

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE BILL 1306

By: Standridge

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to higher education; prohibiting an institution of higher education within certain system from requiring students to enroll in certain courses; prohibiting certain students from being penalized for not enrolling in certain courses; requiring certain voluntary course to meet certain criteria; requiring an institution that offers certain voluntary course to make certain materials or presentations available on its website; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3251 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year, no institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall require enrolled students to enroll in:

1. A course that is not a core requirement of their chosen curriculum;

2. A course for which there is no tuition or fee charged to the student comparable to courses of similar time and commitment; or

1           3. A course, which is not directly relevant to a degree being  
2 pursued, that the student or the person or party financially  
3 responsible for the course objects to for philosophical or religious  
4 reasons.

5           B. No student shall be penalized academically or financially  
6 for choosing not to enroll in a course pursuant to the provisions of  
7 subsection A of this section.

8           C. If an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
9 Education offers a voluntary course that meets the criteria of  
10 paragraphs 1, 2, or 3 of subsection A of this section, the course:

11           1. Shall include information regarding the powers and duties of  
12 the Oklahoma Free Speech Committee created pursuant to Section  
13 3205.11 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and statutory  
14 provisions regarding religious student associations provided for in  
15 Section 2119 et seq. of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

16           2. Shall include, at a minimum:

17           a. the text of the First Amendment of the United States  
18 Constitution,

19           b. resources discussing the principles and importance of  
20 free speech and viewpoint diversity, and

21           c. historical examples demonstrating the necessity of  
22 protecting unpopular speech in the United States and  
23 other nations.

1 D. An institution that offers a voluntary course in accordance  
2 with the provisions of subsection C of this section shall make  
3 available on its website, to the maximum extent allowed by law, a  
4 copy of or link to any audio or video materials, printed materials,  
5 or presentation slides distributed or presented to students as part  
6 of the course.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

8 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
9 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
10 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
11 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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