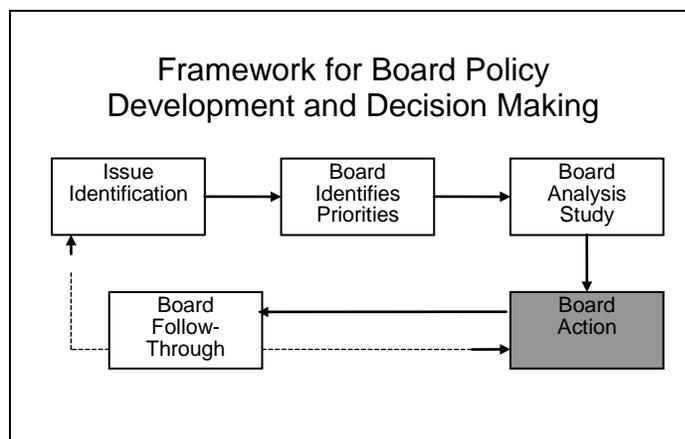


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

November 14, 2012



- Agenda Item:** Rules: Chapter 21 - Community Colleges “Associate of Community Professional Studies Pilot” (Notice)
- Iowa Goal:** Individuals will pursue postsecondary education in order to drive economic success.
- State Board Role/Authority:** Iowa Code section 256.7(5) gives the State Board of Education the statutory authority to adopt rules under chapter 17A.
- Presenters:** None (consent agenda)
- Attachments:** 1
- Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 21.
- Background:** Senate File 2284 amends Iowa Code to clarify that courses offered by a school district through collaboration with a community college in partnership with a nationally recognized, not for profit provider of rigorous and innovative science, technology, engineering and math curriculum, are courses eligible for supplementary weighting. Such courses are commonly known as “Project Lead the Way” courses. The proposed amendments implement this legislation.
- The proposed amendments phase out Associate of Science-Career Option programs over a three year period and implement an Associate of Professional Studies pilot. This pilot will have restrictive parameters and will be effective in the 2013-14 year. This pilot is required to meet the expectations of statewide articulation agreements, which include 20 credit hours of math and science in the program. It is the hope that this pilot will bring more quality and rigor in their programming than the previous effort that it replaces. There has been planning and outreach with impacted stakeholders, with this final product being the result of this work.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education hereby gives notice to amend Chapter 21, “Community Colleges,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The proposed amendments modify award requirements by phasing out Associate of Science – Career Option programs over a three year period and implementing an Associate of Professional Studies pilot. These rules were developed through more than two years of discussion with college academic leaders.

An agencywide waiver provision is provided in 281—Chapter 4.

Interested individuals may make written comments on the proposed amendments on or before January 4, 2013. Comments on the proposed amendments should be directed to Mike Cormack, Iowa Department of Education, second floor, Grimes State Office Building, East 14th Street and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319–0146; telephone (515) 281-3399; e-mail mike.cormack@iowa.gov; or fax (515)242–5988.

A public hearing will be held on January 4, 2013, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the state board room, second floor, Grimes State Office Building, East 14th Street and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact and advise the Department of Education of their specific needs by calling (515)281-5295.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 260C.

The following amendments are proposed.

21.2(9) Award requirements. The director shall approve all new credit certificate, diploma, and degree award programs in accordance with Iowa Code section 260C.14. Awards from a community college shall be certified by the issuance of appropriate recognition, pursuant to award approval requirement guidelines issued by the department, indicating the type of program the student has completed. The minimum number and maximum number of credit hours required for each award type contained within this subrule may be waived pursuant to paragraph 21.2(13) “i.” Each award shall meet the expectations of statewide articulation agreements between Iowa community colleges and public universities.

a. Associate of arts (AA). The degree is awarded upon completion of a college parallel (transfer) course of study that provides a strong general education component to satisfy the lower division general education liberal arts and sciences requirements for a baccalaureate degree. An associate of arts degree shall consist of a minimum of 60 semester (90 quarter) credit hours and a maximum of 64 semester (96 quarter) credit hours.

b. Associate of science (AS). The degree is awarded upon completion of a course of study that requires a strong background in mathematics or science. The degree is intended to prepare students to transfer and initiate upper-division work in baccalaureate programs ~~or prepare them for employment. An associate of science degree may also be awarded upon completion of a state-approved associate of science career option (AS-CO) program of study that includes core technical coursework needed to complete a concentration in a specific field of study. The AS-CO program shall prepare students for~~

~~entry-level careers and to complete requirements for transfer to a baccalaureate degree.~~
An associate of science degree awarded upon completion of an arts and sciences course of study shall consist of a minimum of 60 semester (90 quarter) credit hours and a maximum of 64 semester (96 quarter) credit hours. ~~An associate of science degree awarded upon completion of an AS-CO course of study shall consist of a minimum of 60 semester (90 quarter) credit hours and a maximum number of credit hours stated in program guidelines issued by the department. An associate of science degree awarded upon completion of an AS-CO course of study shall not consist of more than 70 semester (117 quarter) credit hours without an approved waiver pursuant to paragraph 21.2(13) "i."~~

c. Associate of general studies (AGS). The degree is awarded upon completion of ~~a~~ an individualized course of study that is primarily designed for the acquisition of a broad educational background rather than the pursuit of a specific college major or professional/technical program. It is intended as a flexible course of study and may include specific curriculum in lower division transfer, occupational education, or professional-technical education. It shall not include a marketed course of study. An associate of general studies degree shall consist of a minimum of 60 semester (90 quarter) credit hours and a maximum of 64 semester (96 quarter) credit hours.

d. Associate of applied science (AAS). The degree is awarded upon completion of a state-approved program of study that is intended to prepare students for entry-level career and technical occupations. An associate of applied science degree shall consist of a minimum of 60 semester (90 quarter) credit hours and a maximum of 86 semester (129 quarter) credit hours. The general education component of the associate of applied science degree program shall consist of a minimum of 12 semester (18 quarter) credit

hours of general education and shall include at least one course from each of the following areas: communications, social science or humanities, and mathematics or science. The technical specialty component of the associate of applied science degree shall constitute a minimum of 50 percent of the course credits.

e. Associate of applied arts (AAA). The degree is awarded upon completion of a state-approved program of study that is primarily intended for career training in providing students with professional skills for employment in a specific field of work such as arts, humanities, or graphic design. An associate of applied arts degree shall consist of a minimum of 60 semester (90 quarter) credit hours and a maximum of 86 semester (129 quarter) credit hours. The general education component of the associate of applied arts degree program shall consist of a minimum of 12 semester (18 quarter) credit hours of general education and shall include at least one course from each of the following: communications, social science or humanities, and mathematics or science. The technical specialty component of the associate of applied arts degree shall constitute a minimum of 50 percent of the course credits.

f. Associate of Professional Studies (APS) Pilot. The degree is awarded upon completion of a state-approved program of study that is intended to prepare students for transfer and upper division coursework in aligned baccalaureate programs or immediate entry into the workforce.

(1) Pilot awards shall be approved on a limited basis at the director's sole discretion. To be eligible to participate in the pilot, a college shall demonstrate that other award types cannot meet needs and the associate of professional studies award is appropriate. The department shall study the effectiveness of associate of professional

studies programs with regard to transfer and employment success after five years and make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding program parameters and continuation.

(2) Each state approved associate of science career option (ASCO) program of study shall be phased out by the end of the 2015-2016 academic year. All existing ASCO programs shall be modified to meet the parameters of allowable award types or discontinued.

(3) An associate of professional studies degree shall consist of a minimum of 62 semester (90 quarter) credit hours and a maximum of 68 semester (102 quarter) credit hours. The general education component of the associate of professional studies degree shall consist of a minimum of 30 semester (45 quarter) credit hours of general education including three semester (4.5 quarter) credit hours of each of the following: speech, mathematics, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, science; six semester (nine quarter) credit hours of writing; and nine semester (13.5 quarter) credit hours distributed among mathematics, social and behavioral sciences, humanities, and science. The technical specialty component of the associate of professional studies degree shall consist of a minimum of 16 semester (24 quarter) credit hours of career and technical coursework accepted by a receiving baccalaureate degree granting institution with an aligned program and applying toward a specific major or program of study. The technical specialty component of the degree shall also consist of a minimum of 16 additional semester (24 quarter) credit hours of career and technical coursework accepted by the receiving institution as electives.

(4) An associate of professional studies degree program of study shall have a minimum of three program-to-program articulation agreements with baccalaureate degree granting institutions at least one of which must be a public institution. A program shall have a minimum of one articulation agreement effective prior to program implementation, provided all three agreements are effective within the program's first year of student enrollment. The agreements shall provide for the application of no fewer than 60 semester (90 quarter) credit hours toward the graduation requirements of each articulated baccalaureate degree program.

g.f. Diploma. The diploma is awarded upon completion of a state-approved program of study that is a coherent sequence of courses consisting of a minimum of 15 semester (22.5 quarter) credit hours and a maximum of 48 semester (72 quarter) credit hours including at least 3 semester (4.5 quarter) credit hours of general education. The general education component shall be from any of the following areas: communications, social science or humanities, and mathematics or science. A diploma may be a component of and apply toward subsequent completion of an associate of applied science or associate of applied arts degree.

h.g. Certificate. The certificate is awarded upon completion of a state-approved program of study that is designed for entry-level employment and shall consist of a maximum of 48 semester (72 quarter) credit hours. A certificate may be a component of and apply toward subsequent completion of a diploma or associate of applied science or associate of applied arts degree and may be developed in rapid response to the needs of business and industry. A certificate may consist of only career and technical courses and no general education course requirements.

21.2(13) Career and technical program length.

a. Program length for the associate of applied science (AAS) degree in career and technical education, ~~and for the associate of applied arts (AAA) degree, and for the~~ associate of professional studies (APS) degree shall consist of an academic program not to exceed two academic years. All required course offerings are to be available within two academic years. All required offerings in AAS and AAA degree programs shall not exceed a maximum of 86 semester (129 quarter) credit hours unless the department of education has granted a waiver pursuant to paragraph 21.2(13)“i.” All required offerings in pilot APS degree programs shall not exceed a maximum of 68 credit hours. Programs shall not exceed an average of 19 credit hours per regular term.

b. All credit-bearing courses required for program admittance or graduation, or both, ~~must~~shall be included in the ~~86 semester (129 quarter)~~program length, with the exception of developmental course credit hours. Prerequisites that provide an option to students for either credit or noncredit shall be counted toward the program length ~~parameters~~maximum of 86 semester (129 quarter) credit hours. Prerequisite options that are only offered for noncredit ~~shall~~will not be counted toward program length ~~parameters~~the 86 semester (129 quarter) credit hour maximum. A high school course prerequisite is permissible and shall not count toward program length parameters, provided the prerequisite is reasonable. A high school course prerequisite is reasonable if a community college demonstrates that students entering the program predominantly meet the requirement without prior college coursework.

c. Associate of applied science (AAS) and associate of applied arts (AAA) programs that receive accreditation from nationally recognized accrediting bodies may

appeal maximum credit hour length requirements to the department for consideration of a waiver. All AAS and AAA degree programs over the 86 semester (129 quarter) credit hour maximum must have approved program-length waivers pursuant to paragraph 21.2(13)“i.”

d. Associate of professional studies pilot programs shall not be eligible for a program length waiver pursuant to paragraph 21.2(13)“i”. ~~Program length for the state-approved associate of science degree shall consist of an academic program that includes core technical coursework needed to complete a concentration in a specific field of study. The associate of science career option program may prepare students for entry-level careers or allow students to complete requirements for a transfer to a baccalaureate degree. The associate of science career option program shall not exceed the credit hour limit stated in department guidelines. To facilitate the transfer of students enrolling in associate of science career option programs and awarded the associate of science transfer degree, each program shall have articulation agreements with baccalaureate degree programs meeting the articulation agreement requirements stated in department guidelines. The associate of science career option program shall under no circumstances exceed a maximum of 70 semester (117 quarter) credit hours unless the department has granted a waiver pursuant to paragraph 21.2(13)“i.”~~

e. All credit certificate and diploma programs as defined in subrule 21.2(9) shall not exceed 48 semester (72 quarter) credit hours.

f. Each course offered in the area of career and technical education shall be taught in the shortest practical period of time at a standard consistent with the quality and

quantity of work needed to prepare the student for successful employment in the occupation for which instruction is being offered.

g. A full-time student in career and technical education shall be defined as a student enrolling in 12 or more semester credit hours or the equivalent in career and technical education.

h. Curricula in full-time career and technical education programs shall ordinarily be offered on the basis of student workload of 20 to 30 contact hours per week.

i. Waiver process. A college may petition the department to suspend in whole or in part a program-length requirement contained in paragraphs 21.2(13)"a" to "e" ~~21.2(12)"h"~~ to ~~"m"~~ as applied to a specific program on the basis of the particular circumstances of that program.

(1) Waivers shall be issued at the director's sole discretion. Waivers shall be narrowly tailored and granted for a period no longer than two academic years, after which reapplication is required. A waiver may be granted on a long-term basis not to exceed ten years if issuing the waiver for a shorter period is not practical.

(2) All petitions for waiver must be submitted in writing to the department. A petition shall include the following information: specific waiver request including scope and duration, the relevant facts that the petitioner believes would justify a waiver, a detailed statement of the impact on student achievement, any information known regarding the department's treatment of similar cases, and any additional information deemed relevant by the petitioner. The department shall acknowledge a petition upon receipt.

(3) The department shall ensure that, within 30 calendar days, notice of pendency of the petition and a concise summary of its contents have been provided to a committee consisting of the chief academic officers of each community college. In addition, the department may give notice to other persons.

(4) A committee consisting of the chief academic officers of a majority of community colleges shall review the waiver request and provide a recommendation to the department regarding whether approval should be granted. Within 90 calendar days of receiving the recommendation, the department shall review the petition and issue a ruling. Failure of the department to grant or deny a petition within the required time period shall be deemed a denial of that petition. If a waiver is issued, the department shall provide a description of the precise scope and operative period to all interested parties.