

## CHAPTER III: COORDINATION<sup>1</sup> - STATE UNIVERSITIES, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, TECHNICAL COLLEGES, WASHBURN UNIVERSITY AND/OR THE WASHBURN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

A ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (See Chapter II., Section A. for additional academic affairs policies applicable to state universities)

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### **18. SYSTEMWIDE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

For the purposes of this policy:

“Coordinated institution” means each community college and Washburn University.

“Kansas public institution” means each state university and each participating coordinated institution.

“Major” means a field of study within a degree program, having its own curriculum. A degree program may have more than one major.

“Systemwide transfer course” means a course approved by the Board, for which faculty develop and update learning outcomes. These courses transfer to any Kansas public institution offering an equivalent course.

**a. General Education Requirements at State Universities and Participating Coordinated Institutions. The general education requirements at each state university and each participating coordinated institution shall consist of the following:**

**i. Effective no later than the 2024 fall semester, each Kansas public institution shall use a common systemwide general education framework within associate of arts (A.A.) degrees, associate of fine arts (A.F.A) degrees, associate of science (A.S.) degrees, and all baccalaureate degrees.**

**ii. The systemwide general education framework shall include 34-35 credit hours within the following seven areas. A student shall be considered to have completed the systemwide general education framework for A.A. degrees, A.F.A degrees, A.S. degrees, and all baccalaureate degrees by meeting the following requirements:**

**(1) English Discipline Area – 6 Credit Hours**

**(2) Communication Discipline Area – 3 Credit Hours**

**(3) Math and Statistics Discipline Area – 3 Credit Hours**

**(Must be college level. Intermediate algebra shall not meet any of the math degree requirements)**

**(4) Natural and Physical Sciences Discipline Area – 4-5 Credit Hours**

**One course with a lab from the following subject areas:**

**Anatomy**

**Astronomy**

**Biochemistry**

**Biology**

**Botany**

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<sup>1</sup> See Chapter I., Section A.3 for definition of Coordination.

Chemistry  
Earth Science  
Ecology  
Environmental Science  
Geology  
Meteorology  
Microbiology  
Physical Geography  
Physical Sciences  
Physics  
Physiology  
Zoology  
Other subjects that the offering institution determines fit within the natural and physical sciences area

(5) Social & Behavioral Sciences Discipline Area – 6 Credit Hours

A minimum of two courses from two of the following subject areas:

Anthropology  
Criminal Justice  
Economics  
Ethnic and/or Gender Studies  
Geography  
Political Science  
Psychology  
Social Work  
Sociology  
Other subjects that the offering institution determines fit within the social sciences area

(6) Arts & Humanities Discipline Area – 6 Credit Hours

A minimum of two courses from two of the following subject areas:

Art \*  
Communications  
Cultural Studies  
Dance\*  
English  
General Humanities  
History  
Literature  
Modern and Classical Languages  
Music\*  
Philosophy  
Religion  
Theater\*  
Other subjects that the offering institution determines fit within the arts and humanities  
\*The application of performance courses in this subject area is at the discretion of the institution.

#### (7) Institutionally Designated Area – 6 Credit Hours

This area provides flexibility for each Kansas public institution to define requirements to account for societal issues, local needs, and institutional priorities (Intermediate algebra shall not meet any of the requirements in this area).

iii. Each Kansas public institution that verifies that the student has met the requirements in paragraphs 18.a.ii.(1)-(7) of this policy section shall note “KS Systemwide General Education Completed” on its official transcript.

iv. The application of the systemwide general education requirements for transfer students is detailed in the Board’s transfer and articulation policy.

#### **b. Incorporating Credit by Exam into the General Education Framework**

i. To ensure that students have comparable opportunities to earn general education credit by demonstrating requisite knowledge and skills on national assessments, a Kansas public institution shall award credit, consistent with the provisions established in the Board’s credit by exam policy, for general education courses in:

(1) the subjects detailed in paragraphs 18.a.ii.(1)-(6) of this policy section; and

(2) any applicable subjects within the institution’s institutionally designated area selected from paragraph 18.a.ii.(7) of this policy section.

ii. General education credit earned based on achieving a requisite score on an exam detailed in the Board’s credit by exam policy shall be noted on each Kansas public institution’s transcript and apply towards satisfying a general education requirement on the same basis as if the credit had been earned through completing the course(s).

iii. Transferring credit awarded through credit by exam is addressed in the Board’s transfer and articulation policy.

#### **c. Request for a Major to Deviate from Systemwide General Education Requirements**

i. A Kansas public institution may request that a specific major include general education requirements that deviate from the systemwide general education requirements established by this policy by submitting a request to the General Education Council. A Kansas public institution that receives approval to modify one or more requirements of the systemwide general education framework for a specific major shall use the remaining portions of the systemwide general education framework that were not included in the approved modification. The General Education Council shall issue a recommendation to approve or deny the request. The General Education Council’s recommendation shall be submitted for review to the Board President and Chief Executive Officer who will determine if the request is approved or denied. Each request shall include a degree requirements sheet outlining the proposed general education requirements (disciplines, course title options, and credit hours), the major requirements (course titles and credit hours), and any other course requirements that are needed to complete the degree and shall address the following:

(1) Identify the major for which the institution is requesting to modify the systemwide general education requirements and/or add to the systemwide general education requirements.

(2) If requesting a modification, identify the discipline area(s) of the systemwide general education framework that the institution seeks to modify.

(3) If requesting to add credit hours to the systemwide general education requirements, identify the addition being requested.

(4) Identify the challenges the systemwide general education requirements create for students in this major (if, for example, it extends the time to degree beyond four years, or results in certain critical courses being left out of a major).

(5) Identify the systemwide transfer courses that can be applied to satisfy the modified systemwide general education requirements and/or additions to the systemwide general education requirements.

(6) Identify any accreditation and/or licensure requirements associated with this major that make it impossible to employ the systemwide general education requirements.

(7) Detail how the institution will ensure that the potential modified general education or additional general education requirements will not create barriers to transfer students.

#### **d. Coordinated Institutions Opting Out of this Policy**

i. Any coordinated institution may opt out of participating in this policy and its required application to the Board's transfer and articulation policy in Chapter III.A 2.g. If a coordinated institution wishes to opt out, the institution's president shall submit written notification to the Board, which will be discussed as an informational agenda item at a regular Board meeting. For each coordinated institution that opts out, all systemwide general education program and transfer-related academic advising, marketing, and general information content will explicitly note that the institution declined to participate in the systemwide general education program.

#### **e. Reporting**

##### **i. Annual Submissions**

(1) Each Kansas public institution shall annually submit the following, which will be subject to verification from the General Education Council. Some of these elements will be published on the Board of Regent's website:

(a) a list of the courses meeting the systemwide general education discipline area requirements in paragraphs 18.a.(1)-(6) and the institutionally designated area in paragraph 18.a.(7);

(b) a list of the majors in which the Board President and Chief Executive Officer has granted permission to deviate from the systemwide general education requirements; and

(c) a list of the majors in which the Board President and Chief Executive Officer has granted permission to continue requiring a specific general education course – and not waive such a course requirement – for a transfer student who has completed the systemwide general education or completed a systemwide general education discipline area requirement. See 2.g.v. for more information.

##### **(2) Board Staff Report**

(a) Board staff shall submit an annual report to the Board that includes:

(i) a list of the majors at each Kansas public institution in which the Board President and Chief Executive Officer has granted permission to deviate from the systemwide general education requirements; and

(ii) a list of the majors at each Kansas public institution in which the Board President and Chief Executive Officer has granted permission to continue requiring a specific general education course – and not waive such a course requirement – for a transfer student who has completed the systemwide general education or completed a systemwide general education discipline area requirement.

##### **ii. Other Submissions**

(1) As determined by the Board of Academic Affairs Standing Committee, Kansas public institutions shall submit a degree map for each major it offers. These are term-by-term sample course schedules that specify milestones, courses, and special requirements that are necessary for facilitating timely degree completion. The review of the degree maps will include a focus on how the systemwide general education is integrated into the maps. Additionally, an emphasis will be placed on interpreting the pathway to completion through the lens of a

prospective, current, and transfer students because this tool will serve as a planning resource for all of these students; and

(2) As needed, the General Education Council may request additional information pertaining to this policy and/or general education transfer.

**f. General Education Council**

i. A General Education Council comprised of college and university representatives shall be established. The members of the General Education Council shall be approved by the Board President and Chief Executive Officer. The General Education Council shall:

(1) Review and verify the annual submissions detailed in subsection 18.e.;

(2) review and issue recommendations to the Board President and Chief Executive Officer when an institution submits a request to deviate from the systemwide general education requirements, as detailed in subsection 18.c.;

(3) investigate and act upon institutional and/or student complaints, with input from the Board President and Chief Executive Officer and/or Board, as needed, regarding the systemwide general education program requirements policy and its application to the Board's transfer and articulation policy;

(4) issue guidance, with input from the Board President and Chief Executive Officer and/or Board, as needed, regarding the Board's systemwide general education requirements policy and its application to the Board's transfer and articulation policy; and

(5) develop a procedures document to guide the Council's activities.

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**2 TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION**

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**f. General Transfer Provisions**

**i.** Each Kansas public postsecondary educational institution shall establish its residency requirements, graduation requirements, and any admission requirements to professional or specific programs.

(1) Admission to an institution shall not equate with admission to a professional school or a specific program.

~~(2) Except as provided in paragraph f.iii., students must complete all graduation requirements of the receiving institution.~~

~~(3)~~ Students with a completed associate degree who transfer into a professional school or specialty program may need more than two academic years of course work to complete the baccalaureate degree, depending on requirements of the program.

**ii.** Requirements for transfer of credits between and among Kansas public postsecondary educational institutions include the following:

(1) Transfer coursework must be transcribed in credit hours.

(2) Students transferring to Kansas public universities with a completed AA, AFA, or AS degree shall be given junior standing.

~~iii. Transfer of general education credit to and among Kansas public universities, including state universities and Washburn University, shall follow the requirements below.~~

~~Although the following distribution of courses does not necessarily correspond to the general education requirements for the bachelor degree at any Kansas public university, it shall be accepted as having satisfied the general education requirements for the bachelor degree of all Kansas public universities.~~

~~A minimum of 45 credit hours of general education with distribution in the following fields shall be required. General education hours totaling less than 45 shall be accepted, but transfer students must complete the remainder of this requirement before graduation from the receiving institution, which may require an additional semester(s).~~

~~(1) 12 hours of Basic Skills courses, including:~~

~~6 \_\_\_\_\_ hours \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ English \_\_\_\_\_ Composition  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ hours \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Public Speaking \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ Speech \_\_\_\_\_ Communication~~

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<sup>2</sup> See Chapter I., Section A.3 for definition of Coordination.

~~3 hours of college level Mathematics; college Algebra and/or Statistics will be required of transfer students where the curriculum of the receiving institution requires it~~

~~(2) 12 hours of Humanities courses from at least three of the following disciplines:~~

~~Art\*  
Theater\*  
Philosophy  
Music\*  
History\*\*  
Literature  
Modern Languages~~

~~(3) 12 hours of Social and Behavioral Science courses from at least three of the following disciplines:~~

~~Sociology  
Psychology  
Political \_\_\_\_\_ Science  
Economics  
Geography  
Anthropology  
History\*\*~~

~~(4) 9 hours of Natural and Physical Science courses from at least two disciplines (lecture with lab)~~

~~\*Performance courses are excluded.  
\*\*The receiving institution will determine whether history courses are accepted as humanities or as social sciences.~~

~~iv. Many of the Board approved systemwide transfer courses meet general education requirements at the public postsecondary educational institutions in Kansas.~~

~~v. Although a transfer general education curriculum has not been established for associate degrees, the transfer curriculum is assumed to be a subset of the curriculum in paragraph f.iii. above.~~

~~vi. Public universities may are encouraged to develop program-to-program articulation agreements for the AAS degree, particularly when offering applied baccalaureate degrees.~~

~~vii **iv.** Completed technical programs (non-degree) and completed AAS degrees shall transfer according to option (1) or (2) below:~~

~~(1) As a block to articulated programs at community colleges, technical colleges, and to those universities that have program to program articulation agreements.~~

~~(2) On a course-by-course basis,~~

~~(a) General education courses may be transferred according to paragraphs d.vi., f.iii., and f.v. above.~~

~~(b) Substantially equivalent courses may be transferred on a course by course basis according to paragraph d.v. above.~~

~~(c) Other courses may be transferred as electives according to paragraph d.vii. above.~~

### **g. Transfer of Systemwide General Education Requirements**

This subsection refers to the application of the systemwide general education requirements, established in Chapter III.A.18., for transfer students at Kansas public institutions. For the purposes of this policy subsection:

“Acceptable grade” means that systemwide course transfer credit, as detailed in 2.g.i.(1)(a)(ii), 2.g.i.(2)(a)(ii), or 2.g.iii., shall not be denied by a receiving Kansas public institution based on a grading standard when a transfer student earns “C” (2.0) or higher. The receiving Kansas public institution may apply a “D” (1.0) if it is also acceptable for its native students (the application of a “D” must apply equally to both resident and native students).

“Coordinated institution” means each community college and Washburn University.

“Institution-specific communication course” means a distinct communication course that is taught at a Kansas public institution that is required to meet a communication general education requirement.

“Institution-specific English/writing course” means a distinct English/writing course taught at a Kansas public institution that is required to meet an English general education requirement.

“Kansas public institution” means each state university and each participating coordinated institution.

“Major” means a field of study within a degree program, having its own curriculum. A degree program may have more than one major.

“Program-specific communication course” means a communication course that is required for students pursuing a specific major(s) to meet a communication general education course requirement (e.g., public speaking for business majors).

“Program-specific English/writing course” means an English course that is required for students pursuing a specific major(s) to meet an English general education course requirement (e.g., English for business majors).

“Specialized program grade requirement” means a grade standard that is required by a selective admission program or is necessary to meet programmatic accreditation or licensure standards.

“Systemwide transfer course” means a course approved by the Board, for which faculty develop and update learning outcomes. These courses transfer to any Kansas public institution offering an equivalent course.

### **i. Application of General Education English and/or Communications Courses When the Receiving Kansas Public Institution Uses a Program- or Institution-Specific Course.**

Historically, three of the most common general education transfer courses, English composition I and II and public speaking, have not met general education English and communication requirements at some Kansas public institutions because such institutions have required students, or some specific majors, to take a program- or institution-specific course. Unless the Board President and Chief Executive Officer has granted an exception, as detailed in 2.g.v., a Kansas public institution offering a program- or institution-specific-English or communication course shall operate within the following parameters when serving a transfer student.

#### **(1) English Requirement**

(a) A transfer student meeting one of the following shall not be required to complete a program- or institution-specific-English course to meet the English general education requirement in paragraph 18.a.ii.(1) of the Board’s policy:



(i) The transfer student provides the receiving Kansas public institution an official transcript from a Kansas public institution noting “KS Systemwide General Education Completed” and, if applicable to the student’s major, the grades earned in the English courses meet any specialized program grade requirement; or

(ii) The transfer student provides the receiving Kansas public institution an official transcript from a Kansas public institution noting three-credit hours of systemwide transfer course credit in English composition I with an acceptable grade and three-credit hours of systemwide transfer credit in English composition II with an acceptable grade, and, if applicable to the transfer student’s major, the grades earned in such courses meet any specialized program grade requirement. !!

(b) A transfer student meeting one of the criteria in paragraph 2.g.i.(1)(a)(i) or 2.g.i.(1)(a)(ii) of this policy shall only be required to complete a program- or institution-specific English course if:

(i) the receiving Kansas public institution transfers and applies the six-credit hours of transfer English general education courses towards meeting the six-credit hour English requirement defined in 18.a.ii.(1);

(ii) the transfer student selects a major at the receiving Kansas public institution that requires all majors (transfer and native students) to complete the program- or institution-specific English/writing course as a credit-hour requirement that is separate from the six-credit hour English general education requirement in 18.a.ii.(1);

(iii) the receiving Kansas public institution notes on the official degree sheet on its website that the program- or institution-specific English/writing course is a requirement in the major area or an additional non-general education requirement area of the degree; and

(iv) any changes made to meet the requirements in 2.g.i.(1)(b)(ii)-(iii) do not result in increasing the total number of credit hours required to complete the degree for a native or transfer student.

## (2) Communication Requirement

(a) A transfer student meeting one of the following criteria shall not be required to complete a program- or institution-specific communication course to meet the communication general education requirement detailed in 18.a.ii.(2):

(i) the transfer student provides the receiving Kansas public institution an official transcript from a Kansas public institution noting “KS Systemwide General Education Completed” and, if applicable to the student’s major, the grade earned in the communication course meets any specialized program grade requirement; or

(ii) the transfer student provides the receiving Kansas public institution an official transcript from a Kansas public institution noting three-credit hours of systemwide transfer course credit in public speaking with an acceptable grade and, if applicable to the student’s major, the grade earned in such a course meets any specialized program grade requirement.

(b) A transfer student meeting the criteria in 2.g.i.(2)(a)(i) or 2.g.i.(2)(a)(ii) shall only be required to complete a program- or institution-specific communication course if:

(i) the receiving Kansas public institution transfers and applies the three-credit hours of transfer communication general education towards meeting the three-credit hour communication requirement defined in 18.a.ii.(2);

(ii) the transfer student selects a major at the receiving Kansas public institution that requires all majors (transfer and native students) to complete the institution- or program-specific communication course as a credit-hour requirement that is separate from the three-credit hour communication requirement detailed in 18.a.ii.(2);

(iii) the receiving Kansas public institution notes on the official degree sheet on its website that the program- or institution-specific communication course is listed in the major area or an additional non-general education degree requirement area; and

(iv) any changes made by the receiving Kansas public institution to meet the requirements in 2.g.i.(2)(b)(ii)-(iii) do not result in increasing the total number of credit hours required to complete the degree for a native or transfer student.

**ii. Transfer Students Who Complete the Systemwide General Education Framework.**

(1) Except as provided in 2.g.ii.(2), when a transfer student has successfully completed the systemwide general education requirements specified in paragraphs 18.a.ii.(1)-(7) and provides an official transcript from a Kansas public institution noting “KS Systemwide General Education Completed,” the receiving Kansas public institution shall not require the student to complete any additional general education requirement.

(2) The Board’s expectation is for the systemwide general education program to provide a vehicle for students to complete general education at one Kansas public institution and not be required to complete any additional general education courses at a second Kansas public institution. While this systemwide general education program establishes a powerful policy lever to allow many students to complete the general education and not need additional general education courses after transferring, it should be recognized that there will be some situations in which a student who completes the systemwide general education at one Kansas public institution and subsequently transfers may pursue a major at the receiving Kansas public institution that requires an additional course(s) that is classified in the general education area of the degree. When a transfer student provides an official transcript from a Kansas public institution noting “KS Systemwide General Education Completed,” the receiving Kansas public institution shall only be permitted to require an additional general education requirement(s) if the transfer student:

(a) pursues a major at the receiving Kansas public institution for which the Board President and Chief Executive Officer has granted permission, as detailed in 2.g.v., to continue requiring – and not waive – a specific course requirement that is classified in the general education area of the degree and the transfer student did not complete such a course prior to transferring;

(b) pursues a major at the receiving Kansas public institution for which the Board President and Chief Executive Officer has granted permission, as defined in 18.c, to deviate from the systemwide general education requirements;  
or

(c) pursues a major at the receiving Kansas public institution in which there is a specialized program grade requirement in a specific general education course and such a grade was not successfully achieved prior to transferring. Refer to 2.g.i.(1)-(2) for information about transfer credit associated with a program- or institution-specific English/writing or communication course requirement.

**iii. Transfer of Coursework for Students Who Do Not Complete the Systemwide General Education Framework**

(1) Except as provided in 2.g.iii.(2), when a transfer student who did not complete the systemwide general education requirements provides an official transcript(s) from a Kansas public institution, the receiving Kansas public institution shall apply credits earned in systemwide transfer courses that fit under one of the general education discipline areas detailed in 18.a.ii.(1-6) toward meeting credit-hour requirements within the applicable general education discipline area. A systemwide general education discipline area in which a transfer student completed the requisite systemwide transfer credit hours shall be considered completed. For example, if a transfer student completed three-credit hours of systemwide transfer credit in American government with an acceptable grade and three-credit hours of systemwide transfer credit in introduction to psychology with an acceptable grade, it shall complete the social and behavioral sciences discipline area requirement in 18.a.ii.(5).

(2) When a transfer student has not completed the systemwide general education, the application of any general education transfer course that is not designated as a systemwide transfer course shall be at the discretion of the receiving Kansas public institution. When a transfer student has completed a systemwide transfer course that fits within a systemwide general education subject in a discipline area requirement noted in paragraphs 18.a.ii.(1)-(6), the receiving Kansas public institution shall only be permitted to exclude such a course from meeting a requirement in the general education discipline area when the transfer student:

(a) completed a performance course, as noted in 18.a.ii.(6); !

(b) did not earn an acceptable grade in the systemwide transfer course in the discipline area;

(c) pursues a major at the receiving Kansas public institution in which there is a specialized program grade requirement in a specific general education course in the discipline area and such a grade was not successfully achieved prior to transferring. Refer to 2.g.i.(1)-(2) for information about transfer credit associated with a program- or institution-specific English or communication course requirement;

(d) pursues a major at the receiving Kansas public institution for which the Board President and Chief Executive Officer has granted permission, as detailed in 2.g.v., to continue requiring – and not waive – a specific course requirement that is classified in the general education discipline area of its degree and the transfer student did not complete such a course prior to transferring; or

(e) pursues a major at the receiving Kansas public institution for which the Board President and Chief Executive Officer has granted permission, as defined in 18.c, to deviate from the discipline area in the systemwide general education requirements.

#### iv. Application of Transfer Credit Earned by Exam Toward Completing Systemwide General Education Requirements.

(1) Credit by exam in a general education subject detailed in paragraphs 18.a.(1)-(6), once recorded on Kansas public institution's transcript, is transferable on the same basis as if the credit had been earned through completing the course(s) at the awarding Kansas public institution.

(2) When a Kansas public institution awards credit by exam in any general education subject detailed in paragraphs 18.a.(1)-(6), the receiving Kansas public institution shall not be permitted to require the transfer student to provide official copies of the exam scores.

#### v. Request to Require a Specific General Education Course – in Lieu of Waiving a Requirement – For Transfer Students Who Completed the Systemwide General Education or Completed a Systemwide Transfer Course Discipline Area Requirement

(1) It should be noted that Kansas public institutions have a role and responsibility in removing barriers, promoting affordability, and advancing timely completion. As such, Kansas public institutions should recognize these core tenets when redesigning degree programs around the systemwide general education requirements and thinking about the impact of such decisions on transfer students.

(2) When a Kansas public institution wishes to require an explicit general education course for students in a specific major – even when a student has completed the systemwide general education or completed the systemwide general education discipline area requirement that is linked to the explicit general education course – it shall submit a request to the Board President and Chief Executive Officer. (e.g., a Kansas public institution requests for all transfer students who completed the social and behavioral sciences discipline area requirement and are majoring in social work to take introduction to psychology – in lieu of waiving it– within the social and behavioral sciences discipline area of the general education because of programmatic accreditation).

(3) This request can be for one major or all the majors in a degree (e.g., bachelor of arts), college (e.g., college of arts and sciences), or department (e.g., social sciences department). For example, if a Kansas public institution wishes to require all transfer majors pursuing a bachelor of arts degree to take a specific course – in lieu of waiving it – it could be submitted in one request.

(4) This request shall include a degree sheet with the general education requirements (disciplines, course title options, and credit hours), the major requirements (course titles and credit hours), and any other degree requirements (course titles and credit hours) that are needed to complete the degree and shall address:

(a) the requested course title, total number of credit hours for the requested course, and the systemwide general education discipline area in which the requested course requirement fits;

(b) academic rationale;

(c) reason for why this is classified as a general education course and not included in the major or another non-general education area of the degree; and

(d) if based on accreditation or licensure, include background.

(5) After review of the request, additional information on how such a requirement would financially impact transfer students may also be required.

(6) Board staff shall provide a timeline each year for institutions to submit requests based on the criteria herein.

~~g-~~ **h.** Students who intend to transfer are responsible for becoming acquainted with the program and degree requirements of the institution to which they expect to transfer.