

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Prior Learning and Validated Transfer of Credit

NUMBER: 2:5:4

A. PURPOSE

The Board of Regents governing the six public universities has established a policy on the transfer of credits related to prior learning or other validated credits.

B. DEFINITIONS

See BOR Policy 2:5.

C. PRIOR LEARNING TRANSFER OF CREDIT

As with the assessment of classroom learning, the objective of prior learning assessment is to identify student competency related to a specific set of learning outcomes. This policy applies to transfer students and currently enrolled students who earned and have evidence of the credit outlined in their transcript. The Regental universities should provide transfer students the same opportunities as continuing students to demonstrate their competence using internally and/or externally developed tests, American Council of Education (ACE) credit recommendations for military and non-military training, portfolio assessment procedures and/or other competency-based alternatives.

1. General Requirements

- 1.1. Credit earned through validation methods other than nationally recognized examinations is limited to a maximum of thirty (30) hours of credit for baccalaureate degrees and fifteen (15) hours of credit for associate degrees.
- 1.2. The Discipline Councils will provide consultation to the Academic Affairs Council and system academic affairs staff as it relates to competencies, course equivalencies, and other requirements. Applicable fees apply.

2. Credit by Exam

- 2.1. Credit for college level courses granted through nationally recognized examinations such as CLEP, AP, DSST, etc., may be evaluated and accepted for transfer if equivalent to Regental courses and the scores are consistent with Regental policies.
- 2.2. Such credits are only valid if transcribed by a sending institution within five years of the student taking the examination.
- 2.3. Regental institutions shall honor credits from nationally recognized examinations transcribed to meet degree requirements at a non-Regental institution.

- 2.3.1. If credit received through validation is applied as elective credit, it may only be applied at the 100 or 200 level.
- 2.3.2. Credit received through validation may apply to System General Education Requirements.
- 2.4. After the course evaluation is completed, the approved equivalent receiving institution courses and credit hours are recorded with a grade of EX on the transcript, but the grade earned at the sending institution is not recorded or calculated into the grade point average.

3. Military Credit

- 3.1. Credits earned through military training validated using prior knowledge assessment is limited to an additional thirty (30) hours of credit for baccalaureate degrees and an additional fifteen (15) hours of credit for associate degrees.
- 3.2. University discretion is permitted in acceptance of validated military credit for graduate programs, limited to a maximum of twelve (12) credit hours.
- 3.3. After the course evaluation is completed, the approved equivalent receiving institution courses and credit hours are recorded with a grade of CR on the transcript.
- 3.4. The earned is not recorded or calculated into the grade point average.

FORMS / APPENDICES:

None

SOURCE:

BOR August 2022.