

SB 416 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires community college to include course on criminal justice in social science course cluster for purposes of awarding credit toward degree completion and transfer. Requires that credit for course on criminal justice be awarded equally as that awarded for other courses in social science cluster. Allows Higher Education Coordinating Commission to implement provision by rule.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) approves degree programs at community colleges through its rulemaking authority. As approved by HECC, associate's degree programs offered by community colleges typically require students to take courses in various subject areas, such as social sciences, to fulfill a general education requirement. In particular, the Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (AAOT) standardized degree path requires a student to take several lower-division courses in each of various subject areas, including cultural literacy, arts and letters, science and math, and social sciences.

Senate Bill 416 requires community colleges to regard courses on criminal justice as social science courses, and accordingly issue academic credit for these courses toward degree completion or transfer.