

Kentucky

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
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- 1) Does the state have an identifiable “P-16” effort visible? Who is in charge of this effort?

Yes. Kentucky P-16 Council is a shared responsibility of the Kentucky Department of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education. Membership includes labor, business, teacher certification, early childhood, adult education groups as well as the Secretary of the Education Cabinet.

- a) Does the agency include a utility or function on its website designed explicitly to help potential students locate an appropriate college or university to attend?

Yes. www.gohigherky.org

- 2) Is a mandated or recommended college preparatory curriculum in place in the state’s public high schools?

Yes, regulation (13 KAR 2:020) outlining the Council's pre-college curriculum: <http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/013/002/020.htm> (see Section 3 of the regulation).

It is located on the following page of the Council's Web site:

<http://cpe.ky.gov/policies/academicpolicies/Admissions.htm>

The regulation is currently under revision, but the pre-college curriculum will remain unchanged.

- 3) Has the state articulated a set of explicit competencies or skills that define what it means to be “college ready?”

Yes, based on American Diploma Project participation and ACT college readiness standards. Set of explicit competencies and skills defining college readiness are outlined in the action agenda item passed November 11, 2004: http://cpe.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/54D3A49D-7AB0-4C2A-AF94-3F5BAAA13945/0/20041108_AgendaItem7.pdf

We have been distributing the following double-sided, tri-fold brochure describing college-readiness to high school students and their teachers, guidance counselors, and parents:

<http://cpe.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/73E9A7B3-84DC-4EC2-8F1B-6A99261B5FB4/0/StatewidePlacementPolicy.pdf>

- 4) Are systematic programs in place in the state that encourage students to accelerate progress by taking college-level courses while still enrolled in high school?

No, but a statewide task force on dual credit will be recommending such policies this year. In addition, via the Kentucky Virtual Campus, high school students in the state have access to College Now! <http://www.kyvu.org/learning/collegenow.asp?UID={764E8DF4-9208-40B0-A1B5-4FF03C989B18}>

- 5) Is there a statewide policy present that governs placement into college-level courses or remedial courses? Is a standard set of placement tests recommended or required? If yes, are common cut scores for placement decisions in place or do institutions get to set their own?

Yes. There is a statewide policy that governs placement into college-level or remedial courses. No there are not cut scores currently, but the these will be developed with common cut scores within by 2008/09 per the recommendation of the Developmental Education Task Force (see report “Securing Kentucky’s Future” at www.cpe.ky.gov)

- 6) Is there a visible statewide transfer and articulation policy? Does this cover all institutions or only public institutions? What are the specifics of this policy?

Yes. For specifics see

<http://www.gohigherky.com/Planning/transfer>

<http://www.gohigherky.com/Planning/transfer/genedtransferpolicy.pdf>

- a) Is the transfer/articulation policy accompanied by a statewide transferable general education requirement? Does this name actual courses and/or credits? Are specific competencies identified that the student should meet through this coursework? Is testing used to guarantee student competency for progress or transfer?

The Statewide General Education Transfer Policy is an agreement between Kentucky's public universities where they agree to recognize the completion of general education areas or categories. There are five categories with the core component areas consisting of 33 credit hours and the total general education program consists of 48 total credit hours. Kentucky does not have a common course numbering system and actual courses are not named. Students who complete an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science transfer degree are certified as meeting all general education areas or categories. Students may also be area or block certified in any general education area or category that they have completed if they transfer without an Associates degree. There are three levels of general education certification; each level is based on the number of credit hours and category of courses completed. When a student in good academic standing has completed some but not all of the five general education categories in the 33 credit hour Core Component they can be Category Certified as having completed specified areas or categories in the general education core. Students are Core Certified when they have completed all of the areas or categories in the 33 credit hour general education core. Students who complete all of the 48 credit hours in the general education program are Fully General Education Certified. Testing is not used to measure competencies in the general education areas for category certification or transfer. The specific link for the Statewide General Education Transfer Policy is <http://www.cpe.ky.gov/policies/academicpolicies/transfer.htm>

- b) More specifically, does an AA or AS degree from a community college in the state meet general education requirements at public four-year institutions? What mechanisms are in place to make sure this actually happens?

Yes (see http://cpe.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/EA627928-B9F6-4BC9-8F4B-278C58561672/0/7_transferupdate.pdf)

- c) Does credit from transfer courses meet specific course requirements at the transfer institution (e.g. American History counts for American History) or do just the credits transfer to count against the total needed for graduation?

The agreement is organized around “blocks” of courses. If you meet the math general education requirement at one institution you have met it for all, same for Communication, Science, etc. If you complete General Education at one institution totally it is completed for all. But it is not a course to course articulation (see http://cpe.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/EA627928-B9F6-4BC9-8F4B-278C58561672/0/7_transferupdate.pdf)

- 7) Are there statewide test-out or competency-based provisions that will allow a student to accelerate progress toward a degree?

No, but this is being developed as part of our efforts to attract more adult learners into the system, especially adults with some college but no degree.

- 8) Does the state have an easily-accessible state-supported alternative institution that allows students to complete their degrees more quickly or conveniently than through attendance at a traditional public institution?

Yes. Kentucky Virtual Campus/Library

<http://www.kyvu.org/>

<http://www.kyvl.org/>

- a) Does the state have an accessible central bank or catalog of on-line courses contributed by many institutions that enable students to do “one-stop shopping” for electronic courses?

Yes. Available at <http://www.kyvu.org/>

- 9) Does the state provide incentives to institutions for improvements in degree production or graduation rates? For minimizing the number of students graduating with excessive numbers of credits (e.g. more than 120 SCH)?

Yes, the state provides incentives for improvements in degree production or graduation rates. No, there are no incentives for minimizing the number of students graduating with excessive credits.

- 10) Does the state provide incentives for students who successfully complete their degrees (e.g. tuition rebates or cash bonuses)? For students who complete their programs without amassing additional credits (e.g. within 120 SCH)? Are there financial disincentives for

students to take more than the number of credits needed to graduate (e.g. full or out-of-state tuition)?

Only thing that might be considered an incentive is Kentucky's loan forgiveness programs set up for nurses, teachers, and attorneys.

<http://www.kheaa.ky.gov/ahe/ahestaate.pdf>