

Competency Based Education: Challenges and Opportunities

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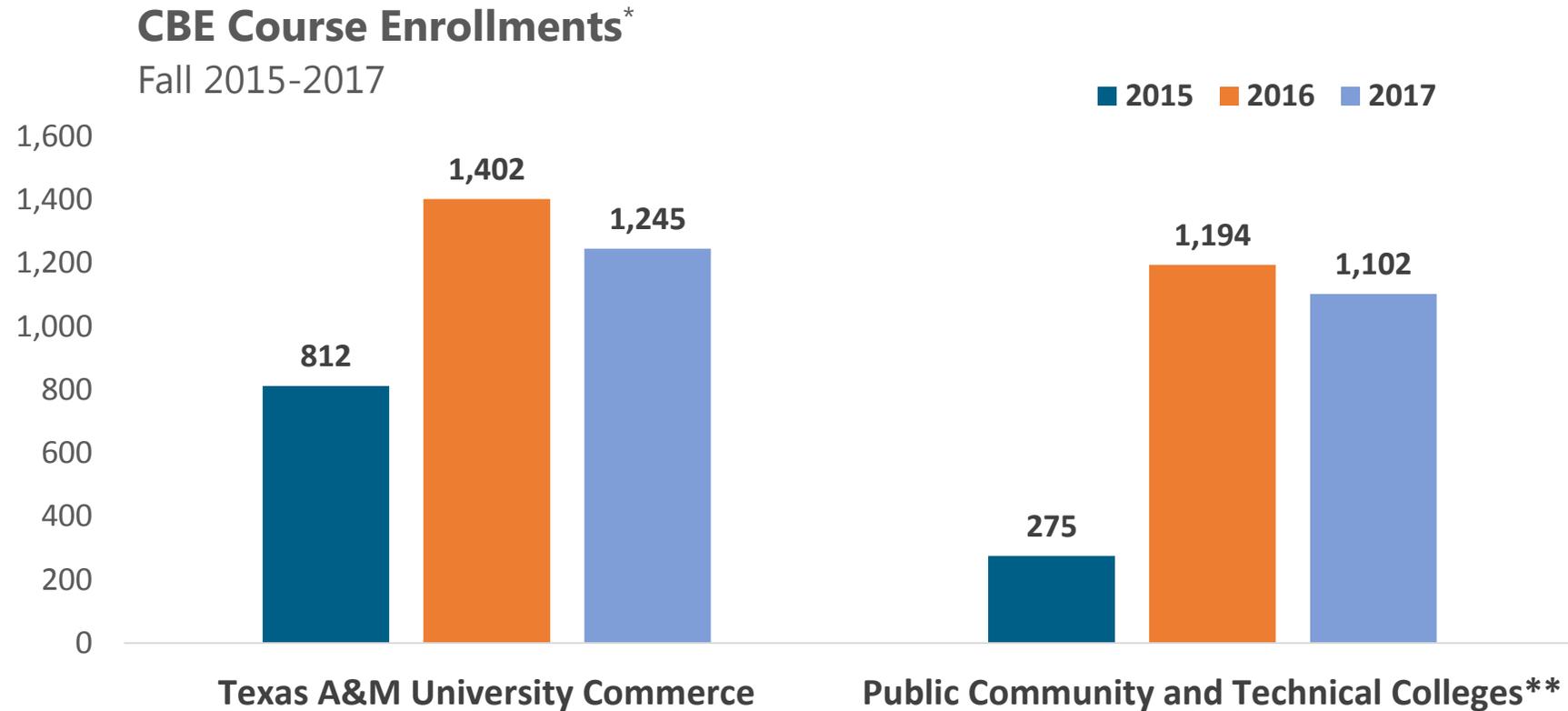
Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board

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What is Competency-Based Education?

- Competency-Based Education (CBE) allows students to progress towards completion, often at their own pace, as they demonstrate mastery – measured through authentic assessment – of a defined set of knowledge and skills.
- CBE programs may be organized around traditional course-based units, but this is not required. A majority of the curriculum must include regular and substantive interaction with faculty.
- Prior learning assessments, military experience, CLEP, and AP are instruments that recognize previous work or educational experiences and can be part of a CBE program

Enrollment in CBE Courses at Texas Public Institutions



- * These data are for students enrolled in courses therefore students may be duplicated in the total.
- ** South Texas College was the only college reporting CBE course enrollments prior to fall 2017.

The **Texas Affordable Baccalaureate** is the state's first competency-based bachelor's degree from a public institution

Texas Affordable Baccalaureate Program - Common Components



Focus is on **mastery of competencies** instead of seat time



Combines **online learning, competency-based education, traditional courses, online and hybrid learning**



Course competencies defined by **faculty** to meet **academic requirements** and **career demands**



Year-round enrollment, flat-rate tuition and short semesters

The **Texas Affordable Baccalaureate** offers Texans a **low-cost option** to a baccalaureate degree and helps **meet workforce needs**

Developed in 2014

- **Texas A&M University-Commerce**: BAAS – Organizational Leadership
- **South Texas College**: BAS – Organizational leadership

Five new TAB programs were announced in 2017

- **South Texas College**: BAT– Computer Information Technology
- **Tarleton State University**: BS – Applied Science
- **Texas A&M University-Commerce**: BS – Criminal Justice
- **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**: BS – Mechanical Engineering Technology
- **University of Houston-Downtown**: BAAS – Applied Public Administration and Leadership

TAB is made possible through AT&T Aspire, Greater Texas Foundation, Kresge Foundation, Meadows Foundation, and Dell Foundation.

The Coordinating Board's degree program approval process considers the use of CBE and other innovative educational delivery models

- The Coordinating Board's degree program approval process was revised in 2015 to encourage institutions to use competency-based education and accept credit from prior learning assessments and from previous postsecondary degrees
- The following are **examples of graduate programs** the THECB has approved with the contingency that the institution review its program curriculum and implement CBE where appropriate
 - ✓ **University of Houston-Clear Lake**
Doctor of Psychology Major: Health Service Psychology
 - ✓ **Texas A&M Kingsville and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**
Doctor of Education Major: Educational Leadership

Innovative higher education models can make college more affordable and help reduce student debt

Strategies to support alternate degree pathways to completion:

- ✓ Expand the Texas Affordable Baccalaureate program offerings and increase grants to off-set start up costs
- ✓ Incentivize institutions for accepting prior learning assessments and implementing CBE
- ✓ Establish a CBE funding model that is not course based
- ✓ Address challenges to innovative educational delivery
Example: The Coordinating Board approved a recommendation made by the CTC and GAI formula funding advisory committees to fund course-based CBE at the start of students engaging in course materials instead of upon completion. This is expected to assist institutions in funding CBE efforts.