



[Home](#) / [Academic Quality and Workforce Division](#) / [Community and Technical Colleges](#) / 60 Semester Credit Hours (SCH) Exemptions

60 Semester Credit Hours (SCH) Exemptions

Senate Bill 497, passed by 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, requires that students enrolled at a public institution of higher education not be required to complete more than the minimum number of Semester Credit Hours (SCH) than are required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC), which is 60, to earn an associate degree. Allowances for exceeding the 60 SCH limit can be granted when a compelling academic reason exists. Acceptable justifications for exceeding the 60 SCH limit are programmatic accreditation requirements, statutory requirements, requirements for licensure/certification of graduates, and other possible exceptions.

Coordinating Board staff, working in conjunction with the WECM Leadership Committee and faculty and administrative representatives from community and technical colleges across the state, have approved exemptions to exceed the 60 SCH limit for the program disciplines listed below:

CIP Code	Program Name	Approved 60 SCH Exemption
161603	American Sign Language	65
510707	Cancer Data Management	61
510602	Dental Hygiene	68
510910	Diagnostic Medical Sonography	65
510806	Physical Therapist Assistant	66
510907	Radiation Therapy	65
510911	Radiologic Technology	64
510908	Respiratory Care	66

The exemptions apply to all programs statewide in the disciplines listed. If a college had previously completed the process to reduce a listed program to 60 SCH, it may revise its program to the approved SCH exemption listed above. However, a college is not required to adopt the approved exemption. Approved exemptions may be superseded at a future date by the development of Programs of Study curricula. For additional information [click here](#).

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