

The Legislature  
of the  
State of New Mexico

52nd Legislature, 1st Session

LAWS 2015

CHAPTER 29

HOUSE BILL 282

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Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE ROD D. MONTOYA

REPRESENTATIVES PATRICIO R. RUILOBA, JAVIER I. MARTINEZ,  
BILL McCAMLEY, CATHRYNN NOVICH BROWN,  
KELLY K. FAJARDO, MONICA YOUNGBLOOD,  
LARRY R. SCOTT, JASON C. HARPER,  
NATE GENTRY, G. ANDRES ROMERO,  
SARAH MAESTAS BARNES, JAMES G. TOWNSEND,  
NORA ESPINOZA AND JAMES M. DINES



# CHAPTER 29

## AN ACT

1  
2 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; REQUIRING A COMMON COURSE NAMING  
3 AND NUMBERING SYSTEM BY AUGUST 1, 2017; UPDATING REFERENCES TO  
4 THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

5  
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

7 SECTION 1. Section 21-1B-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,  
8 Chapter 224, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

9 "21-1B-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Post-Secondary  
10 Education Articulation Act:

11 A. "articulation" means the transfer of course  
12 credit from one institution to another;

13 B. "department" means the higher education  
14 department;

15 C. "discipline module" means lower-division  
16 courses, including the general education core, that meet the  
17 lower-division college-level requirements for a specific  
18 degree;

19 D. "general education core" means the grouping of  
20 lower division general education courses of at least thirty-  
21 five hours that are established by the department for transfer  
22 and that are accepted by all institutions for transfer  
23 purposes;

24 E. "institution" means an accredited, public post-  
25 secondary educational institution operating in the state; and

1 F. "module" or "transfer module" means a  
2 standardized list of courses established by the department for  
3 which credit is accepted for transfer from one institution to  
4 another."

5 SECTION 2. Section 21-1B-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,  
6 Chapter 224, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

7 "21-1B-3. ARTICULATION PLAN--DEVELOPMENT--  
8 IMPLEMENTATION--ESTABLISHMENT OF TRANSFER MODULE.--

9 A. The department shall establish and maintain a  
10 comprehensive statewide plan to provide for the articulation  
11 of educational programs and facilitate the transfer of  
12 students between institutions.

13 B. In establishing a statewide articulation plan,  
14 the department shall:

15 (1) by August 1, 2017, establish a common  
16 course naming and numbering system for courses identified as  
17 substantially equivalent lower-division courses; provided that  
18 the department shall establish an interim mechanism of a  
19 statewide equivalency table that uses a universal taxonomy to  
20 identify substantially equivalent courses until the common  
21 system is in place;

22 (2) establish a process to identify courses  
23 as substantially equivalent. The process shall:

24 (a) include a procedure for each course  
25 whereby faculty members from each segment teaching the

1 academic discipline will reach mutual agreement on the  
2 material to be taught and the competencies to be gained;

3 (b) ensure that the content of each  
4 course is comparable across institutions offering that course;

5 (c) ensure that substantially all the  
6 content agreed to among the institutions as the content to be  
7 covered by a course is in fact covered in that course and that  
8 students successfully completing the course will achieve like  
9 competencies with respect to the content covered; and

10 (d) ensure that the content  
11 requirements for each course will be sufficient to prepare  
12 students for upper-division coursework in that field; and

13 (3) define, publish and maintain modules of  
14 lower-division courses accepted for transfer at all  
15 institutions and meeting requirements for lower-division  
16 requirements established for associate and baccalaureate  
17 degree-granting programs.

18 C. The department shall ensure that institutions  
19 develop transfer modules that include approximately sixty-four  
20 hours of lower-division college-level credit.

21 D. Transfer modules shall include a common general  
22 education core component of not less than thirty-five semester  
23 hours. This general education core shall include a  
24 comprehensive array of lower-division college-level courses  
25 designed to demonstrate skills in communication, mathematics,


1 science, social and behavioral science, humanities, fine arts  
2 or comparable areas of study coordinated for the purpose of  
3 providing a foundation for a liberal education for all  
4 programs normally leading to a baccalaureate degree. The  
5 general education core shall transfer as a block and count as  
6 required lower-division coursework toward a degree, and any  
7 course in the core shall be transferable and shall count as  
8 credit hours toward fulfilling an institution's general  
9 education core requirements.

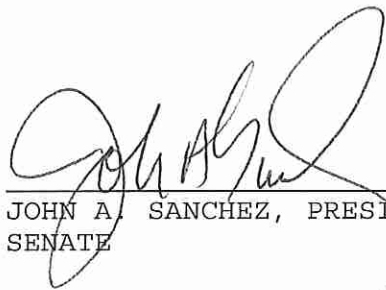
10 E. Any course in the general education core may be  
11 offered for dual credit to secondary school students and, upon  
12 successful completion, the course shall be transferable to any  
13 institution and shall count as fulfilling a required lower-  
14 division course.

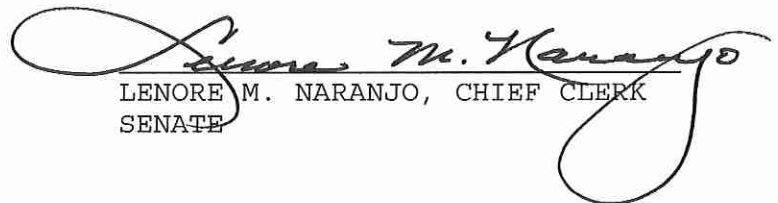
15 F. A discipline module shall consist of an agreed-  
16 upon number of hours and courses, including the general  
17 education core, of approximately sixty-four hours applicable  
18 to the discipline and any course within the discipline module  
19 is transferable and shall count toward fulfilling degree  
20 requirements at a four-year institution." \_\_\_\_\_

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DON TRIPP, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
DENISE RAMONAS, CHIEF CLERK  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
JOHN A. SANCHEZ, PRESIDENT  
SENATE

  
LENORE M. NARANJO, CHIEF CLERK  
SENATE

Approved by me this 3rd day of April, 2015

  
SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO