

MARYLAND REGISTER

Proposed Action on Regulations

Transmittal Sheet PROPOSED OR REPROPOSED Actions on Regulations	Date Filed with AELR Committee	TO BE COMPLETED BY DSD
	02/28/2014	Date Filed with Division of State Documents
		Document Number
		Date of Publication in MD Register

1. Desired date of publication in Maryland Register: 4/4/2014

2. COMAR Codification

Title Subtitle Chapter Regulation

13B 02 02 16

3. Name of Promulgating Authority

Maryland Higher Education Commission

4. Name of Regulations Coordinator Telephone Number
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6. Check applicable items:

New Regulations

B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Subtitle 02 ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

13B.02.02 Minimum Requirements for In-State Degree-Granting Institutions

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), and 11-201 Annotated Code of Maryland.

Notice of Proposed Action

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The Maryland Higher Education Commission proposes to amend Regulation .16 under COMAR 13B.02.02 Minimum Requirements for In-State Degree-Granting Institutions

This action was considered by the Commission at an open meeting held on February 26, 2014, notice of which was given as required by the State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to update regulations relating to graduation requirements and competency based education at institutions of higher education.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Dr. Shawna Acker-Ball, Director, Academic Affairs, Maryland Higher Education Commission, 6 N. Liberty St., 10th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201, or call 410-767-3268, or email to sackerball@mhec.state.md.us, or fax to 410-332-0270. Comments will be accepted through May 5, 2014. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

Economic Impact Statement Part C

A. Fiscal Year in which regulations will become effective: FY 2014

B. Does the budget for the fiscal year in which regulations become effective contain

funds to implement the regulations?

Yes

C. If 'yes', state whether general, special (exact name), or federal funds will be used:

General funds will be used. However, no new or additional funds will be needed to implement these regulations.

D. If 'no', identify the source(s) of funds necessary for implementation of these regulations:

E. If these regulations have no economic impact under Part A, indicate reason briefly:

These regulations expand the opportunity for college students to achieve academic credit. No increased revenues or costs to institutions of higher education are anticipated. MHEC will not be impacted.

F. If these regulations have minimal or no economic impact on small businesses under Part B, indicate the reason and attach small business worksheet.

Small business do not come under these regulations.

G. Small Business Worksheet:

Attached Document:

TITLE 13B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

SUBTITLE 02 ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

Chapter 02 Minimum Requirements for In-State Degree-Granting Institutions

.16 Graduation Requirements.

A. Associate Degree.

(1)—(2) (text unchanged)

[(3) A student shall earn at least 30 credit hours by direct instruction for conferral of a degree.]

[(4)] (3)—[(5)](4) (text unchanged)

B. Baccalaureate Degree.

(1)—(2) (text unchanged)

[(3) A student shall earn, by direct instruction, at least 60 credit hours required for the conferral of the baccalaureate degree.]

[(4)] (3)— [(5)] (4) (text unchanged)

C.—G. (text unchanged)

[H. Credit for Prior Learning.

- (1) An in-State institution may not award more than 1/2 the number of credit hours required for graduation, regardless of the method of assessing the credit hours, for prior learning or experience.
- (2) An institution may award credit hours for prior learning or experience based upon successful completion of an acceptable standardized examination such as the College Level Examination Program.
- (3) An institution may not award more than:
 - (a) 30 credit hours of the minimum 120 credit hours required for the baccalaureate degree or a proportional amount of a greater number of credit hours; or
 - (b) 15 credit hours of the minimum 60 credit hours required for the associate degree or a proportional amount of a greater number of credit hours for prior learning awarded based on examinations developed by the institution and on portfolio assessments.
- (4) An institution shall have on file copies of whatever examinations, test results, portfolios, and portfolio assessment reviews are used for the award of credit hours for prior learning. Faculty of the institution in the appropriate discipline shall conduct the assessment. The institution shall maintain the results of the assessments in the student's academic file.]

H. Credit for Competency-Based Education.

- (1) *An institution may award credit hours for competency-based education, such as credit for prior learning or demonstration of skills and knowledge in specific areas, based on:*
 - (a) *Successful completion of an acceptable standardized examination such as the College Level Examination Program;*
 - (b) *An examination developed by the institution;*
 - (c) *A portfolio assessment; or*
 - (d) *Another assessment method approved by the Secretary to demonstrate competencies.*
 - (2) *An institution that awards credit for competency-based education shall follow nationally accepted standards for the notation of such credit on a student's transcript.*
 - (3) *Institutional policy.*
 - (a) *An institution that awards credit for competency-based education shall submit to the Secretary a written policy that articulates standards for the assessment and awarding of credit hours to students.*
 - b) *The institution shall:*
 - (i) *Develop and approve the policy through appropriate governance channels, including seeking input from students and faculty;*
 - (ii) *Submit the policy to the Secretary for approval;*
 - (iii) *Review and update the policy at least every three years to ensure that it reflects current practice; and*
 - (iv) *Resubmit the policy to the Secretary for approval when changes are made.*
 - (c) *The Secretary shall:*
 - (i) *Review the institution's policy;*
 - (ii) *Approve the policy if the Secretary determines that the policy is complete and that all assessment methods will be effective for assessing students' competencies; and*
 - (iii) *Maintain the written policy on file at the Commission.*
 - (d) *An institution may not implement its policy until it receives the Secretary's written approval.*
 - (4) *Faculty of the institution in the appropriate discipline shall conduct each assessment.*
 - (5) *Maintenance of copies.*
 - (a) *An institution shall maintain copies of all examinations, test results, portfolios, portfolio assessment reviews, and other methods approved by the Secretary to assess learning for the award of credit hours for competency-based education.*
 - (b) *The copies shall be maintained for one year after a student graduates or for 5 years after a student was last enrolled, as applicable.*
 - (6) *Report to Secretary.*
 - (a) *Where graduates of an institution earn more than half of the credit hours toward their degree or certificate program through competency-based education, the institution shall submit an annual report to the Secretary.*
 - (b) *The report shall be:*
 - (i) *In the form required by the Secretary; and*
 - (ii) *Submitted by October 1st of each year for the prior academic year.*
 - (c) *The report shall detail:*
 - (i) *The number of degrees and certificates awarded in this manner;*
 - (ii) *The number of credits for competency-based education granted per degree or certificate awarded; and*
 - (iii) *The methods used for assessing and awarding credit for competency-based education.*
- I.—O. (text unchanged)