



INDIANA *for* COMMISSION
HIGHER EDUCATION

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Commission adopts measures to streamline transfer, boost college completion

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education today approved new policies designed to increase transfer options for Hoosier college students and to improve graduation rates through performance-based funding incentives for the state's colleges and universities.

"The new transfer policy and performance funding metrics reflect our Commission's priorities on accelerating college completion, promoting productivity and affordability and ensuring academic quality at all levels of Indiana's higher education system," said Teresa Lubbers, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education.

Streamlining Transfer: New General Education Certificate

The Commission approved a new general education core transfer certificate that will provide Ivy Tech Community College students with a consistent set of general education requirements to improve successful transfer to Indiana's public four-year colleges.

The program will serve two groups of Ivy Tech students: those who are unsure about which major or institution to pursue and those that have clear career goals and intend to complete an associate degree. Ivy Tech students who are unsure about their specific educational path but intend to transfer to a four-year college will be able to enroll directly into the general education core transfer certificate program instead of an associate degree program. Upon completion, students can either pursue transfer to a four-year college or enroll in an associate degree program.

"We commend the Commission for taking this step to continue to create a seamless higher education system in Indiana," said Ivy Tech President Thomas J. Snyder. "It is a measure that provides for another affordable option allowing Hoosiers to start their journey via the community college. It is yet another way to provide a pathway which results in a credential that has value in our higher education system."

Rewarding Results: New Performance Funding Metrics

Already acknowledged as a national leader in using performance-based funding to drive college completion and productivity, Indiana has continued to evolve its funding formula to ensure the best possible return on taxpayers' investments in higher education.

"We believe that funding for our Indiana's colleges and universities should be tied directly to what we value and need most as a state: more college graduates with high-quality degrees and credentials," said Lubbers. "The Commission's performance formula signals a commitment to student success and rewarding results."

The new performance metrics approved by the Commission fall into three main categories: completion, progress and productivity. The completion metrics include overall degree completion, degrees earned by low-income students and high-impact degrees in STEM-related fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)

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that are aligned to state economic development needs. The progress metrics include remediation success and persistence incentives as students successfully pass key gateway college-level courses and reach set credit completion milestones. The productivity metrics reward increases in on-time graduate rates and improvements on an institution-defined metric that will be selected by each college and approved by the Commission.

About 5 percent (\$61 million) of the \$1.2 billion Indiana's public colleges are slated to receive annually over the state's current two-year budget cycle will be allocated through performance funding. Under the new formula recommended by the Commission on Friday, total performance dollars would increase to 6 percent in 2014 and 7 percent in 2015.

"Indiana's ongoing transition from an enrollment-based to a performance-driven funding formula reflects a growing emphasis on directing higher education dollars toward defined outcomes that matter most," noted Lubbers.

The Commission's performance formula is carefully designed to reflect the unique mission and contributions of each university by allowing institutions to be funded in a variety of ways. The performance formula also acknowledges that every Indiana college has room for improvement given that fewer than half of Hoosier students graduate within four years at even the state's most selective public universities.

Reaching Higher, Achieving More

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education's latest actions are driven by the principles of *Reaching Higher*, the state's strategic plan for higher education. The Commission is currently working on an updated strategic plan, titled *Reaching Higher, Achieving More*, for adoption and public release in 2012. The new plan will build upon the foundation of the original *Reaching Higher* and intensify efforts to promote college completion, productivity and academic quality. Learn more online at www.che.in.gov.