



## Council for Lifelong Learning "Time-to-Degree"

## Fact Sheet

September 2001

<p>1. What does "Time-To-Degree" mean?</p>	<p>"Time-To-Degree" refers to a bill that passed in the 1995 Legislative Session related to the amount of time it takes for students to complete associate degree and baccalaureate degree programs. The main goal of the legislation was to decrease the amount of time it takes a student to complete a postsecondary degree program. Another goal of the legislation was to create a system where students would have an easier time transferring credits across educational sectors and between institutions. Additionally, numerous efforts have been made through utilizing acceleration mechanisms. (See the <b>Acceleration Mechanisms Fact Sheet.</b>)</p>
<p>2. What did the "Time-To-Degree" bill do?</p>	<p>The bill made three main changes to postsecondary education in Florida: (1) limited the length of an Associate in Arts (AA) degree to 60 semester hours and a baccalaureate degree, with some exceptions, to 120 semester hours; (2) required the identification of common general education core requirements; and (3) required the identification of common prerequisites across programs.</p>
<p>3. What is a "common prerequisite" and why is it important?</p>	<p>Common prerequisites are required components of the degree programs within the State University System (SUS). With limited exceptions, common prerequisites must be the same at all institutions to facilitate efficient transfer among all 39 public postsecondary institutions.</p> <p>In 1996, the higher education institutions in the state established a list of common prerequisites for every degree program. The list provides students with information regarding the courses they need to take to be admitted into upper division programs.</p> <p>The Common Prerequisites Counseling Manual is a centralized compilation of program prerequisites that can be referenced by counselors and students in their academic planning. The manual is compiled annually in a format that is accessible by all institutions. Each program of study listed in the Common Prerequisite Manual includes information regarding the required and/or suggested common prerequisites for that program.</p>

<p>4. Who is responsible for the continued implementation of "Time-To-Degree" efforts?</p>	<p>The Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) of the Florida Board of Education (FBE) is assigned responsibility for monitoring and implementing the "Time-To-Degree" legislation. The ACC is an appointed working group consisting of Department of Education staff and representatives of school districts, community colleges, and universities. The FBE has responsibility for reviewing and approving exceptions to the prerequisite and degree-length requirements for baccalaureate degree programs.</p>
<p>5. What is the status of "Time-To-Degree" efforts?</p>	<p>Community colleges now have a 60 hour limit for AA degrees and standard program lengths for all AS degrees. All community colleges and state universities now have a 36 hour general education requirement and all general education courses are approved annually by the ACC. All 600+ university majors now have common pre-requisites across the State University System (SUS). SUS programs are capped at 120 hours (with a few approved exceptions).</p>
<p>6. Is Workforce Development Education affected by similar efforts?</p>	<p>The "Time-To-Degree" bill focused attention on the transfer of credit between community colleges and state universities. Attention has also been focused on the transfer of workforce development education credit between school districts, community colleges, and state universities. Florida law requires the ACC to establish standard program lengths for Associate in Science degree and vocational certificate programs. Faculty discipline groups from community colleges and school district vocational schools meet to determine curricular and accountability requirements. Efforts to strengthen articulation between Associate in Science (AS) degrees and Baccalaureate in Science (BS) degrees continue.</p>
<p>7. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Section 240.115, F.S. -- Articulation Agreement; acceleration mechanisms            Section 229.551, F.S. -- Articulation Coordinating Committee            Section 240.1162, F.S. -- Articulation accountability process</p>
<p>8. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>Articulation Coordinating Committee            (850) 922-0344</p> <p>Florida Board of Education            Division of Community Colleges            (850) 488-1721  <a href="http://www.dcc.firn.edu">www.dcc.firn.edu</a></p>

Florida Board of Education  
Division of Colleges and Universities  
(850) 201-7100  
[www.borfl.org](http://www.borfl.org)

Florida Academic Counseling and Tracing for Students (FACTS)  
[www.facts.org](http://www.facts.org)

The Florida House of Representatives  
Committee on Colleges and Universities  
(850) 488-3711