

House Appropriations Committee
Delegate Maggie McIntosh., Chair
General Assembly of Maryland
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FAVORABLE
March 5, 2020

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

Dear Madame Chair,

I am writing this letter urging a favorable report for House Bill (HB) 1082, the Transfer with Success Act. I graduated from Montgomery College (MC) in May of 2019 with 60 credits and began my journey at University of Maryland College Park with only 57 credits. I appealed the decision because as a young mom of two, I could only handle 12 credits per semester at a time. I had my plan ready to graduate within two years from University of Maryland but was now faced with trying to fit three extra credits into my schedule and into my budget. I struggled trying to get my three credits back, but ultimately was not able to do so. I hope this bill brings awareness to MC and UMD and other higher ed institutions, so they can begin conversations on how to better serve their transfer students.

I took COMM 108, which is a foundations and introduction to speech class, and COMM 121, which is a public speaking class. I was advised from MC counselors that taking that class would meet my elective requirements and I would have my 60 credits to graduate. I always made it clear to my counselors my plan was to transfer to UMD. I also met with the UMD counselor, Tyler McClenithan, on MC's campus. I specifically asked what credits would transfer and what classes were required to transfer in as a Government & Politics Major. However, the counselor could not explain what classes would transfer or what classes were duplicative of UMD classes. I was simply told to review MC's website and ARTSY'S to compare and see what classes I needed. They place the burden on the student to complete the research, even though we approach them because we are confused and need guidance.

COMM 108 and COMM 121 are both equivalents to COMM 107, which means I took the same course twice so they could only award me three credits. However, COMM 108 and COMM 121 are two completely different classes at MC that cover completely different topics. I tried to get my three credits but to no avail. It is not fair that colleges cannot provide an easy path for students to transfer from one institution to another and that lack of communication between colleges cost students valuable time and money.

HB 1082 establishes a process for UMD and MC to coordinate their course and transfer requirements to ensure students don't face the dilemma I did. It was hard enough trying to cover classes because I don't qualify for financial aid and rely on scholarships to pay for tuition. The jump from six-hundred dollars for one class to one thousand two hundred was daunting as scholarships were not enough to cover all my classes. I spent money on classes to achieve my

60 credit requirements at MC and then had to turn around and spend more money at UMD to achieve my 120 credits. It simply is outrageous that people can't get credit for classes they have taken, paid for, and passed. This bill is an important step in ensuring an effective and transparent credit transfer process for students BEFORE they pay the four-hundred dollar nonrefundable fee at the University System of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Yoslin Amaya