

SB 740 – College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013

Frequently Asked Questions

K-12 Requirements

Are Community Colleges responsible for Developing Transitional Courses?

This legislation requires MSDE, in consultation with the community colleges, to implement transitional courses for those students deemed “not college ready.” By 2017 all high school students will be entering community colleges with the PARCC assessment verification.

How long is a “college ready” score in effect?

The legislation does not address this issue. The PARCC College Readiness Determination Policy has established that the college readiness score will be determined by each state that is a member of PARCC. Maryland has yet to determine how long the test scores are valid.

Can the colleges choose their own instrument for re-assessing students for college readiness?

Yes. Most of the community colleges use Accuplacer and can continue to use Accuplacer for re-assessing students for college readiness.

Transfer Agreement

Does the new statewide transfer agreement apply to all degree programs?

No, not an associate’s in applied sciences. The statewide transfer agreement applies whereby at least 60 credits of general education, elective, and major courses that a student earns at any community college in the state toward an associate’s of art or associates of science degree must be transferrable to any public four-year higher education institution in the state for credit toward a bachelor’s degree.

Reverse Transfer Agreement

Does this legislation change the community college reverse transfer agreements?

Not until July 1, 2016 which is the date that MHEC is to have a statewide reverse transfer agreement implemented. Until that time, the colleges are to proceed with current reverse transfer agreements.

Incentives

What is the responsibility of the community colleges in creating incentives according to the bill?

MHEC and each public institution of higher education must develop and implement incentives for students to obtain an associate’s degree before enrolling in a public four-year institution of higher education.

Near Completers

What is a near completer?

A “near completer” is defined as an individual who has completed at least 45 college credits at a community college or 90 credits at a senior four-year institution but does not have a college degree and is no longer attending an institution of higher education (no specific timeframe on how long the individual has stopped attending).

Degree Plans

What is a degree plan?

A “degree plan” is defined as a statement of the course of study requirements that an undergraduate student enrolled in a public higher education institution must complete to graduate from the institution.

Pathway Systems

What about first-time, degree-seeking, developmental students who are in the lowest level of developmental. Are they still expected to take a credit-bearing math or English within the first 24 credit hours?

Yes. Community colleges should begin to look at innovative approaches to developmental education, examples such as course redesign, or modules that are able to focus on specific developmental needs.

Credits to Degree

Do all degree programs have to conform to 60 credit hours?

No. An Associate in Applied Sciences (AAS) degree is not limited to 60 credits. Nor are other programs that for accreditation are over 60. Also the board of trustees, in consultation with MHEC may approve additional exceptions.

Dually Enrolled Students

Does this legislation change the definition of a dual enrollment student?

Yes. Section 18-14A-012 of SB 740 defines a dual enrolled student as a “student enrolled in a public high school in the State while enrolled in a public institution of higher education in the State.” It does not include private school students. It does not include homeschool students.

Who pays the costs for a dually enrolled student?

The legislation specifies that a public institution of higher education may not charge tuition to a dual enrolled student.

LEAs are responsible for the tuition costs in accordance to the following process:

Tuition scale: Determined by the number of courses

Category #1: First 4 courses

Community colleges charge 75% of tuition or 5 % of per pupil foundation amount.

Category #2: Five or more courses

Community colleges charge 90% of tuition or 5% of per pupil foundation amount.

Category #3: Agreements prior to July 1, 2013

If lesser than categories 1 or 2, then agreement is basis for tuition.

LEAs may recoup costs from the students as follows:

Category #1: First 4 courses

LEAs may charge students 90% of 75% or 5% foundation.

Category #2: 5 or more courses

LEAs may charge student 100% of 90% or 5% foundation.

Existing agreements may determine costs.

LEAs cannot charge FARMS students

Can the colleges charge fees?

Yes the college can charge applicable (and reasonable) fees for all dually enrolled students – including FARM students.

Can the part-time grant be used to cover the fees for dual enrolled students?

This legislation does not address the use of grant fund money; however the LEAs cannot recoup tuition costs for FARM students taking courses at the community colleges.

How are dually enrolled student charged who reside out of the service area?

Students who are not attending the community college that services the student’s local area high school, are charged the lesser of 75% of the out-of-county tuition charge or 5% of the per pupil foundation amount. The lesser charge is likely to be the 5% of the per pupil foundation amount. Students living outside the state of Maryland do not qualify for this program.

Under what conditions are institutions of higher education allowed to count high school students who are dually enrolled in courses in their Full Time Equivalent (FTE) calculations?

If the high school student is enrolled in a course that is approved by MHEC for state aid purposes, the student will be included in the institution's FTE calculation like any other student enrolled at the community college.

What about students who do not meet the criteria that has been agreed to between the county and the community college, can the colleges still enroll them?

Yes. For students who enrolled at community colleges and at the local high school but do not meet the criteria can still enroll and the colleges are allowed to charge full tuition.

Are the colleges still responsible for generating 1098 tax forms?

We are waiting for clarification on this issue. In the meantime, students who do not meet the LEA and community college criteria for dual enrollment (as stated in the previous question), will continue to be eligible for a 1098 tax form.

Other Questions

Do we care how long it takes a student to get out of school?

Yes. Colleges are measured on how long it takes students to obtain degree/certification.