Texas Higher Education
COORDINATING BOARD
Academic Affairs and Workforce Education
P. O. Box 12788 Austin, Texas 78711 • 1200 East Anderson Lane 78752

M E M O R A N D U M

Ray Martinez III, J.D.
Deputy Commissioner
Academic Affairs & Workforce Education
512.427.6520
ray.martinez@highered.texas.gov
FAX: 512.427.6127

Dakota Doman, Ed.D.
Senior Director
Strategic Initiatives & Policy Implementation
512.427.6241
dakota.doman@highered.texas.gov
FAX: 512.427.6127

Jerel Booker, J.D.
Assistant Commissioner
College Readiness and Success
512.427.6216
jerel.booker@highered.texas.gov
FAX: 512.427.6247

Tina Jackson, Ph.D.
Assistant Commissioner
Workforce Education
512.427.6209
Tina.jackson@highered.texas.gov
FAX: 512.427.6168

Stacey Silverman, Ph.D.
Assistant Commissioner
Academic and Health Affairs
512.427.6206
stacey.silverman@highered.texas.gov
FAX: 512.427.6168

Michelle Singh, Ph.D.
Assistant Commissioner
Digital Learning
512.427. 6284
michelle.singh@highered.texas.gov
FAX: 512.427.6168

To: Chief Academic Officers

From: Ray Martinez, III, J.D.

Subject: Senate Bill 1227 College-Level Examination Program Examination Score Legislation

Dear Colleagues,

During the regular session of the 87th Texas Legislature, Senate Bill 1227 (SB 1227) was passed. This bill requires public institutions of higher education to use an exam score not higher than the recommended score, as determined by the American Council on Education (ACE), when awarding credit for College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) examinations. This is an effort to make it more transparent for students to make decisions about utilizing CLEP exams with an expectation of receiving credit for a qualifying score. The legislation takes effect September 1, 2021 and will affect incoming freshman students beginning in spring 2022.

Legislative Requirement

The scores used to award credit for CLEP exams must follow two requirements:

1) Institutions may not require a score higher than the minimum score recommended by ACE for granting course credit for that examination.
   a. ACE recommends a score of 50 for all exams except Level II World Language exams which allow higher scores.
2) Exceptions are allowed if the institution's Chief Academic Officer determines, based on evidence, that a higher score is necessary to indicate that a student is sufficiently prepared to be successful in a related, more advanced course for which the lower-division course is a prerequisite.

Stakeholder Benefits

The use of recommended scores will benefit several stakeholders, specifically students and families, Texas public institutions of higher education, researchers, and policymakers.

For students, they will provide *transparency* and *consistency* by giving a single-score goal when participating in CLEP exams, and by allowing students to participate in CLEP exam testing without a concern that score requirements may change year over year.

Score alignment will also provide *actionable data* to Texas public institutions of higher education to facilitate student success and target advising efforts. The

Coordinating Board will be able to provide *insightful reporting* on the impact of credit earned by students for CLEP exams and for success rates in the appropriate, sequent courses.

Timeline & Next Steps

SB 1227 takes effect with entering freshmen students at public institutions of higher education for the 2022 spring semester. Institutions should review their CLEP credit policy and takes steps to address any score awards above ACE recommendations.

For more information contact:

Dr. Audra Patridge
Academic and Health Affairs
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
PHONE 512-427-6232
FAX 512-427-6168
Audra.Patridge@highered.texas.gov