

CREATING CLEAR PATHWAYS FOR TEXAS STUDENTS TO COMPLETE A CREDENTIAL

SB 25 Course Sequencing

Senate Bill 25 (SB 25) was passed by the 86th Texas Legislature and requires institutions to submit at least one recommended course sequence for each undergraduate certificate or degree to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) beginning fall 2021. This is a priority effort to ensure all stakeholders have the necessary information to make it easier and clearer for students to complete a credential in a timely, cost-effective manner.

REQUIREMENTS

The recommended course sequence must:

1. Be designed to enable a full-time student to obtain a certificate or degree within:
 - a) Two years for an associate's degree (60 SCH),
 - b) Four years for a bachelor's degree (120 SCH), or
 - c) Comparable time for approved degree programs other than (a) or (b)
2. Include for each course, if applicable:
 - Texas Common Course number/Academic Course Guide Manual number or course equivalent
3. Be posted on the institutional website, in the institution's catalog, and submitted to the Coordinating Board.

STAKEHOLDER BENEFITS

The recommended course sequencing data that are collected and disseminated will benefit several stakeholders, specifically students and families, institutions of higher education, policymakers, researchers, and others.

Students and families

Course sequences will provide **clarity and transparency** by identifying at least one efficient, timely path for completing a higher education credential.

Institutions

Course sequences will provide **actionable data** to facilitate student success and target advising efforts.

Statewide

The THECB will be able to provide **insightful tools and reporting** for students, institutions, policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders on the impact of transfer policies and practices.

TIMELINE

January/February 2021: The Coordinating Board requests key institutional contacts who will be responsible for coordinating the submission of course sequence information to the Coordinating Board, including (1) an individual familiar with undergraduate course sequences; and (2) an individual with expertise in institutional data management and state reporting.

February/March 2021: Small data work group of institutional representatives formed and convened to help create draft reporting template.

March 5, 2021: The Coordinating Board staff provide a high-level overview of the progress at the Texas Association for Institutional Research (TAIR) meeting to institutional researchers.

March 9, 2021: Negotiated Rulemaking Committee convened to draft rules around the SB 25 Course Sequencing requirement.

March 2021: Provided course sequence template to identified institutional contacts for feedback.

By April 26, 2021: Proposed rules submitted to the *Texas Register*.

April 2021: Finalize template and course sequence reporting for fall 2021 and provide template to institutions.

May 3, 2021: Coordinating Board hosts training webinar.

May 7, 2021: Proposed rules published in the *Texas Register*.

July 22, 2021: Rules considered for adoption at the quarterly Coordinating Board meeting.

Aug. 1, 2021: Each institution shall publish recommended course sequences on the institution's website.

Sept. 1, 2021: The Coordinating Board shall publish on its website the instructions and template for institutions to submit course sequencing reporting.

Fall 2021: Each institution of higher education must develop at least one recommended course sequence for each undergraduate certificate or degree program offered by the institution.

Annually: Institutions shall review course sequences for accuracy and submit any revisions or changes to the Coordinating Board during the designated time period.

NEXT STEPS

The Coordinating Board has worked with institutional stakeholders to identify an initial set of analyses to provide for institutional use. The Coordinating Board will also be working to leverage an online tool for students called MapMyPath, which uses recommended course sequence information to provide students a transparent and clear path for completion of a certificate or degree program. The MapMyPath tool has been developed with 10 colleges and universities and is currently in a prototype phase.

QUESTIONS?

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