



House Appropriations Committee

HB 1082 Higher Education-Denial of Transfer Credit-Notice and Report (Transfer With Success Act)

Testimony by

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Position: Support

The following information is taken directly from the Maryland Higher Education Commission website <https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/stuguide.aspx> from a page titled Student Guide to Transfer Among Maryland Colleges & Universities.

Students who enter higher education institutions in Maryland should have every opportunity to continue their learning throughout their lives. Some students will begin their college careers at a community college and transfer to a four-year college or university. Others will transfer between four-year institutions or from one community college to another. The purpose of this guide is to provide students with information to make the process of transferring from one college or university to another--not only from a community college to a four-year college, but from any college to any other in Maryland--an easier one. By following the advice in this guide, you can minimize (and hopefully avoid altogether) any loss of credit during transfer.

In Maryland, a student **may** be able to progress from one segment of the public higher education system to another without loss of time or duplication of courses. To help accomplish this, Maryland's public colleges and universities follow certain statewide policies. Several of the key policies are:

- Maryland community college students who have completed the associate degree or students who have completed 56 semester hours of credit with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0 shall not be denied direct transfer to a Maryland public four-year institution, unless the number of students seeking admission exceeds the number that can be accommodated.
- Courses taken at a Maryland community college as part of a recommended transfer program will ordinarily be applicable to related programs at a Maryland public institution granting the baccalaureate degree.
- The General Education Program a student takes at one public college or university will transfer without further review to another public institution without the need for a course-to-course match. That is, courses that are designated as general education by a sending institution will transfer as general education even if the receiving institution does not offer that specific course or has not designated that course as general education.

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- Courses designated as meeting the general education requirements at any Maryland public college shall be applicable to the general education requirements at any other Maryland public college or university.
 - Credit earned in or transferred from an associate degree-granting institution shall be limited to approximately one-half the baccalaureate degree program requirement, not to exceed 70 credits, and to the first two years of the undergraduate educational experience.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

A student is held accountable for the loss of credits that result from changes in the student's major program of study, were earned for remedial course work or exceed the total course credits allowable in transfer from a community college to a baccalaureate institution (*e.g.*, one-half of the credits required for graduation at the receiving institution--generally 60 credits for the bachelor's degree and in no case more than 70 credits).

A student has the right to question any denial of transfer credit by a public college or university. The steps to appeal a denial of credit will be printed in the college's catalog and/or student handbook.

There are time limits set on each step of the appeals process to protect the student by ensuring that an appeal is dealt with quickly. The steps in the process are summarized below. To receive a full description of the appeal process, see your college catalog, student handbook or the transfer coordinator on your campus.

<u>Steps in the Process</u>	<u>Time limit</u>
1. The receiving institution notifies the student of denial of transfer credit.	Under normal conditions, notification must be made no later than mid-semester of the first semester of enrollment
2. Appeal to the receiving institution by the student.	20 working days (4 weeks)
3. Response by the receiving institution.	10 working days (2 weeks)
4. If transfer credit is still denied, the student may ask his/her sending institution to intervene on the student's behalf.	10 working days (2 weeks)
5. The sending institution and the receiving institution consult. The sending institution informs the student of the result.	15 working days (3 weeks)

The guidelines and extensive processes listed above do not guarantee transfer of credit between Maryland institutions of higher education. Each receiving institution must be held accountable when transfer credits are

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denied. This process will require additional work at each institution but our students and sending institutions need to know the reason credits do not transfer. I urge your favorable support of this bill, it will benefit all students transferring credit among Maryland higher education institutions.

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