

# Update on Transfer



Texas Higher Education  
Coordinating Board

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## Why is Transfer a Hot Topic?

- Background and Key Considerations
  - How do we define transfer?
  - Relationship between transfer and the Core Curriculum
  - Relationship between transfer and academic dual credit
  - Applicability of courses toward degree
- Legislative Developments
  - Legislative interest in understanding the issue better
  - Desire to “fix” the problem and strengthen alignment



## Key Legislation to “Fix the Problem”

- Better information – Have all four year institutions identify required lower division courses by major, both ACGM courses and non-ACGM courses, for the top 25 majors
- Core Curriculum – Decrease the number of choices for students
  - Focus on courses that reflect general education
  - Restrict courses to lower division, TCCCNS equivalent courses and ACGM courses
- Fields of Study (FOS) – Ensure the top 25 majors among transfer students are completed

Transfer students who complete a bachelor's degree accumulate more excess semester credit hours (SCH) than bachelor's graduates who do not transfer

Student Start Location	Total Bacc Graduates in 2015	Average Excess SCH for hours	Average Excess SCH for hours with A, B, C grades*
Start at Same 4-Year	39,727	8	--
Start at 2-Year	20,761	24	14
Start at Other 4-Year	6,458	28	16

\* SCH for which a student receives a F, D, or W (for withdrawal) in prior 4 years were removed because they will not transfer or apply to a degree (grades are not available before fall 2011). Excess SCH with A, B, C are considered hours over the required degree plan.

## What do the data tell us?

- The excess SCH issue, in large part, is a transfer issue; **41%** of all 2015 bachelor's grads were transfers
- Students who transfer from four-year institutions accumulate the most excess SCH, on average
- Students who transfer are successfully completing courses that are not applying to the degree; there are several possible reasons to explore:
  - Lack of appropriate advising
  - Lack of consistency in requirements for majors across four-year institutions
  - Transfer students may be changing majors more often
  - Uncertainty around program and institutional admissions

## Questions?