



Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Academic Planning and Policy E-NEWS

ACADEMIC PLANNING AND POLICY: Academic Affairs & Research – Planning & Accountability – P-16 Initiatives

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The Coordinating Board is guided by the Texas higher education plan, Closing the Gaps by 2015, to close the educational gaps in student participation, student success, institutional excellence, and research.

College Connection 2+2+2 Program

The original College Connection Program, developed by Austin Community College, is now being replicated in other areas of Texas. The College Connection Program is a partnership between a public community college and a public school district(s) within the college's taxing district and/or service area where the college provides pre-college services to seniors at their high school campus. The applicant is guaranteed admission to the college, including academic advising and placement in appropriate developmental education or entry-level college courses. The participating high school(s) allows the college access to its seniors, and along with their high school diploma upon graduation, the college provides an acceptance letter to every graduating senior. College Connection 2+2+2 is an enhancement of the original College Connection Program that adds a four-year institution to the partnership. When providing the pre-college services at the high school, advisors representing both two-year and four-year institutions are present and provide information on the benefits of and procedures for students who want to start at the community college and then transfer to a university. Institutional representatives also provide academic advising to students. Additionally, a Transfer Center on the community college campus is staffed by knowledgeable community college advisors as well as advisors from the partner university. Besides advising all students interested in transferring to a four-year institution, as part of the federal requirements for the College Access Challenge Grant, the staff of the on-campus Transfer Center provide counseling and academic advising to those students who are at-risk of leaving higher education without earning a degree.

Kimberly Christian, Program Director, P-16 Outreach Initiatives, P-16 Initiatives

Report on the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act Funds for Program Year 2009-2010

As part of the responsibility delegated to the Coordinating Board by the State Board of Education, the Coordinating Board annually allocates Perkins Basic Grant funds to the state's public two-year colleges to support career exploration, opportunities to earn college credit in high school, and seamless educational pathways that lead to associate and baccalaureate degrees. The Coordinating Board had previously budgeted a reserve of \$2 million with which to support specific programmatic activities at the institutions for Fiscal Year 2010. With the allocation of the total Perkins Grant remaining at a 70/30 split between public schools and the community colleges, Commissioner of Higher Education Raymund Paredes has recommended immediately allocating the funds to the institutions, rather than maintaining a reserve. These funds will be used in three ways: 1) to provide the minimum \$50,000 grant to three institutions that did not reach the minimum enrollments necessary to qualify under the formula funding; 2) to provide additional support to keep five institutions from losing more than 20 percent of their funding between Fiscal Year 2009 and Fiscal Year 2010; and 3) to increase the amount of funds provided to all eligible institutions through the regular Basic Grant formula. The last item will result in approximately \$1.7 million being distributed through the formula to all eligible institutions. The Coordinating Board will not budget a reserve amount for the next allocation period; therefore, institutions should be prepared to receive their funding based solely upon the formula allocation methodology for Fiscal Year 2011. Institutions have until June 1, 2009, to revise and resubmit their Basic Grant proposals based upon the increased funding amounts. Please contact Dr. Susan Hetzler at Susan.Hetzler@theccb.state.tx.us or by telephone at 512.427.6220 if you have any questions.

Susan Hetzler, Director, Career Technical Programs, Academic Affairs and Research

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coordinating Board Meetings

July 30, 2009
October 29, 2009
[Agenda](#)

Coordinating Board Committee Meetings

Academic Affairs & Research

June 22, 2009
Participation & Success
June 22, 2009
Strategic Planning
June 23, 2009
[Agenda](#)

USEFUL LINKS

Academic Affairs and Research
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/AAR/default.cfm>

Finance and Resource Planning
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/PA/FinanceAndResourcePlanning/default.cfm>

**Texas Higher Education
Accountability System**
<http://www.txhighereddata.org/Interactive/Accountability/>

P-16 Initiatives
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/OS/>

College for All Texans
www.CollegeForAllTexans.com

**Employment Opportunities at
the Coordinating Board**
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/Agency/jobs.cfm>

Norman Hackerman Advanced Research Program Grant Announcement

The Coordinating Board will consider the approval and publication of the Norman Hackerman Advanced Research Program (NHARP) 2009 Program Announcement at the July 30, 2009, Board meeting, pending funding from the Texas Legislature. The official NHARP Program Announcement will be available to download from the Coordinating Board's website. Pre-proposals will be due to the Board on September 15, 2009, and may be filed electronically. Selected pre-proposals will receive notice from the Board to submit a full proposal, which will have a deadline for submission of January 15, 2010, and may also be filed electronically. The Board will consider the approval of selected 2009 NHARP awards during their April 2010 Board meeting.

Stacey Silverman, Director, Academic Research and Grant Programs, Academic Affairs and Research

Research Development Fund Review of Research Awards

The Research Development Fund (RDF) Advisory Committee will meet on July 17, 2009, at the Coordinating Board offices in Austin to review institutional research projects for designation as restricted research. General Academic Institutions that receive an appropriation under the RDF are required to submit information on all research awards prior to the meeting. The RDF Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from each of the institutions (public four-year universities, minus The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, and Prairie View A&M University), will review the projects to determine if they qualify as restricted research projects. Additional information about the RDF and review of research awards may be found on the Coordinating Board's website at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/AAR/Research/>.

Stacey Silverman, Director, Academic Research and Grant Programs, Academic Affairs and Research

New Associate of Arts in Teaching Curricula Approved

In July 2004, the Coordinating Board (CB) approved the three curricula for the Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) degree. These fully transferable associate degrees were aligned with then-current State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) standards and were intended to help prepare community college students for entrance into the teaching profession. Recently, SBEC changed its standards for teacher certification, and the AAT curricula needed to be updated to reflect those new standards so that the AAT curricula will transfer seamlessly into baccalaureate programs with teacher certification components. In response to this need, CB staff organized a work group of public two-year and four-year institutional personnel to advise staff on proposed revisions to the AAT curricula. The recommendation from this work group was taken to the Coordinating Board and approved as submitted at the Board's April 30, 2009, meeting.

The changes to the AAT curricula may be summarized as follows:

- The EC-4 curriculum has been changed to EC-6, and there is no longer a separate curriculum for Early Childhood Specialization.
- All three curricula are capped at 60 semester credit hours.
- Texas Early Childhood Articulation courses have been removed from EC-6 curriculum.

The new AAT curricula are approved for immediate use. Please contact James Goeman for more information at James.Goeman@thecb.state.tx.us or by telephone at 512-427-6249.

James Goeman, Senior Education Specialist, Academic Affairs and Research

Proposed Rule Changes Related to Degree Programs

Coordinating Board (CB) staff have proposed amendments to Section 5.44 of CB rules that would significantly streamline the approval process for degree programs, certificate programs, and administrative changes that meet certain criteria. Under the proposed rules, approval for new degree programs would be automatic if they meet the following criteria:

1. The program has institutional and governing board approval.
2. The institution certifies compliance with the *Standards for New Bachelor's and Master's Programs*.
3. The institution certifies that adequate funds are available to cover the costs of the new program.
4. New costs during the first five years of the program would not exceed \$2 million.
5. The program is a non-engineering program (i.e., not classified under CIP code 14).
6. The program would be offered by a university or health-related institution.
7. No objections to the proposed program are received by the Coordinating Board during the 30-day comment period.

Similar criteria are proposed for certificate programs and administrative changes. In addition, the proposed Section 5.52 of CB rules would require that all institutions have a process to assess the quality and effectiveness of existing degree programs for continuous improvement, and would direct the CB staff to develop a process to conduct a periodic audit of the quality, productivity, and effectiveness of existing bachelor's and master's programs. The full text for the proposed changes can be found at: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/Rules/default.cfm#proposed>. This summer, CB staff will meet with a joint subcommittee of the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee and the Graduate Education Advisory Committee to discuss the thresholds and other factors to consider in the review of low-producing programs.

Kevin Lemoine, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Academic Affairs and Research

Meeting on Teacher Preparation Programs

Coordinating Board staff will be meeting with education administrators and faculty in late June to review current Board-approved curricular requirements for teacher preparation programs and to consider recommendations to the Board for significant changes in the current requirements and process.

Kevin Lemoine, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Academic Affairs and Research

Math, Science, and Technology Teacher Preparation (MSTTP) Academies

The Coordinating Board oversees state funding and coordinates program practices for the establishment of Math, Science, and Technology Teacher Preparation (MSTTP) Academies at Texas public institutions of higher education. The MSTTP Academies are teacher preparation academies designed and led by institutions of higher education to strengthen in-service and pre-service teachers' content knowledge and pedagogical skills, to promote teacher leadership, and to create learning communities of Academy participants.

Key outcomes of this project will be higher levels of teacher certification in Math, Science, and Technology (MST); higher levels of teachers completing master's degrees in the MST fields; and higher levels of certified master teachers in the MST fields.

The five academies funded in the first round of awards (cycles 1 & 2) include: The University of Texas at El Paso, Texas State University-San Marcos, Stephen F. Austin State University, The University of Texas at Arlington, and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Additional academies (cycle 3) will be awarded in July 2009, resulting in the establishment of 16 MSTTP Academies of teachers committed to serving high-need school districts.

A request for proposals (RFP) for the 2010-2011 biennium funding will be announced in September 2009. The goal is to create a statewide network of MST teacher preparation academies that share best practices and serve the needs of future and current MST teachers (estimated to include approximately 1,000 Academy participants through 2012). MSTTP Academies will meet in fall 2009 to launch new academies and share best practices. For more information, please contact Susan Barnes, Senior Director of Educator Quality, at 512-427-6563 or susan.barnes@theccb.state.tx.us, or Araceli M. Ortiz, Director of Educator Quality, at 512-427-6253 or araceli.ortiz@theccb.state.tx.us.

Araceli Ortiz, Director of Educator Quality, P-16 Initiatives

Employment Opportunity

Director, Department of Academic Programs, Academic Affairs and Research Division. For more information, please refer to the Coordinating Board website: http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/Agency/Jobs_Detail.cfm?JNum=1462