

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, August 8, 2013

BUSINESS ITEM A-4:

Update on Standard Credit Hour Expectations for Undergraduate Degree Programs

Background

In 2012, the General Assembly passed House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1220, which created a standard expectation that associate degrees would consist of 60 semester hours of coursework and baccalaureate degrees would consist of 120 semester hours, although exceptions would or could be made for additional credit hours due to external accreditation, occupational certification or licensure, employer requirements, or enhanced program quality. The bill was passed to help increase college completion, especially on-time completion, and reduce to cost of going to college.

At the time of its passage, an analysis showed that nearly 90 percent of associate and baccalaureate degree programs exceeded the standard credit hour expectation. This update will report on the considerable progress that has been made over the academic year that just ended, as well as additional progress that is anticipated during the year about to start.

Supporting Document

To be distributed