

Academic & Workforce Updates: GIPWE and Sixty Semester Credit Hour Limits

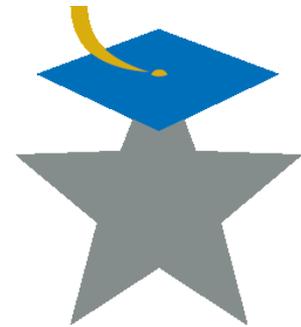
CSTC Liaisons Meeting
October 30, 2013

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*Deputy Assistant Commissioner,
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**TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD**

Presentation Goals

- The Guidelines for Instructional Programs in Workforce Education(GIPWE) revision process
- Associate Degree 60 SCH limit

GUIDELINES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS IN WORKFORCE EDUCATION(GIPWE)

- Manual provides guidelines for the design, development, operation, and evaluation of credit and non-credit workforce education programs.
- Last revised in 2010.

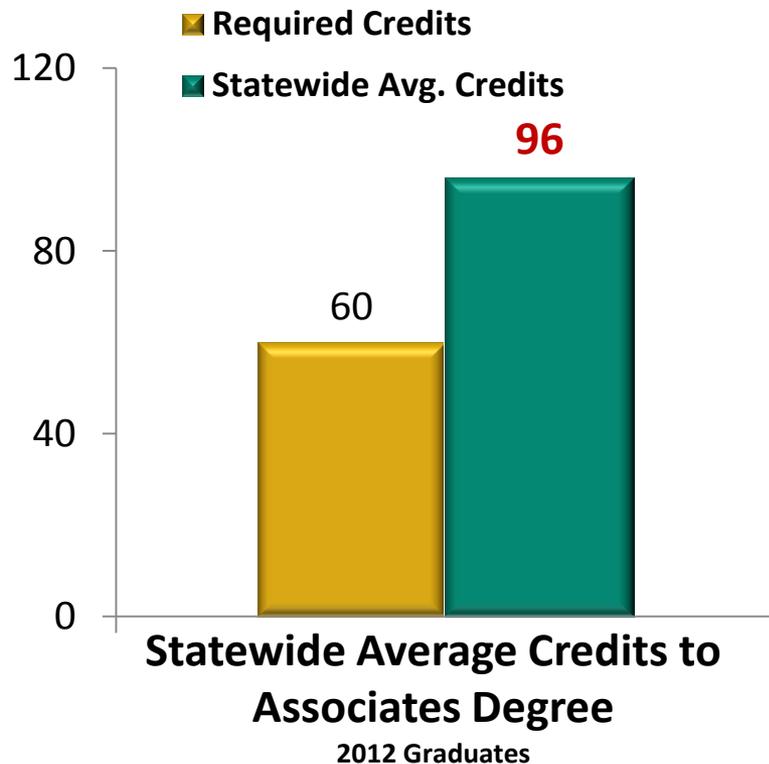
GIPWE REVISION TIMELINE

- Internal team reviewing and revising existing document.
- Anticipated internal completion in mid-November.
- Plan a series of conference calls for initial discussion and feedback.
- Announce calls in conjunction with TACTE, TCCIA, and TACE.
- Final version adopted spring 2014.

The Legislature adopted a credit hour cap on Associates degrees to stem excessive credits earned by students

Average time to a Associate Degree:

4.3 years



Associate degrees capped to no more credits than required by licensure or accreditation for that particular degree field—in most cases **60 SCH**.

SIXTY SEMESTER CREDIT HOUR LIMIT

- Senate Bills 215 and 497, 83rd Legislature, Regular Session
- “to earn an associate degree , a student may not be required by an institution of higher education to complete more than the minimum number of semester credit hours required for the degree by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or its successor unless the institution determines that there is compelling academic reason for requiring completion of additional semester hours for the degree.”
- The board may review one or more... to ensure compliance.
- Effective fall 2015.

WORKFORCE RULE CHANGES

- Chapter 9, Subchapter A – Definitions.
- Adopted October 2013 Board meeting.
- (9) Compelling Academic Reason--A justification for an associate's degree program consisting of more than 60 semester credit hours. Acceptable justifications **may include, but are not limited to, [are]** programmatic accreditation requirements, statutory requirements, and requirements for licensure/certification of graduates.

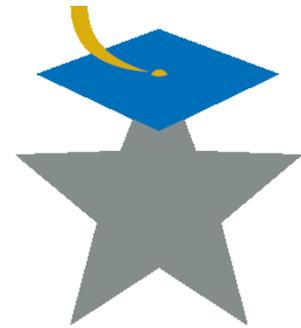
ACADEMIC RULE CHANGES

- Will be posted in Texas Register November 1
- Chapter 9, Subchapter J – Academic Associate Degree and Certificate Programs
- 9.183 (c-d)
- (c) If the minimum number of semester hours required to complete a proposed academic associate's degree exceeds 60, the institution must provide detailed written documentation describing the compelling academic reason for the number of required hours, such as programmatic accreditation requirements, statutory requirements, or licensure/certification requirements that cannot be met without exceeding the 60-hour limit. The Coordinating Board will review the documentation provided and make a determination to approve or deny a request to exceed the 60-hour limit. Institutions of higher education must be in compliance with this subsection on or before the 2015 fall semester.
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ACADEMIC RULE CHANGES

- (1) A college may offer a specialized academic associate degree that incorporates a Board-approved field of study curriculum as prescribed by §4.32 of this title (relating to Field of Study Curricula) and a portion of the college's approved core curriculum if the coursework for both would total more than 60 ~~[66]~~ SCH; or
- (2) A college may offer a specialized academic associate degree that incorporates a voluntary statewide transfer compact and a portion of the college's approved core curriculum if the coursework for both would total more than 60 ~~[66]~~ SCH.

Questions



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