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AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AMENDING THE POST-SECONDARY
EDUCATION ARTICULATION ACT TO ESTABLISH AND CLARIFY
CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH STUDENTS MAY TRANSFER EARNED CREDITS
BETWEEN AND AMONG NEW MEXICO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 21-1B-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
Chapter 224, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-1B-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Post-Secondary
Education Articulation Act:

A. "articulation" means the transfer of courses
that fulfill a graduation requirement for a student's chosen
degree program;

B. "department" means the higher education
department;

C. "general education core curriculum" means the
group of lower-division courses approved by the department as
fulfilling general education requirements that are accepted
by all institutions for transfer purposes;

D. "institution" means an accredited, public
post-secondary educational institution operating in the
state;

E. "meta-major" means fifteen credits of

1 lower-division courses that are developed in consultation
2 with the faculty and approved by the department and that
3 include general education courses and prerequisite courses
4 and that can articulate to multiple degree programs and can
5 include courses across the institution that address
6 diversity;

7 F. "transfer" means the transfer of course credits
8 from one institution to another; and

9 G. "transfer module" means a list of
10 lower-division courses established by the department that
11 fulfill graduation requirements for a specific degree
12 program."

13 SECTION 2. Section 21-1B-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
14 Chapter 224, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

15 "21-1B-3. INITIAL ARTICULATION PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
16 OF META-MAJOR AND TRANSFER MODULE.--

17 A. The department shall establish and maintain a
18 comprehensive statewide plan to provide for the articulation
19 of educational programs and facilitate the transfer of course
20 credits between institutions.

21 B. In establishing a statewide articulation plan,
22 the department shall:

23 (1) by August 1, 2017, establish a common
24 course naming and numbering system for courses identified as
25 substantially equivalent lower-division courses; provided

1 that the department shall establish an interim mechanism of a
2 statewide equivalency table that uses a universal taxonomy to
3 identify substantially equivalent courses until the common
4 system is in place;

5 (2) establish a process to identify courses
6 as substantially equivalent. The process shall:

7 (a) include a procedure for each course
8 whereby faculty members from each segment teaching the
9 academic discipline will reach mutual agreement on the
10 material to be taught and the competencies to be gained;

11 (b) ensure that the content of each
12 course is comparable across institutions offering that
13 course;

14 (c) ensure that substantially all the
15 content agreed to among the institutions as the content to be
16 covered by a course is in fact covered in that course and
17 that students successfully completing the course will achieve
18 like competencies with respect to the content covered; and

19 (d) ensure that the content
20 requirements for each course will be sufficient to prepare
21 students for upper-division coursework in that field;

22 (3) maintain a list of lower-division
23 courses offered at higher education institutions in
24 New Mexico. All courses assigned the same number shall
25 transfer between institutions as that course name and number;

1 and

2 (4) develop a process for reviewing,
3 updating and maintaining the common course numbering system.

4 C. The department shall, in consultation with the
5 faculty, facilitate the development and approval of statewide
6 meta-majors and transfer modules by August 2019.

7 D. The department, in consultation with faculty,
8 shall develop a statewide general education core curriculum
9 of not less than fifteen hours for an associate in applied
10 science degree, thirty hours for an associate degree other
11 than in applied science and thirty hours for a bachelor
12 degree. The statewide general education core curriculum
13 shall include a comprehensive array of lower-division
14 college-level courses designed to provide a foundation for a
15 liberal education and courses that include the
16 interdisciplinary study of differences that recognize and
17 respect New Mexico's diverse cultures, histories and
18 identities. The department shall develop a process for
19 maintaining and updating the statewide general education core
20 curriculum. The department shall review and approve proposed
21 statewide general education core curriculum requirements.
22 For every institution, each approved course in the general
23 education core curriculum shall be transferable, and its
24 credit hours shall count toward fulfilling general education
25 core curriculum requirements at any institution to which they

1 are transferred."

2 SECTION 3. Section 21-1B-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
3 Chapter 224, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

4 "21-1B-4. TRANSFER OF CREDITS.--

5 A. Courses that have a New Mexico common course
6 number shall be accepted as the equivalent courses offered at
7 the receiving institution.

8 B. Courses taken as part of an approved meta-major
9 or transfer module shall be accepted to meet lower-division
10 graduation requirements of a degree-granting program to which
11 the meta-major or transfer module articulates.

12 C. An institution shall not increase requirements
13 for degree-granting programs as a result of the use of a
14 meta-major or transfer module or acceptance of a course that
15 is part of a meta-major or transfer module. An institution
16 may specify additional lower-division or upper-division
17 requirements not included in a meta-major or transfer module
18 for one or more programs of study; provided that those
19 requirements apply equally to transfer students and students
20 originating their study at the institution."

21 SECTION 4. Section 21-1B-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
22 Chapter 224, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

23 "21-1B-5. OVERSIGHT OF ARTICULATION PROGRAMS--COMPLAINT
24 PROCEDURES.--

25 A. The department shall establish and maintain a

1 process to monitor and improve articulation through frequent
2 and systematic consultation with institutions.

3 B. The department shall establish a complaint
4 procedure for transfer students who fail to receive credit
5 for courses that have a common course number or are contained
6 in an approved meta-major or transfer module taken at another
7 institution. The department may set standards for
8 determining bona fide complaints, including a requirement
9 that students follow institutions' internal procedures for
10 resolving complaints prior to submitting them to the
11 department. The department shall investigate all
12 articulation complaints and render decisions as to the
13 appropriateness of the actions of the participants.

14 C. Prior to December 31 of each year, the
15 department shall summarize all articulation complaints filed
16 with the department and the decisions of the department with
17 regard to those complaints.

18 D. If a student's articulation complaint regarding
19 commonly numbered courses or courses contained in a
20 meta-major or transfer module is upheld, the receiving
21 institution shall reimburse the student the complete cost,
22 including tuition, books and fees, of each course the student
23 was required to repeat at the receiving institution."

24 SECTION 5. Section 21-1B-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
25 Chapter 224, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

1 "21-1B-6. REPORTING.--

2 A. Prior to December 31 of each year, the
3 department shall report to the legislative finance committee
4 and the governor regarding the status of articulation
5 programs and the transfer of students between institutions.

6 B. The report developed by the department shall
7 include the statewide meta-major and transfer modules
8 available, an analysis of the number of students transferring
9 between New Mexico's higher education institutions, the
10 graduation rates and time to earn degrees of transfer
11 students at receiving institutions, the average number of
12 credit hours earned by graduating transfer students compared
13 to the average number of credit hours earned by graduates who
14 originated at the institution and a summary of student
15 complaints regarding articulation. The report shall include
16 data and other information obtained on both a statewide and
17 individual institution basis.

18 C. The report shall look at outcomes with regard
19 to such factors as transfer rates, persistence rates after
20 transfer and graduation rates.

21 D. The report shall identify each institution
22 against which a meritorious complaint has been filed. The
23 report shall summarize the recommendations of the department
24 with regard to those complaints.

25 E. All institutions shall provide articulation

