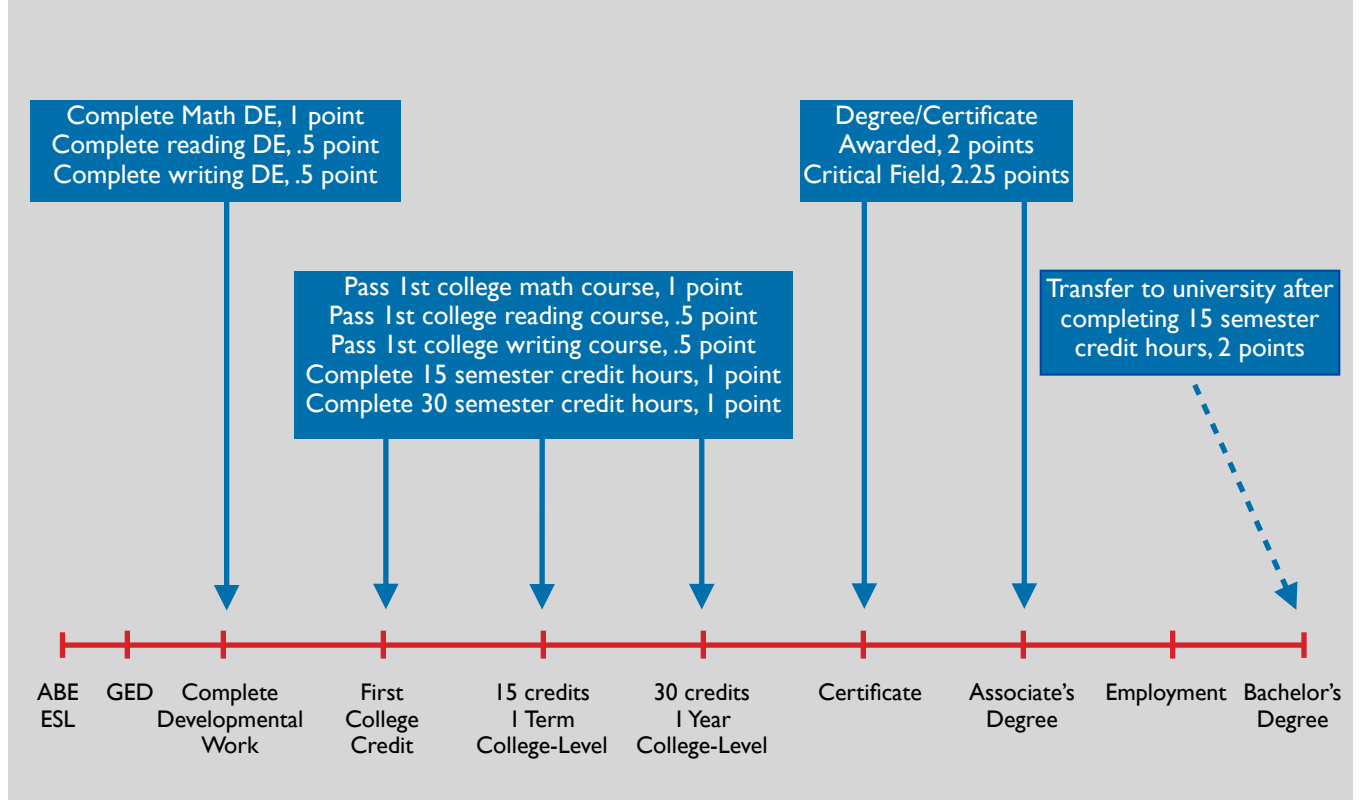


## Student Success Points: An Update

The 83rd Texas Legislature appropriated \$1.77 billion in instructional funds for the 50 public community college districts for the 2014-15 biennium. The Texas Association of Community Colleges and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board jointly proposed a new Student Success model for funding community colleges that was adopted by the 83rd Legislature. The three components of the new funding model and the amounts appropriated to each component are: 1) Core College Operations (\$50 million; \$1 million/district), 2) Student Success Points (\$172 million), and 3) Contact Hour Funding (\$1.54 billion).

The distribution of the \$172 million for Student Success Points in 2014-15 was based on the three year average (FY 10-11-12) of Student Success Points for each college district (see model below). The 2014-15 Student Success appropriation should be viewed as a starting point for incorporating performance funding into the community college instructional appropriation. Rider #23 in the General Appropriations Act (SB 1) requires that a new methodology for success points allocation be developed for the 2016-17 biennium “that compares the performance of the college district to itself” (SBI, p. III-200).

### 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 Critical Field (as defined by the Coordinating Board), then 2.25 points are 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 adopted by the 83rd Texas Legislature as the basis for appropriating student success funds for the 2014-15 biennium.

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