

NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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BRIEF ON SB153 (LAWS 2016, CHAPTER 3): ARTICULATION & TRANSFER AND MILITARY SERVICE COLLEGE CREDIT OCTOBER 2016

During the 2016 regular legislative session, the New Mexico Legislature passed SB153 (Laws 2016, Chapter 3) requiring the New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED) to develop a consistent statewide policy for the articulation and transfer of college credit for military service between New Mexico's twenty seven public higher education institutions. SB153 requires the HED to provide a report to the Legislative Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee (LMVAC) and the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) regarding a statewide articulation and transfer policy for military service college credit before November 1, 2016.

In compliance with the Postsecondary Education Articulation Act (21-1B-1. NMSA 2978), the HED is working to improve how college courses/credits articulate and transfer between state-funded higher education institutions through a trifecta of reforms:

- 1.) Establishing a statewide common course naming and numbering system, wherein all lower division (100 and 200 level) courses have equivalent names, student learning objectives (developed by faculty committees), and course numbers (developed by registrars);
- 2.) Revising the state's general education requirements in collaboration with university provosts and a General Education Steering Committee; and
- 3.) Developing meta-majors (initial degree pathways that fulfill the requirements of several different college majors within the same broad subject area) through degree mapping analytics in collaboration with higher education institutions.

These reforms, especially a common course naming and numbering system, will provide the foundation for establishing consistent articulation and transfer policies for military service college credits. A common course naming and numbering system, with equivalent student learning outcomes for equivalent courses, will make the transfer of courses simpler and more transparent. Once the statewide common course naming and numbering system is complete, existing American Council on Education (ACE) Joint Services Transcripts (JST) entries can be incorporated into the statewide common course system. This process will ensure that ACE JST entries will be managed consistently across state-funded higher education institutions as part of a statewide articulation and transfer system.

The statutory deadline for creating a common course numbering framework is August 1, 2017. HED, in collaboration with faculty committees, is on schedule to meet this deadline. HED will then convene a task force comprised of institutional registrars, HED staff, and other stakeholders beginning in Spring 2017 to outline strategies and map JST entries to the statewide common course numbering system.