



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

TO: ALL HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION ON ENROLMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs) FOR SCHOOL YEARS 2016-2017 & 2017-2018

DATE: 13 July 2015

In line with the continued preparations for the smooth transition to the K12 system, the Commission on Higher Education seeks to address questions and concerns regarding enrolment in higher education institutions during the transition years of 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, specifically on whether HEIs are permitted to accept freshmen and transferees during the said period.

Relative thereto, while it is true that a multi-year low enrolment is expected during the transition period, as a result of the full implementation of Grades 11 and 12 (senior high school) in 2016 and 2017, respectively, please be informed that HEIs are permitted to accept freshman and sophomore students from the following cohorts:

1. Graduates from SHS Early Adopter Schools

The Department of Education (DepEd) authorized a number of institutions to pilot senior high school (SHS) prior to the full nationwide implementation this coming SY 2016-2017. (See attached for updated list of schools, as of July 8, 2015.) It is expected that these SHS Early Adopter Schools will already have graduates by SYs 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 who can thus enrol as college students during the said transition period.

2. Lifelong Learner Track

The CHED passed *Commission En Banc (CEB) Resolution No. 264*, series of 2015, allowing those who graduated from high school prior to 2016, under the basic education curriculum before K12, and who failed to complete their undergraduate degrees, to enrol and finish their baccalaureate degrees from SYs 2016-2017 to 2017-2018, as a "last chance to go to college," subject to the policies of their respective higher education institutions.

In line with this, the Commission is currently undertaking a study to assess the profile of this group of students, including the disciplines or fields of study that may be of interest to these cohorts, both at the regional and provincial levels, and determine if these can

be matched by the supply from the HEI side. Following said study, the Commission will share findings to HEIs to inform their planning in the coming months.

While there will be enrolments during this period, these cohorts will be smaller compared to the regular number of students, possibly posing challenges related to economic efficiency and capacity of our institutions. As such, and consistent with current practice, decisions on opening and on which programs to offer to said cohorts during the next two years will depend on the judgment of HEIs.

On Advanced Placement for SHS Early Adopter School Graduates

For SHS Early Adopter School graduates who have technically completed their basic education under the enhanced K12 curriculum, but will still undergo the existing higher education curriculum, HEIs may consider establishing an advanced placement assessment/system to credit courses in order to avoid duplication. Such systems however shall be left to the discretion of HEIs.

On the Revised PSGs and the General Education Curriculum

From SY 2016-17 and 2017-18, said cohorts will use the curriculum that is currently in place. While there is already a revised General Education (GE) curriculum (CMO No. 20, Series of 2013), and while policies, standards, and guidelines (PSGs) are being aligned by the respective Technical Panels and Committees to the learner-outcomes based approach (CMO No. 46, Series of 2012), the Revised GE Curriculum (CMO No. 20, Series of 2013), **will take effect only by SY 2018-19**, when the first nationwide cohort under K12 enters college. Nonetheless, the Commission encourages higher education institutions to take the opportunity provided by the transition to enhance their curriculum, in preparation for this shift in 2018.

Finally, the Commission understands the challenges that the full implementation of K12 poses to HEIs, and commits to regularly communicate and provide updated information and guidance to HEIs, including faculty and staff, and students and parents. Should there be further questions or clarifications, you may also visit our website, www.ched.gov.ph, or contact our K12 Transition Program Management Unit, through ched.k12@gmail.com.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Patricia B. Licuanan, Ph.D.
Chairperson