

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to carry out goals relating to awarding academic credit for prior learning by students. Directs commission to appoint work group to assist in meeting goals. Requires commission to submit annual report to Legislative Assembly on progress toward meeting goals.

Directs commission to report to Legislative Assembly on proposed partnership with Western Governors University to provide online higher education degree programs and financial aid for Oregon students enrolled in university.

Takes effect July 1, 2012.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to higher education; and prescribing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall work with the State Board of Higher Education, the State Board of Education and independent for-profit and not-for-profit institutions of higher education to carry out the following goals:

(a) Increase the number of students who receive academic credit for prior learning and the number of students who receive academic credit for prior learning that counts toward their major or toward earning their degree, certificate or credential, while ensuring that credit is awarded only for high quality course-level competencies;

(b) Increase the number and type of academic credits accepted for prior learning in institutions of higher education, while ensuring that credit is awarded only for high quality course-level competencies;

1 (c) Develop transparent policies and practices in awarding academic
2 credit for prior learning;

3 (d) Improve prior learning assessment practices across all insti-
4 tutions of higher education;

5 (e) Create tools to develop faculty and staff knowledge and expertise
6 in awarding academic credit for prior learning and to share exemplary
7 policies and practices among institutions of higher education;

8 (f) Develop articulation agreements when patterns of academic
9 credit for prior learning are identified for particular programs and
10 pathways; and

11 (g) Develop outcome measures to track progress on the goals out-
12 lined in this section.

13 (2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall appoint
14 an advisory committee to coordinate implementation of the goals in
15 subsection (1) of this section. The committee shall include:

16 (a) A member recommended for appointment by the State Board
17 of Higher Education representing public universities in this state.

18 (b) A member recommended for appointment by the State Board
19 of Education representing community colleges in this state.

20 (c) A member representing independent not-for-profit institutions
21 of higher education located in this state.

22 (d) A member representing for-profit institutions of higher educa-
23 tion offering degree programs to students in this state.

24 (e) A member representing the business community.

25 (f) A member representing the labor community.

26 (g) A member who is a student at a two-year or four-year institu-
27 tion of higher education located in this state.

28 (h) Other members appointed by the Higher Education Coordinating
29 Commission based upon a demonstrated interest in and knowledge of
30 prior learning programs.

31 (3) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall submit an

1 annual report to the Legislative Assembly no later than December 31
2 of each calendar year, in the manner prescribed by ORS 192.245, re-
3 porting on progress toward meeting the goals set forth in subsection
4 (1) of this section.

5 (4) For the purposes of this section, “prior learning” means the
6 knowledge and skills gained through work and life experience, through
7 military training and experience and through formal and informal ed-
8 ucation and training from institutions of higher education in the
9 United States and in other nations.

10 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission
11 shall prepare a report for the Legislative Assembly that proposes a
12 partnership with Western Governors University, a nonprofit, online,
13 competency-based university created through a collaboration of gov-
14 ernors of the western states, to provide:

15 (a) Enhanced access for residents of this state to online,
16 competency-based higher education degree programs offered by West-
17 ern Governors University;

18 (b) Coordination between this state and Western Governors Uni-
19 versity in terms of financial aid eligibility, data sharing and outreach
20 efforts to adults who have completed some college coursework, but
21 have not attained a degree; and

22 (c) Specific new programs or modifications to existing programs to
23 provide for financial aid to Oregon residents enrolling at Western
24 Governors University.

25 (2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall submit
26 the report, with recommendations for necessary legislation, to the
27 Legislative Assembly in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 no later
28 than November 1, 2012.

29 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this 2012 Act is repealed on the date of the
30 convening of the 2013 regular session of the Legislative Assembly as
31 specified in ORS 171.010.

1 **SECTION 4. This 2012 Act takes effect on July 1, 2012.**

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