year Colleges

Subchapter D. Transferable Academic Courses

9.74 Unique Need Courses

(a) An academic course may be approved for unique need if it meets the following criteria:

(1) – (2) (No change.)

(3) The course must be acceptable for transfer and apply toward [a] baccalaureate degree requirements [requirement] at a minimum of three Texas public universities. If a university's degree program requirements could be satisfied by an existing course in the ACGM, then that university cannot count as one of the required three.

(4) (No change.)

(b) – (e) (No change.)

(f) Community Colleges that have been approved by the Board to offer one or more Applied Baccalaureate degree programs may request authorization to offer courses in support of those degrees under the following provisions:

(1) The course must be a degree program requirement of one or more Applied Baccalaureate degree programs approved by the Board for the requesting college.

(2) The course must be upper division.

(3) The request must include a completed "Applied Baccalaureate Course Proposal" form and must be submitted on a schedule set by the Board.

(4) Any college approved to offer an Applied Baccalaureate course must notify the Board of any significant changes to the course, including its semester credit hour value, contact hour value, title, or CIP code, prior to offering the revised course to students in order to continue to receive state funding for the course.