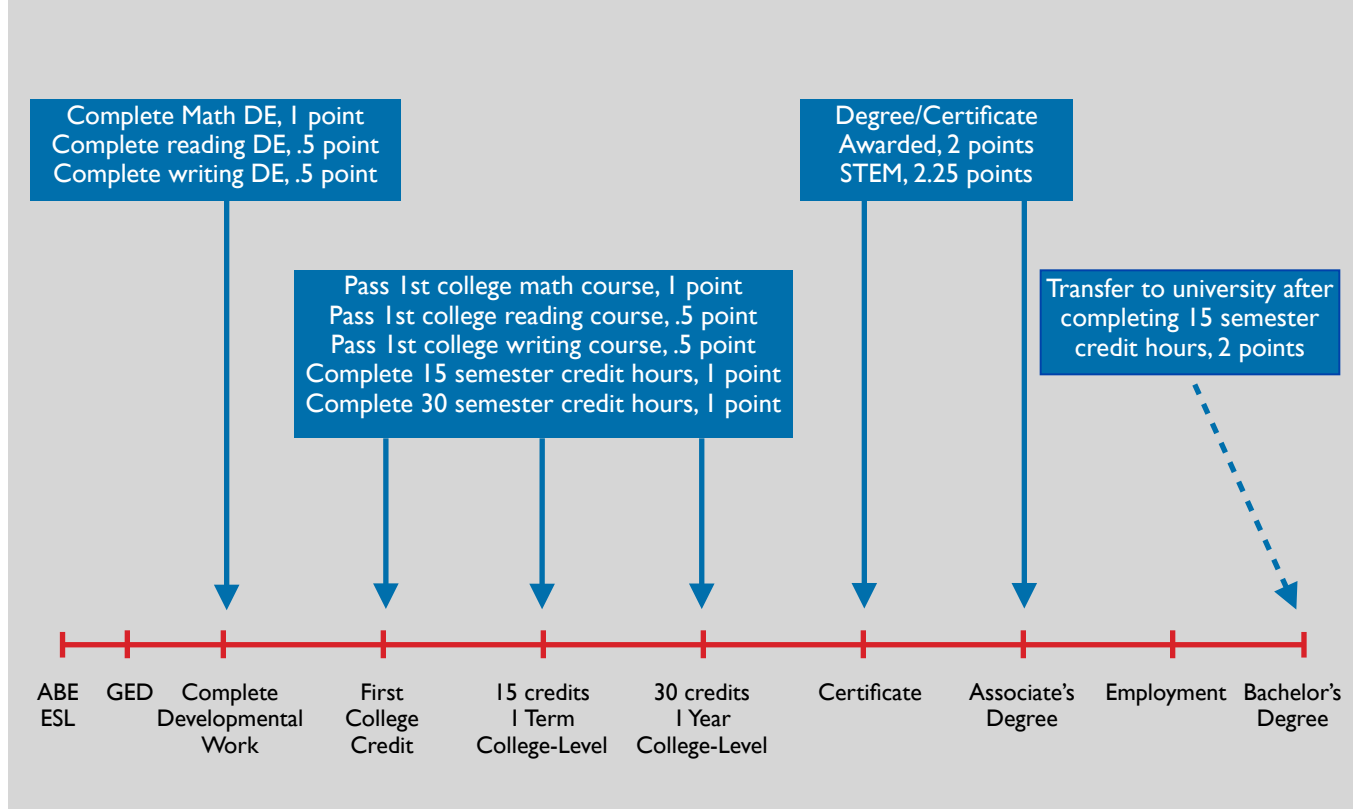


## Student Success Points: An Overview

Prior to the start of the 83rd Texas Legislature, the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) established a legislative priority built around student success and proposed a 5-Point Plan to ensure state support for this critical part of the community college mission. TACC and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board jointly recommended a new funding system for community colleges to the 83rd Legislature with three different components: 1) Core College Operations, 2) Student Success Points, and 3) Contact Hour Funding. This report provides an overview of this model.

As shown in the figure below, the Student Success Points Model takes into account that community college students enroll with different levels of college preparation and different goals. The underlying premise of the model (based on Milestone Events Model, Ewell, 2006) is student success at community colleges should not be defined solely by end-point events (e.g., degrees and transfer). The model includes intermediate steps--completion of developmental work, first college-level course--that mark student success at community colleges. The model also details important missing elements that should be added in the future (ABE/ESL, GED, Employment/Workforce). Definitions of student success points are provided on page 2 of this document.

## Student Success Points Model



## Definitions of Student Success Points

### Complete Developmental Work

Only students who are not ready in math, reading, and/or writing as first time undergraduates can potentially qualify for student success points in this category. The time period for completing developmental work is the fiscal year being measured and the 2 previous years (3 years total). If a student successfully completes developmental work in the fiscal year being measured, then one point is awarded for math completion, .5 point for reading completion, and .5 point for writing completion.

### First College Course for Credit

If a student successfully completes the first college level math, reading, and/or writing course with a letter grade of "A-B-or C" in the fiscal year measured, then one point is awarded for completion of the math course, .5 point for completion of the reading course, and .5 point for completion of the writing course.

### Complete 15/30 Semester Credit Hours

If a student successfully completes at least 15 semester credit hours and/or 30 semester credit hours at the same institution during the fiscal year being measured, then one point is awarded for completion of 15 hours and one point is awarded for completion of 30 hours. The time period for this measure is the fiscal year being measured and the 3 previous years (4 years total).

### Earn a Degree or Certificate

If a student earns a Bachelor's of Applied Technology (BAT), an Associate's degree, a Level 1 or Level 2 Certificate, an Advanced Technology Certificate or completes the Core Curriculum during the fiscal year being measured, then two points are awarded (note: unduplicated degrees awarded). If a student completes a degree or certificate in a STEM or allied health major, an additional .25 point is awarded.

### Transfer to University with 15 semester credit hours

If a student has successfully completed at least 15 semester credit hours at the same institution and a record is found by the Coordinating Board at a Texas public/private four institution in the fiscal year being measured, then two points are awarded. The time period for this measure is the fiscal year being measured and the 3 previous years (4 years total).

### How does the Student Success Points Model work?

As implied in the definitions above, student success points are calculated each fiscal year by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and an individual student can earn multiple points for a college. For example, if a student successfully completes developmental math (1 point) and also successfully completes the first college level course (1 point) during the fiscal year being measured, then the college is awarded two points for that student. If a student earned an Associate's degree (2 points) and transferred to a university (2 points) during the fiscal year being measured, then the college is awarded four points for that student. To account for the fluctuations in student success points from year to year, the 3-year average was recommended to the Legislature by TACC and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as the basis for appropriating student success funds for the 2014-15 biennium.

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