## Appendix A: Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 + 2 Program</strong></td>
<td>An articulated, competency-based career and technology education program that links the last two years of high school with the first two years of post-secondary education to create a strong four-year academic and technical curriculum.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4 + 2 + 2 Program</strong></td>
<td>An articulated, competency-based career and technology education program that links four years of high school with two years of post-secondary education (usually at a community or technical college) with the last two years of a baccalaureate degree at a university.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4 + 2 Program</strong></td>
<td>An articulated, competency-based career and technology education program that links four years of high school with the first two years of post-secondary education to create a Tech Prep program.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AAS Degree Program</strong></td>
<td>See Associate of Applied Science degree program.</td>
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<td><strong>ACGM</strong></td>
<td>Academic Course Guide Manual</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Applied Associate Degree Program</strong></td>
<td>Refers to the associate of applied arts or the associate of applied science degrees. The term “applied” in an associate degree name is the distinguishing characteristic of the technical certificate of collegiate rank.</td>
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<td><strong>Articulation</strong></td>
<td>A planned process linking educational institutions and course curriculum to assist students in making a smooth transition from one level of education to another without experiencing delays or duplicated learning.</td>
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<td><strong>High School Articulation Agreement</strong></td>
<td>The official document prepared by the Lone Star College System with each participating independent school district specifying the courses to be articulated. See Appendix C for a sample articulation agreement.</td>
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<td><strong>Articulation/Tech Prep Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Professional personnel responsible for providing leadership and coordination to Tech Prep initiatives.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Associate Of Applied Science [AAS] Degree Program</strong></td>
<td>A program of study designed for immediate employment and/or career advancement that is composed of an orderly, identifiable sequence of courses designed to meet specific occupational competencies and outcomes. The degree program is composed of technical courses, general education courses, related instruction, and, as appropriate, elective courses to prepare students for employment as technicians or professionals. Minimum program credit hours are 60; maximum is 72. [THECB]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Associate Of Applied Science Degree Program - Advanced /Tech Prep Plan</strong></td>
<td>See Tech Prep associate of applied science degree program. [THECB]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coherent Sequence Of Courses</strong></td>
<td>A series of courses in which vocational and academic education are integrated, and which directly relates to, and leads to, both academic and occupational competencies. The term includes competency-based education, academic education, and adult training or retraining that meet these requirements. Sequential units encompassed with a single adult training or retraining course are included.</td>
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</table>
**Competency-Based Course Articulation**

The traditional method of comparing course competencies and performance levels from a secondary competency-based course to a post-secondary introductory competency-based course. If the competencies and performance levels match, articulated credit may be awarded for the high school course when the student meets the articulation requirements at the post-secondary institution. This is the type of articulation used in Tech Prep programs.

**Consortia**

Groups of institutions with signed program articulation agreements. Tech-Prep consortia must be composed of a minimum of one public institution of higher education and more than one independent school district; unless a single ISD has a sufficient enrollment of students to support a Tech-Prep program. Consortia must provide evidence of direct involvement of business and industry and of the appropriate regional Quality Work Force Planning Committee.

**Coordinating Board**

Also known as, “Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board,” this agency oversees the curriculum offered by all Texas public post-secondary educational institutions. The Coordinating Board interprets and applies state legislation which affects these institutions in addition to reviewing and approving curriculum for state funding. (See Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)

**Curriculum Team**

Composed of one faculty representative from each affected College.

**Degree**

Any title or designation, mark, abbreviation, appellation, or series of letters or words, including associate, bachelor’s, master’s, doctor’s and their equivalents, which signify or are generally taken to signify satisfactory completion of the requirements of all or part of a program of study that is generally regarded and accepted as an academic/occupational degree-level program among Texas Higher Education institutions. [THECB]

**Developmental Courses**

Courses designated as remedial, accelerated instruction or compensatory education courses in the Community College General Academic Course Guide Manual.

**Enhanced Skills Certificate**

A certificate awarded for advanced skills attained either during the course of a Tech Prep AAS degree or after a Tech Prep AAS degree is complete.

**Independent School District (ISD)**

A locally established, tax-based educational entity.

**Integration of Academic and Technical / Vocational Curricula**

A link between academic and technical theories, demonstrated in both academic and technical courses that includes the applications of theory in the workplace setting and the use of real-life situations in academic courses.

**Integration of Academic and Technical / Occupational Curricula**

Integration refers to including academic theories and competencies in technology courses and including applications of theory to the workplace and real life situations in academic courses.

**LSCS**

Refers to the Lone Star College System composed of LSC-Cy Fair, LSC-Kingwood, LSC-Montgomery, LSC-North Harris, and LSC-Tomball Colleges and their satellite centers, as well as LSC-University Center.

**Lone Star College System (LSCS)**

The locally established post-secondary educational entity serving primarily North Harris and Montgomery Counties; also provides services to other ISDs within the surrounding area.

**North Harris Montgomery Community College District (NHMCCD)**

Former name of Lone Star College System.
**PEIMS**

Public Education Information Management System - data collection system used by TEA and ISDs

**PLA**

Prior Learning Assessment - For more information please visit www.LoneStar.edu/pla

**Program Prefix**

A two-, three-, or four-letter abbreviation used to identify the program or discipline a particular course supports. The program prefix is combined with a course number to give each course a unique identifier.

**SACS**

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the accrediting body in eleven U.S. Southern states, including Texas, for those post-secondary degree granting institutions that award associate, bachelor's, master's or doctorate degrees.

**TEA**

Texas Education Agency - Regulatory agency for independent school districts in the state of Texas.

**Tech-Prep**

See Chapter 3 of the 2006 High School Articulation Manual or visit www.LoneStar.edu/techprep

**Tech-Prep Associate of Applied Science Degree Program**

A cooperatively developed, competency-based six-year program of study beginning in the ninth grade of high school and resulting in an associate of applied science degree with advanced skills from a community or technical college or an associate degree granting proprietary institution. [THECB]

**Tech-Prep Consortia**

Groups of institutions participating in Tech-Prep program development implementation and with signed, program-specific articulation agreements. Tech-Prep consortia must be composed of a minimum of one public institution of higher education and more than one independent school district (ISD) unless a single ISD has a sufficient enrollment of students to support a Tech-Prep program. Consortia must provide evidence of direct business and industry, Private Industry Council (PIC) and Quality Work Force Planning Committee involvement. [THECB]

**TEKS**

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills - base level curriculum as determined by TEA for the use of course development and instruction in ISDs.

**Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)**

A regulatory state agency that sets policies regarding all two- and four-year institutions of higher education in Texas. THECB, a member of the Tri-Agency Partnership along with TDOC and TEA, is also known as the Coordinating Board. [THECB]

**THECB**

An abbreviation for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**WECM**

Workforce Education Course Manual