

*Sent on behalf of Rex C. Peebles, Assistant Commissioner;
Academic Quality and Workforce Division; Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chancellors/Presidents and Chief Instructional Officers of Public Community,
Technical
Colleges and Lamars; Chancellors/Presidents and Chief Academic Officers of
Public
Universities and Health-Related Institutions

FROM: Rex C. Peebles, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Quality and Workforce

DATE: July 27, 2018

SUBJECT: Field of Study Update

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is continuing its work on creating or revising Fields of Study (FOS) for the most frequent transfer majors in Texas.

At its quarterly meeting yesterday, the Board approved the FOS for Biology, Criminal Justice, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, and Business Administration & Management (also applying to Accounting, Finance, Marketing, Business/Commerce, and Management Information Systems). This now makes 23 Board-approved FOS, 14 of which apply to the top 25 most popular for Texas transfer students. The Board also approved rules authorizing a Health and Wellness FOS Advisory Committee, and it approved membership for advisory committees in Computer Science, Drama, Economics, and Communications. Thanks to your participation, we are well on our way to completing our goal of having FOS for all the top 25 transfer fields before the start of the next Legislative session. The new FOS approved at the meeting are effective in fall 2019.

All of the courses in the FOS are guaranteed to transfer across all public institutions of higher education in Texas, and they are required to apply toward a baccalaureate degree program in the discipline. The courses in each FOS are selected by a balanced committee of two-year college and university faculty that consider the lower division courses necessary for student success in the major. Each committee reviewed the available courses in the Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM), considered the creation of new courses not currently in the ACGM, and discussed how courses can work in both the FOS and the core curriculum to maximize student preparedness for transfer while minimizing students taking unnecessary semester credit hours. As a result, the FOS represents an efficient, effective, and guaranteed pathway from initial enrollment to a degree. Your institution can help maximize the benefits of the FOS by

assisting transfer students at every stage of the degree pathway, from dual enrollment to seamless transfer into a university.

Pending Board approval, we will soon be issuing calls for nominations for FOS Advisory Committees in Multidisciplinary Studies (Teaching), Health & Wellness, Agricultural Business and Management, Communication Disorders Sciences and Services, Journalism, Design and Graphic Arts, Animal Sciences, and other disciplines. I strongly encourage you to send in nominations for committees when the invitation memo is distributed. It is important to have representatives from a wide sample of institutions from different university Systems, community college districts, regions, sizes, and missions. If your nominee for a committee is not selected, I encourage you and your faculty to carefully review each proposed FOS and send a response during the 30-day public comment period.

All Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public, broadcast live via the Coordinating Board's website, and stored for playback on YouTube.

All of the Board-approved FOS are available at this website:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=7D02BA60-18B8-11E8-A6640050560100A9>

Information about current and forthcoming FOS Advisory Committees available at this website:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=532179A0-1752-11E8-A6640050560100A9>

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Allen Michie via email at allen.michie@thecb.state.tx.us or at (512) 427-6518, or you can contact me.

c: Liaisons