

Prior law provided that a statewide common course numbering system be established to facilitate the transfer of students and course credits between and among secondary and postsecondary educational institutions. Further provided that the development and implementation of the statewide common course numbering system be prioritized as follows:

1. All courses required for completion of associate of arts and associate of science degree programs.
Prior law provided that this segment of the common course numbering system be implemented by the beginning of the 2010-2011 academic year.
2. All lower division courses.
Prior law provided that this segment of the common course numbering system be implemented by the end of the 2011-2012 academic year.
3. All undergraduate courses.
Prior law provided that this segment of the common course numbering system be implemented by the end of the 2011-2012 academic year.

New law deletes prior law implementation requirements and provides for development and implementation of the statewide common course numbering system for postsecondary education as follows:

1. All courses contained in the Board of Regents' general education core curriculum.
To be implemented during the 2012-2013 academic year.
2. All courses required for completion of the associate of arts and associate of science transfer degrees.
To be implemented during the 2013-2014 academic year.
3. All remaining lower division courses.
To be implemented during the 2014-2015 academic year.
4. All remaining undergraduate courses.
To be implemented by the end of the 2015-2016 academic year.

Prior law required the Board of Regents to submit a written report to the Senate and House committees on education, not later than January thirty-first and July thirty-first of each year, on the status of statewide articulation and transfer of credit across all educational institutions in the state.

New law provides instead for one annual report to be submitted by September 30th of each year, and additionally requires that such report include, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The number and percentage of students who complete an associate transfer degree program.
2. The number and percentage of students who earn an associate transfer degree and subsequently transfer to a four-year college or university.
3. The number and percentage of transfer students who complete a baccalaureate degree, to be reported in aggregate and by the individual postsecondary institution awarding the degree.
4. A comparison of the academic performance of transfer students and native students including the number of credits earned, degrees awarded, and time to completion of degree, to be reported in aggregate and by each institution of postsecondary education.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 7, 2012).

(Amends R.S. 17:3164(A)(2)(b), 3167(E), and 3168)