Major Ready Pathways

Higher Education Coordinating Board
February 23, 2006
Overview of presentation

• Legislative mandate

• Definition of ‘major ready pathway’
  – What is it?
  – How does it differ from other transfer associate degrees?

• Ongoing work

• Recommendations
Legislative Mandate

- In 2004, House Bill 2382 stated that the HECB should “convene workgroups to develop transfer-associate degrees…”
  - The Joint Access Oversight Group (JAOG) provided the workgroups with their charge, general timeline, and suggested guidelines
  - The degree must satisfy lower-division requirements at public four-year institutions for specific academic majors
  - The degree must be negotiated statewide so that admission requirements are similar across four-year institutions
  - The first degrees should be in nursing, elementary education, and engineering

- Report to the legislature in January 2007
What is a major ready pathway?

- DTA used for most liberal arts majors
- AS-T has a similar structure, but is geared toward math and science
What is a major ready pathway?

- Stays within the boundaries of DTA and AS-T
  - Completion of lower-division general education requirements
  - Priority consideration in admissions at public universities ahead transfer students without degrees
  - Coursework evaluated as “package” rather than individually
What is a major ready pathway?

- MRPs provide further specification of prerequisites
  - Limited capacity at upper-division
  - Transfer students at competitive disadvantage

- Transfer students are prepared for entry into a particular major
Status of Current Work

• Pathways for nursing, elementary education, and engineering have been completed

• Work on business and engineering technology is on-going
  – Business pathway will be presented to JAOG for review and approval in March 2006

• Creation of inventory of existing associate degree pathways matched with corresponding four-year degrees
Recommendations and Next Steps

• Staff are reviewing current transfer policies

  - What is the HECB’s statutory authority with reference to changes made in House Bill 3103?
  - What types of policies has the board adopted?
  - Where do the MRPs fit into the policy framework the board has developed?
Recommendations and Next Steps

• Identify areas of need
  – HECB is mandated to report every other year regarding need for new MRPs

• Data Gathering: How well are the MRPs working?
  – Do we have estimates of the number of students using MRPs?
  – Do they attain degrees more often or more quickly than those not using MRPs?