



**RESOLUTION RELATED TO ACCELERATED COLLEGE AND CAREER PATHWAY
PROGRAMS (ORC 3345.89)**

WHEREAS, each state university (section 3345.001 Revised Code), “shall establish at least one accelerated ninety-hour degree program aligned to an in-demand career area by the 2027-2028 academic year;”

WHEREAS, “each state university shall determine the number and types of accelerated degrees to be offered,” and in so doing, must adhere to the stipulated publication, accreditation, alignment with in-demand jobs, reporting requirements, and provide other information as required by the chancellor;

WHEREAS, such accelerated programs, “shall (be) develop(ed) in consultation with local and regional primary and secondary education partners, model college credit plus pathways that are aligned with the accelerated ninety-hour degree programs offered.”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees does hereby approve the accelerated ninety-hour degree program(s) as described in the attached document titled “Reduced Credit Hour Bachelor’s Degree Proposals 2025,” and authorizes the Office of Academic Affairs to proceed with responding to the requirements of ORC 3345.85 in an accelerated fashion.

Board of Trustees
September 17, 2025
YR 2026 -43

Reduced Credit Hour Bachelor's Degree Proposals 2025

Two new Bachelor of Arts programs will be submitted to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) for consideration in alignment with Section 3345.001 of the Revised Code. These include the **Bachelor of Arts in Psychology** and the **Bachelor of Arts in Communication**, both of which will be offered in the traditional 120-credit-hour format as well as in a new reduced-credit-hour format. Consideration will also be made to offer both in a face-to-face and online modality.

Both programs have been carefully reviewed and developed by faculty in the disciplines, with the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology additionally endorsed by the Academic Senate. Pending approval from the YSU Board of Trustees, the programs will move forward through the required HLC and ODHE review processes.

“HLC recognizes the desire among our institutions to meet students’ needs with more flexible degree options,” said HLC President Barbara Gellman-Danley. “Our aim at HLC is to ensure that reduced-credit degrees will have as much rigor and quality as traditional degrees. We are confident that the new guidelines will help institutions in achieving their goals.”

The HLC review process is expected to take approximately eight months. In evaluating these proposals, HLC will consider:

- The rigor and quality of the program.
- Resources available to support student success.
- Evidence that the program advances the institution’s mission and serves its student populations.
- Evidence that the institution has assessed implications of the reduced-credit format (e.g., transfer, licensure, employment) and developed strategies to mitigate potential limitations.
- Plans for transparent communication with prospective and current students.
- Plans for ongoing review and assessment of student learning outcomes.

https://download.hlcommission.org/HLC_Reduced-Credit_Guidelines_9-3-24.pdf