

# CivicsAlliance

from NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of SCHOLARS

## State Legislation: Higher Education

**T**he Model Higher Education Code covers the entire range of necessary higher education reform. We have based this Model Higher Education Code as much as possible on existing state laws. The Code provides a coherent model for higher education reformers in each state.

### Mission

A first bill commits every component of the public university system to the free and unpoliticized pursuit of truth (*Mission Statement Act*).

### Accreditation

One bill re-asserts state control over accrediting organizations (*Accreditation Autonomy Act*) and another resolution declares the intention of state policymakers to found their own higher education accrediting organization (*Accreditation Autonomy Resolution*).

### Accountability

Two more bills require transparency of college curriculum (*Syllabus Transparency Act*) and college finances (*College Finances Act*)—and also give state policymakers a line-item veto on university budgets (*College Finances Act*). A final bill will give the state legislature and the governor the power to veto proposed higher education gateway requirements at public universities, including admissions requirements, transfer requirements, general education requirements, competencies, learning objectives, and student learning outcomes (*Higher Education Gateway Requirements Act*).

### Freedoms

The next six model bills guarantee a wide range of freedoms in public universities. These bills guarantee First Amendment freedoms (*Campus Freedoms Act*) and due process (*Campus Due Process*).

Act), as well as prohibiting discrimination on the basis of ideology (*Campus Intellectual Diversity Act*) or identity-group membership (*Universities Nondiscrimination Act*). Another model bill protects freedoms of speech and religion by requiring public universities to classify faculty, staff, and students by biological sex rather than by subjective and arbitrary “gender” (*Human Nature Act*). A final bill ensures compliance with these laws by establishing an Ombudman (*Ombudsman Act*).

## Reformed Instruction

The final six model bills establish a framework for proper university instruction in America’s ideals and institutions. One bill creates an independent School of General Studies to teach a core curriculum at a flagship public university (*General Education Act*). Another bill creates an autonomous School at the flagship institution of the state public university system, independent of the radical education establishment, to teach proper courses on Western and American history and government (*School of Intellectual Freedom Act*). Another bill prohibits discriminatory ideologies and requires transparency in early college classes (*College Credit Act*). Another bill establishes general education requirements in Western and American Heritage and allows policymakers to ensure they are taught well by integrating them with a core transfer curriculum and a dual credit system of college-level classes taught in high schools (*Core Curriculum Act*). Another bill adds an American History and Government general education requirement (*American History Act*). A final bill integrates Western and American Heritage requirements with teacher licensure requirements (*Heritage Certificates Act*).

Learn more at <https://civicsalliance.org/model-higher-education-code/>.