

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 760

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires undergraduate students to file degree plan and requires institutions of higher education and certain proprietary institutions to develop pathway systems to graduation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on March 25, 2019.



1 AN ACT concerning college degree completion and supplementing
 2 chapter ¹**[62]** 3B¹ of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3
 4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
 5 *of New Jersey:*

6
 7 1. a. As used in this ¹**[section,]** act¹,
 8 “Degree plan” means a statement of the course of study
 9 requirements that an undergraduate student enrolled in ¹**[a public]**
 10 an¹ institution of higher education ¹or a proprietary institution¹
 11 must complete to graduate from the institution.

12 ¹“Proprietary institution” means a proprietary institution whose
 13 students are eligible to participate in any student financial aid
 14 program administered by the Higher Education Student Assistance
 15 Authority.¹

16 b. Except as otherwise provided in subsection c. of this section,
 17 an undergraduate student enrolled in a four-year ¹**[public]**¹
 18 institution of higher education shall file a degree plan with the
 19 institution as soon as practicable, but not later than by the
 20 completion of 45 credit hours of course work.

21 c. An undergraduate student who transfers to a four-year
 22 ¹**[public]**¹ institution of higher education with at least 45 credit
 23 hours of course work shall file a degree plan with the institution
 24 during the student’s first semester at the institution.

25 d. A degree-seeking undergraduate student enrolled in a county
 26 college ¹or proprietary institution¹ shall file a degree plan with the
 27 institution ¹**[upon entering the institution]** as soon as practicable,
 28 but not later than by the completion of 30 credit hours of course
 29 work¹.

30 e. ¹A student who changes his course of study and selects a
 31 new academic major or minor, or who experiences such other
 32 change in circumstance as defined by the institution, shall file a
 33 revised degree plan with the institution.

34 f.¹ A degree plan filed pursuant to this section shall:

35 (1) be developed in consultation with an academic advisor in the
 36 student’s degree program, or if an academic advisor is not available
 37 in the student’s degree program, any academic advisor at the
 38 institution; and

39 (2) follow a pathway to a degree as required pursuant to section
 40 2 of this act.

41
 42 2. a. ¹**[A public]** An¹ institution of higher education ¹or a
 43 proprietary institution¹ shall:

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
 not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted March 25, 2019.

1 (1) develop a pathway system whereby the institution
2 establishes graduation progress benchmarks for each academic
3 major and for the general education program for students who have
4 not declared a major;

5 (2) require the pathway for each first-time degree-seeking
6 student to include credit-bearing mathematics and English courses
7 'that are applicable towards degree requirements' in the first 24
8 credit hours of course work; and

9 (3) require the pathway for each degree-seeking student enrolled
10 in a remedial course in mathematics, reading, or English to include
11 the credit-bearing course in mathematics, reading, or English
12 concurrent with or in the semester immediately following
13 completion of the remedial course.

14 b. (1) The graduation progress benchmarks established
15 pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection a. of this section shall
16 specify the credit and course criteria that indicate satisfactory
17 progress toward a degree.

18 (2) The academic departments of ¹~~['a public']~~ an¹ institution of
19 higher education ¹or a proprietary institution¹ shall establish
20 schedules for regular periodic reviews of student progress.

21 (3) A student who is in danger of falling behind the graduation
22 progress benchmarks shall be required to consult with an academic
23 advisor prior to course registration.

24
25 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be
26 applicable to the first class of students entering a public institution
27 of higher education following the effective date of this act.