

Texas Administrative Code

TITLE 19	EDUCATION
PART 1	TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
CHAPTER 4	RULES APPLYING TO ALL PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN TEXAS
SUBCHAPTER B	TRANSFER OF CREDIT, CORE CURRICULUM AND FIELD OF STUDY CURRICULA

RULE §4.21 **Purpose**

The purpose of this subchapter is to provide for the development and implementation of policies that encourage the free and appropriate transferability of lower division course credit among institutions of higher education, and especially to provide for the smooth transfer of lower division credit through core curricula, field of study curricula, and a procedure for the resolution of transfer disputes.

RULE §4.22 **Authority**

The Board is authorized to adopt rules and establish policies and procedures for the development, adoption, implementation, and evaluation of core curricula, field of study curricula, and a transfer dispute resolution process under Texas Education Code §§61.051(g), and Texas Education Code §§61.821-831.

RULE §4.23 **Definitions**

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Board--The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- (2) Commissioner--The Commissioner of Higher Education.
- (3) Core Curriculum--the curriculum in the liberal arts, humanities, sciences, and political, social, and cultural history that all undergraduates of an institution of higher education are required to complete before receiving an academic undergraduate degree. Core curriculum provisions apply to public colleges and universities, and to academic degree programs offered at health-related institutions.

(4) Field of Study Curriculum (FOSC)--a set of courses that will satisfy the lower-division requirements for a baccalaureate degree in a specific academic area at a general academic teaching institution. A field of study curriculum affects academic degree programs at public colleges or universities as designated within the particular field of study curriculum.

(5) Course consistent with the Texas Common Course Numbering System (TCCNS)--a lower-division course that meets one of three conditions:

(A) it has an assigned TCCNS number and is listed in the Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual;

(B) a TCCNS number and inclusion in the Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual have been requested for the course; or

(C) the institution which offers the course has specified at least one TCCNS course listed in the Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual that will be accepted in transfer in lieu of the course.

(6) Institution of Higher Education or institution--any public technical institute, public junior college, public senior college or university, medical or dental unit, other agency of higher education as defined in Texas Education Code, §61.003.

(7) The Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM)--an official Board publication that lists a basic core of general academic courses which are freely transferable among all public institutions of higher education in Texas in accordance with the Texas Education Code, §61.051(g). TCCNS numbers are assigned to most courses in the manual.

(8) Faculty member--a person who is employed full-time by an institution of higher education as a member of the faculty whose primary duties include teaching, research, academic service, or administration. However, the term does not include a person holding faculty rank who spends a majority of the person's time for the institution engaged in managerial or supervisory activities, including a chancellor, vice chancellor, president, vice president, provost, associate of assistant provost, or dean.

RULE §4.24**General Provisions**

(a) All successfully completed lower-division academic courses that are identified by the Texas Common Course Numbering System (TCCNS) and published in the Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM) shall be fully transferable among public institutions and shall be substituted for the equivalent course at the receiving institution. Except in the case of courses belonging to a Board-approved Field of Study Curriculum (FOSC), applicability of transferred courses to requirements for specific degree programs is determined by the receiving institution.

(b) Nothing in this subchapter restricts the authority of an institution of higher education to adopt its own admission standards in compliance with this subchapter or its own grading policies so long as it treats transfer students and native students in the same manner.

(c) Institutional policies regarding acceptance of credit for correspondence courses, credit-by-examination, and other credit-earning instruments must be consistent with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' guidelines and must treat transfer students and native students in the same manner.

(d) This subchapter applies specifically to academic courses and degree programs, and does not apply to technical courses or technical degree programs.

RULE §4.25 Requirements and Limitations

(a) Each institution of higher education shall identify in its undergraduate catalog each lower-division course that is substantially equivalent to an academic course listed in the current edition of the Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual.

(b) Each university must offer at least 45 semester credit hours of academic courses that are substantially equivalent to courses listed in the Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual including those that fulfill the lower-division portion of the institution's Core Curriculum.

(c) All public colleges and universities must accept transfer of credit for successfully completed courses identified in subsections (a) and (b) of this section as applicable to an associate or baccalaureate degree in the same manner as credit awarded to non-transfer students in that degree program.

(d) Each institution shall be required to accept in transfer into a baccalaureate degree program the number of lower-division credit hours in the program which are allowed for their non-transfer students in that program; however,

(1) No institution shall be required to accept in transfer more credit hours in the major area of a degree program than the number set out in any applicable Board-approved Field of Study Curriculum for that program.

(2) In any degree program for which there is no Board-approved Field of Study Curriculum, no institution shall be required to accept in transfer more lower-division course credit in the major applicable to a baccalaureate degree than the institution allows their non-transfer students in that major.

(3) An institution of higher education may deny the transfer of credit in courses with a grade of "D" as applicable to the student's field of study curriculum courses, core curriculum courses, or major.

(e) All senior institutions of higher education in Texas shall provide support services