

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Improving Transfer in Texas

*Ray Martinez, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Workforce Education
Stacey Silverman, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs
Elizabeth Mayer, Policy Director*

March 12, 2021

1

Building on Existing Transfer Efforts (SB 25) and Convening the Improving Transfer in Texas Workgroup

2

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

2

Senate Bill 25

3

- With the passage of SB 25 and the priority of transfer by the Commissioner, the Improving Transfer Workgroup began convening last April.
- Today's proposed rules are a culmination of the efforts and recommendations of the Workgroup.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

3

Composition of the Improving Transfer in Texas Workgroup

The transfer workgroup was comprised of an equal number of representatives from public community colleges and universities and was supported by agency staff.

The group met regularly from the end of April until mid-October to study and make recommendations to improve vertical transfer.

4

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

4

Purpose of the Improving Transfer in Texas Workgroup

- Presentations from other states; discussion of available data; discussion of existing resources (Core Curriculum, Academic Course Guide Manual, Field of Study Curricula, TCCNS), and
- Shared responsibility; transparency; buy-in/accountability.
- Most impact within existing statutory authority without expanding existing committees' responsibilities.

5

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

5

Existing Field of Study Curriculum

6

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

6

Brief History of the Field of Study Curriculum

The Field of Study Curriculum was established during the 75th Legislative Session in 1997.

Currently there are 16 FOSC in effect. Although several of these FOSC have existed for decades, there are still relatively few students who complete a FOSC.

7

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

7

Number of Transfer Students and Field of Study Curriculum Completion

In 2019, there were 36,820 students who transferred from a community college to a university.

Of this cohort of students who transferred, 1,888 (5%) were Field of Study Curriculum complete. As a comparison, for the same transfer students 17,396 (47%) were Texas Core Curriculum complete upon transfer.

8

Source: THED: Transfer Students' Success (txhighereddata.org)

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

8

Rule Components

9

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

9

Transfer Rules

Field of Study Curriculum Components

Under the proposed rules, a Field of Study Curriculum consists of the following components:

- **Selected** discipline-specific **Texas Core Curriculum** courses, of an unspecified number of hours
NOTE: The number of Texas Core Curriculum courses will be determined by the Discipline Specific Subcommittee and will include only those courses relevant for the major course of study.
 - **Discipline Foundation Courses**, up to 12 SCH
 - **Directed Electives**, at least 6 SCH
NOTE: The Directed Electives will be submitted to the Coordinating Board by each receiving institution (university) and may include lower-division courses critical for student success in that major.
- A student is FOSC-complete when entering with all three of the above blocks complete.
 - A student is FOSC-incomplete when entering with partial completion of any blocks complete.

10

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

10

Transfer Rules

Additional Areas

Institutions have tools to ensure academic preparation for transfer students matches that required of native students.

Directed Electives

Each institution will submit to the Coordinating Board a set of at least 6 SCH of Directed Electives for a given Field of Study Curriculum. To be considered FOSC-complete upon entering the institution, the student must have completed that set of Directed Electives. The Coordinating Board will collect, maintain, and disseminate these course lists to institutions, academic advisors, and students.

Alternative Discipline Foundation Courses

An institution with a unique program that has courses that are substantially different from the course list developed by the disciplinary subcommittees for the Discipline Foundation Courses will have the option to seek an alternative DFC (Rule 4.35).

11

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

11

Transfer Rules

Governance

The proposed rules establish the **Texas Transfer Advisory Committee** (TTAC), which will:

- Advise the Commissioner on the development of the courses in the Field of Study Curriculum;
- Oversee the development of the Field of Study Curriculum using Discipline-Specific subcommittees that will report back to the TTAC; and
- Be composed of an equal number of members from public junior colleges and general academic teaching institutions.

12

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

12

Rule Comments

13

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

13

Transfer Rule Comments

The agency received nine comments on the proposed rules, and they were focused on three primary areas:

- Definition of Field of Study Curriculum
- Field of Study in Music
- Additional Lower-Division Courses

14

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

14

Transfer Rule Comments

Definition of Field of Study Curriculum

The following revisions to Chapter 1 and Chapter 4 will align the differences, as follows:

Comments: There seemed to be a misinterpretation of the components of the proposed definition of a Field of Study Curriculum. The language that was used to define Field of Study Curriculum in Chapter 1 was different than the language used in Chapter 4.

Response: The definitions presented in Chapter 1.238(8) and 4.23(7) have been revised to align.

Chapter 1.238(8) Field of Study Curriculum – a set of courses that will satisfy lower-division requirements for an academic major at a general academic teaching institution, as defined in Title 19, Chapter 4, Subchapter B, §4.23(7).

Chapter 4.23(7) Field of Study Curriculum-- Field of Study Curriculum – a set of courses that will satisfy lower-division requirements for an academic major at a general academic teaching institution a set of courses that will satisfy the lower-division requirements for a baccalaureate degree in a specific academic area at a general academic teaching institution. The Field of Study Curriculum has three components: (a) selected discipline-relevant Texas Core Curriculum courses, (b) the Discipline Foundation Courses, and (c) the Directed Electives.

Transfer Rule Comments

Music Field of Study

Comments: There was concern that the existing Field of Study Curriculum in Music may not fit into the new Transfer Framework.

Response: Music is an example of a discipline that may not align with the proposed Texas Transfer Framework. Importantly, the existing Fields of Study remain in effect, including the Music Field of Study, which became effective in September 2018.

A key aspect of the proposed rules is the establishment of the Texas Transfer Advisory Committee (TTAC). The TTAC would work with subcommittees comprised of faculty experts in the discipline, much like the important work that was done on the Music Field of Study Advisory Committee, to review the existing Music Field of Study and recommend if appropriate, how it could be revised to fit into the new Texas Transfer Framework.

The proposed rules provide an ample transition time for existing Field of Study Curricula to be remain in effect while TTAC decides which Field of Study to consider for inclusion under the new Texas Transfer Framework.

Transfer Rule Comments

Additional Lower-Division Courses

Comments: There was concern that the proposed rules limit the number of lower-division courses that universities can require if a student enters Field of Study Curriculum complete.

Response: The Texas Transfer Framework Field of Study Curriculum will transfer and satisfy major-specific lower-division requirements of corresponding baccalaureate degrees. It is the responsibility of the receiving general academic institution to determine whether a transfer student is Field of Study Curriculum complete upon the transfer student's enrollment.

17

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

17

Questions and Comments

18

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

18