

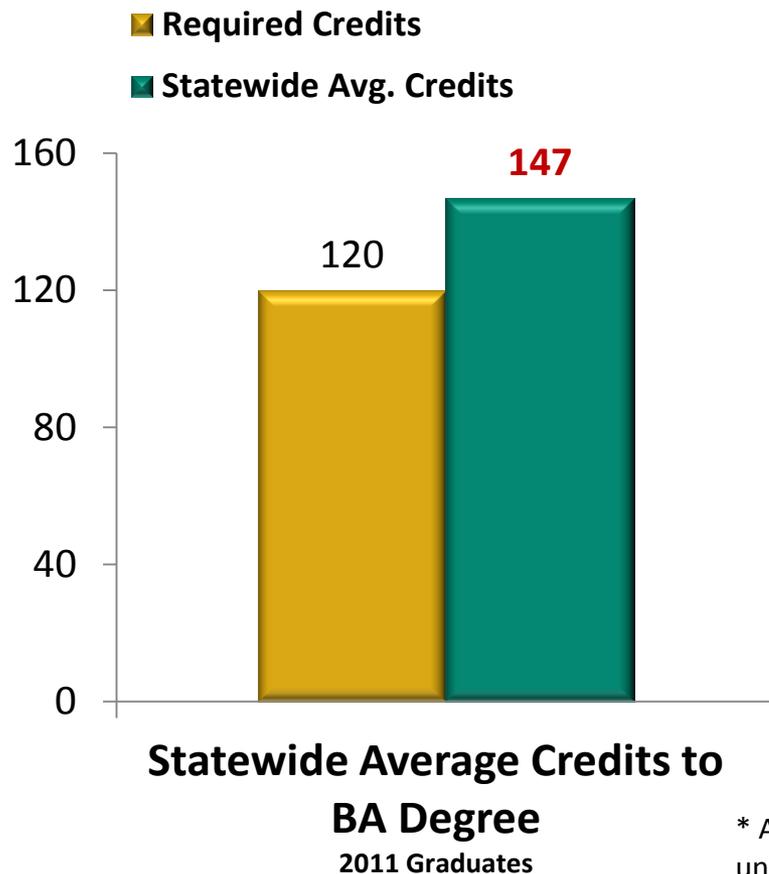
Shared responsibility for student success

*A policy framework to lower student
credits, time (and cost) to degree*



TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD

Texas university graduates accumulate **too many unnecessary credits** for their degrees



- ✓ The average Texas graduate with a BA, takes **5.3 years** and accumulates **27 more credits** than required.
- ✓ The data remains **largely unchanged** when excluding students who graduated from programs requiring more than 120 credits and students who accumulated dual credit.*
- ✓ Of the 2011 BA graduates:
 - **58%** accumulated more than 135 credits
 - **35%** accumulated more than 150 credits

* Avg. credits to degree decline by one credit and avg. time to degree remains unchanged when 2011 graduate data controlled for students with degrees in programs requiring more than 120 credits and students with dual credit from high school.

The **cost** to the state and students for excess credits **is significant**

\$15M

Approximation of **state general revenue** used to support excess credits via formula funding for 2011 BA graduates

\$6,600

Approximation of additional **tuition/fees** a student earning a BA degree with 27 additional credits would pay under current statewide average tuition/fees.

Texas can accelerate time and credits to degree by instituting a **shared responsibility** model between the state, institutions and students

Universities and students **must be responsible and accountable** for graduating more efficiently

Current Statute:

BA Degree Credit Requirement



30
Credits



State formula funding **eliminated** for student courses in excess of limit

and

Institutions may **charge higher tuition rates** for additional credits

THECB Proposal:

BA Degree Credit Requirement



15
Credits

What does this mean?

A typical degree requires 120 credits. Under the THECB proposal, state funding would be eliminated, and institutions may charge higher tuition, after 135 credits, rather than after 150 credits. Dual majors and degrees requiring more hours would have higher thresholds.

Create **uniformity and predictability** for students earning an Associate's degree

On average, community college graduates takes **98 credits** and **4.4 years** to earn an Associate's degree

Texas should limit credits required for an Associate's degree to **no more than amount required by accreditors or licensing requirements**. For most programs this would be **60 credit hours**.

Unlike baccalaureate programs, there is **no standard** for how many credits should be required **for an Associate's degree**.

This table shows an example of the disparity between semester credit hours required for a Paralegal Studies program across community colleges.

AAS Paralegal Studies – 22.0302	
72 SCH	66 SCH
72 SCH	66 SCH
68 SCH	65 SCH
65 SCH	63 SCH
61 SCH	