



Texas Higher Education
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Memorandum

June 15, 2018

To: Chief Reporting Officials
Chief Institutional Research Officers

From: Julie A. Eklund

Subject: Guidance for Reporting Competency-base Education and SB 1782

The following memo includes information regarding reporting for competency-based coursework and clarification of SB 1782.

Reporting Competency-based Education (CBE)

A memo was issued in August 2017 announcing the reporting of Competency-Based Education (CBE) to the Coordinating Board by any institution of higher education offering programs, including the institutions who were awarded grants for Texas Affordable Baccalaureate (TAB) degree programs. The Coordinating Board added option "Q – Competency-Based," to the "Type of Instruction" items on the CBM00S and CBM004 in the public universities and two-year college (CTC).

The memo stated that CBE could ONLY be reported for funding if it was linked to coursework in the Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM), Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM), or University Course Inventory and that CBE coursework should be reported as "Q" so that statewide enrollment in these types of courses could be measured to better understand CBE programs in Texas. This is still the case at this time. The Formula Advisory Committees recommended and the Board approved making the existing formula originally described in the August 2017 memo permanent:

- A CBE course may be reported once the institution has an indication that the student has begun engaging with the course materials. Because programs vary, institutions may determine their own definition for "engaging with the course materials" provided there is evidence this has occurred. If this engagement happens before the 12th class day, then the CBE coursework may be reported as a regular enrollment. After the 12th class day, an institution may report as flex. The Coordinating Board will be monitoring activity in these courses on the CBM00S to assess student progress (for example, withdrawals, incompletes, and grades).

- Institutions may not submit a CBE course more than once for funding if it spans semesters. There are examples for reporting flex courses in Appendix P of the reporting manuals (see attachment 2), including those that start prior to the census date but span semesters (see the yellow highlights). A course may be reported as flex if it spans semesters by design or, in the case of self-paced CBE or online courses, if the course has not yet been completed by the end of the semester.

Guidance for SB 1782

SB 1782 allows students who have accrued at least 50 semester credit hours (SCH) and have stopped-out for 24 months a one-time exemption from the six-drop and the three-peat rules in addition to a 15 SCH exemption from the 30/45 excess hour rule. SB 1782 amended Section 61.0595(d) and added Sections 51.907(e-1) and 61.059(r) to the Texas Education Code (TEC).

Several institutions have inquired about the interpretation of the language in TEC Section 61.059 Subsection (r) that notes "the board may not exclude from the number of semester credit hours reported to the Legislative Budget Board for formula funding under this section semester credit hours for any course taken up to three times by a student." The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) believes the intent of this section of the bill is that a student may apply this exemption to any course or courses which the student took at least twice prior to stopping out for 24 months or more so long as the student had accrued at least 50 SCH prior to stopping out. An institution may be funded for just one additional attempt of each such course, after re-enrollment, provided the course is otherwise eligible for state funding.

There have also been questions regarding the effective date of the legislation. The THECB was required to adopt rules for Section 51.907 (e-1) permitting a student to drop one additional course no later than June 1, 2018, and the rules were adopted at the January 2018 Board Meeting. The change made by Section 51.907 applies beginning fall 2018. The portion of the law affecting the reporting of courses for formula funding go into effect for the biennium beginning September 1, 2019. For reporting purposes the beginning of the preliminary base period is spring 2018.

Questions regarding this memo may be directed to Victor Reyna at victor.reyna@theqb.state.tx.us or (512) 427-6286.

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