

NISTS 2023

BE A CONNECTOR FOR TRANSFER STUDENT SUCCESS

Virtual • February 1-3 | Portland, OR • February 22-24

The following presentation was given at the 21st Annual Conference for the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students. Please cite responsibly and direct questions to the original presenter(s).

Educational Session

2817 - Online Education Vendors and ACE Recommendations: Educating a System for Greater Student Credit Attainment

Credits and Degree Pathways, Partnerships and Collaboration

Today's students bring learning experiences, skills, and knowledge from many different sources, including those outside the college or university classroom. One source is online education vendors, many with programs that have been evaluated by the American Council on Education (ACE) for potential academic credit recommendations. This session will offer tools and strategies for increasing awareness of this option and best practice in application of these credits.

Mary Beth Lakin, *Director, Credit for Prior Learning Assessment Network (C-PLAN)*

Jessica Migler, *Assistant Director for Transfer*

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities



NISTS February 2023

Online Education Vendors and ACE Recommendations: Educating a System for Greater Student Credit Attainment

Mary Beth Lakin and Jessica Migler

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Put your questions and comments in the chat.



Agenda

- Intros and Poll
- ACE Overview/Faculty Role
- ACE Tools and Resources
- Minnesota State: Opportunities and Obstacles
- Q&A

Poll: Which ACE credit recommendations are accepted on your campus?



ACE Overview

What is ACE?

- The American Council on Education is a membership organization that mobilizes the higher education community to shape effective public policy and foster innovative, high-quality practice.
- Major coordinating body for the nation’s colleges and universities (1,700+)

What year did it begin?

- 1918
- Role was to help WWI veterans access/complete high school and/or postsecondary credential via recognition of skills and knowledge gained in military.



CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING: A LONG HISTORY OF LEARNING RECOGNITION

1

1918-1942

ACE is formally organized and develops policies and procedures for the evaluation of military training

2

1965-1974

ETS develops what will become the CLEP tests.
CAEL is launched and holds the first national CAEL conference

3

1976-1979

ACE publishes the National Guide to College Credit.
AACRAO, ACE, CHEA develop the Joint Statement of Transfer and Award of Credit

4

2009-2011

ACE reviews go virtual
CAEL publishes Fueling the Race for Postsecondary Success

5

2011-2018

Federal TAACCCT grants require the development of CPL strategies for acceleration. 60% of the nation's community colleges are impacted

6

PRESENT

CAEL/WICHE publish The PLA Boost
National incremental credentialing advisory board created

The ACE Review and Recommendation Process: Role of Faculty



ACE Faculty Evaluators

It is the faculty's charge to determine the academic rigor, content equivalency, and scope of the course, based on the depth and breadth of the materials and alignment of learning outcomes with evaluation methods.



ACE Faculty Reviewers and Teams

- Represent all postsecondary levels of education
- Each bring a different perspective
- Take a multidisciplinary approach
- Are grounded in *current* curricular standards
- Bring content area expertise
 - Ex. Healthcare, leadership, aviation

Faculty Perspectives

"As an ACE reviewer, when recommending a credit recommendation, the process involves multiple interviews with various stakeholders, deep examination of the processes and competencies achieved. The credit recommendation process involves multiple faculty working collaboratively to arrive at a consensus on each credit granted. And the recommendation is referenced against other credits already on the books, and the level of their applicability in civilian life."

Dr. Hamid H Kazeroony, Business Faculty, Inver Hills Community College



Eligibility

Apply

Selection and Review Process

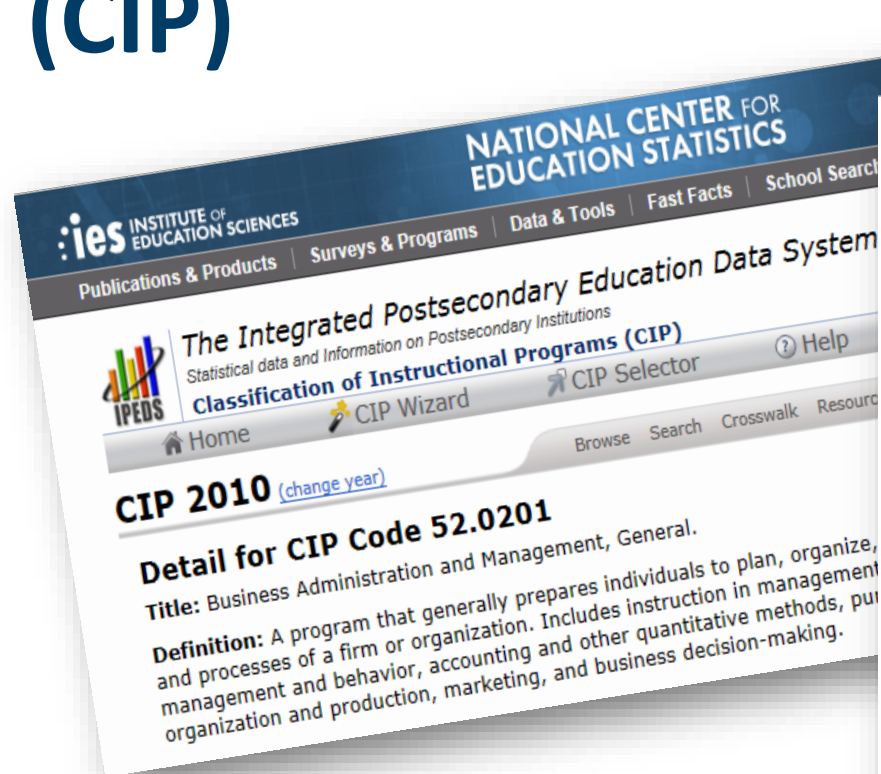
Serving on a Review

BECOMING A FACULTY EVALUATOR

[Become an ACE Faculty Evaluator](#)

www.acenet.edu/evaluator or evaluator@acenet.edu

Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP)

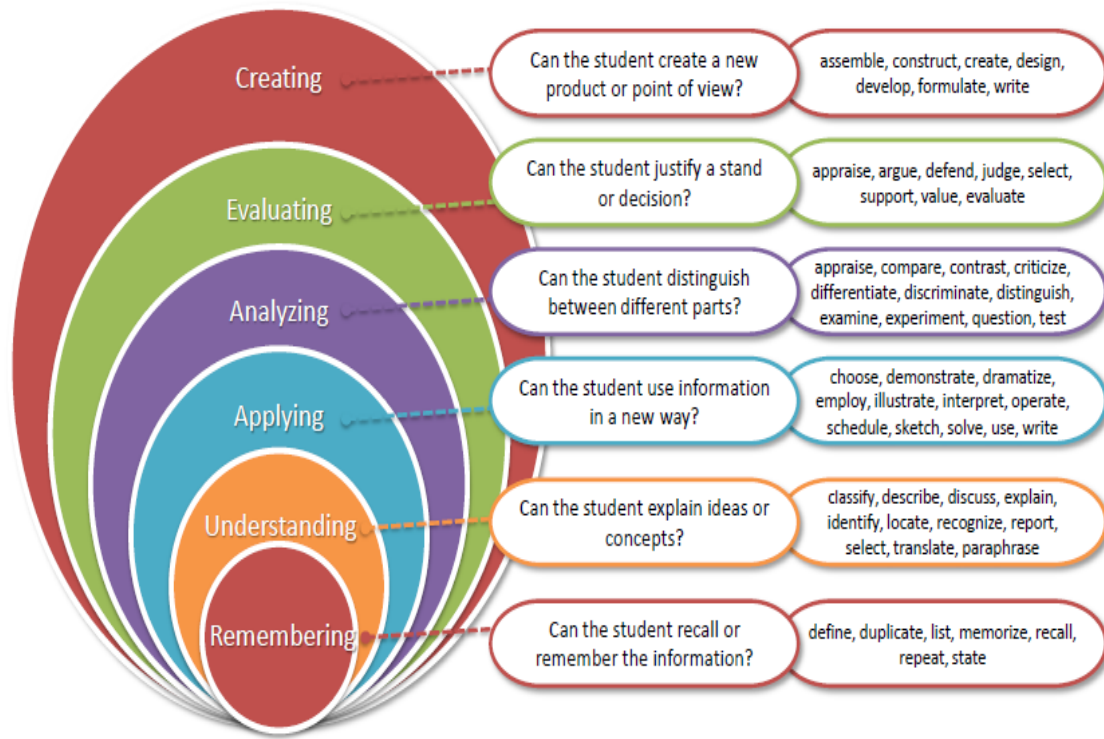


<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode>

- [52\) BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, MARKETING, AND RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES](#)
- [52.01\) Business/Commerce, General.](#)
 - [52.0101\) Business/Commerce, General.](#)
- [52.02\) Business Administration, Management and Operations.](#)
 - [52.0201\) Business Administration and Management, General.](#)
 - [52.0202\) Purchasing, Procurement/Acquisitions and Contracts Management.](#)
 - [52.0203\) Logistics, Materials, and Supply Chain Management.](#)
 - [52.0204\) Office Management and Supervision.](#)
 - [52.0205\) Operations Management and Supervision.](#)
 - [52.0206\) Non-Profit/Public/Organizational Management.](#)
 - [52.0207\) Customer Service Management.](#)
 - [52.0208\) E-Commerce/Electronic Commerce.](#)
 - [52.0209\) Transportation/Mobility Management.](#)
 - [52.0210\) Research and Development Management.](#)
 - [52.0211\) Project Management.](#)
 - [52.0212\) Retail Management.](#)
 - [52.0213\) Organizational Leadership.](#)
 - [52.0299\) Business Administration, Management and Operations, Other.](#)
- [52.03\) Accounting and Related Services.](#)
 - [52.0301\) Accounting.](#)
 - [52.0302\) Accounting Technology/Technician and Bookkeeping.](#)
 - [52.0303\) Auditing.](#)
 - [52.0304\) Accounting and Finance.](#)
 - [52.0305\) Accounting and Business/Management.](#)
 - [52.0399\) Accounting and Related Services, Other.](#)
- [52.04\) Business Operations Support and Assistant Services.](#)
 - [52.0401\) Administrative Assistant and Secretarial Science, General.](#)
 - [52.0402\) Executive Assistant/Executive Secretary.](#)
 - [52.0406\) Receptionist.](#)
 - [52.0407\) Business/Office Automation/Technology/Data Entry.](#)
 - [52.0408\) General Office Occupations and Clerical Services.](#)
 - [52.0409\) Parts, Warehousing, and Inventory Management Operations.](#)
 - [52.0410\) Traffic, Customs, and Transportation Clerk/Technician.](#)
 - [52.0411\) Customer Service Support/Call Center/Teleservice Operation.](#)
 - [52.0499\) Business Operations Support and Secretarial Services, Other.](#)

Review Rigor

Bloom's Taxonomy (Revised)



Semester Hours (SH)

- Graduate
- Upper- Division
- Lower -Division
- Vocational/Certificate

Content, scope and rigor must be at the post-secondary level!

Course Planning Tools

- ✓ Planning tools such as *Plan of Instruction (POI)*, *Training Course Control Document (TCCD)*, and *Syllabus* provide overview of course expectations
- ✓ The curriculum is current
- ✓ Course objectives are documented
- ✓ Learning outcomes are stated within planning tools

Instructional Materials/Resources

- ✓ Quantity and type of instructional materials are sufficient to align with the learning outcomes.
- ✓ The lesson plans relate to the learning outcomes.
- ✓ The lesson plans address a skill, behavior, or knowledge to be learned.

Academic Content

- ✓ Modules/units within the course align to ***current postsecondary curricula.***
- ✓ Level of the content being taught is ***equivalent to postsecondary expectations.***
- ✓ Training topics covered support a credit recommendation.
- ✓ Learning outcomes reflect what a student is expected to know, understand, or be able to demonstrate.
- ✓ Learning Outcomes have measurable criteria.

Assessments

- ✓ Assessment plan is clear.
- ✓ There are assessments that monitor and evaluate student learning.
- ✓ Identification (authentication) of the learner is documented.
- ✓ Assessment methods are appropriate for the content and expected learning outcomes.
- ✓ Assessments accurately measure the learning outcomes.
- ✓ Rubrics are clearly defined.
- ✓ There is a documented, minimum pass rate.

Team Consensus

- ✓ Overall minimum passing score min. 70% for undergraduate, 80% for graduate credit recommendations.
- ✓ Must be direct alignment between learning outcomes and recommended credit in subject areas.
- ✓ Subject area *aligns to courses found in current college curricula.*
- ✓ The level (V, L, U, G) aligns to learning outcome categories in Bloom's Taxonomy.
- ✓ Semester hours are appropriate to breadth and depth of the outcomes and content.

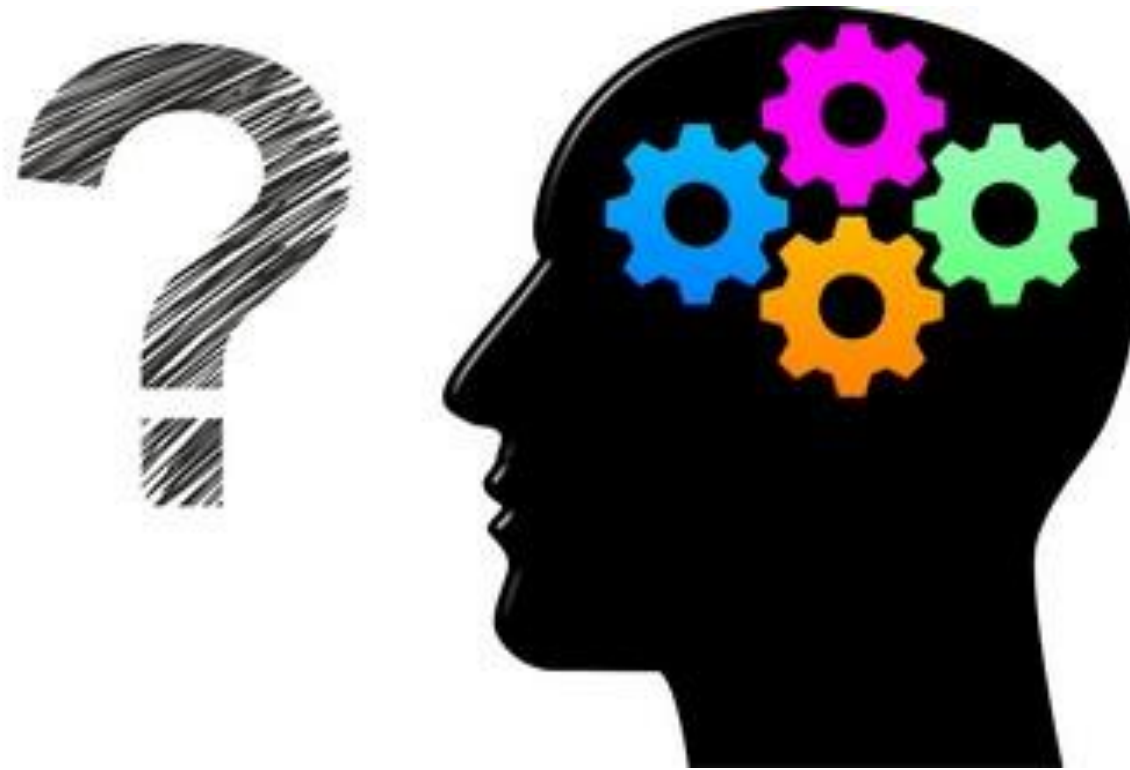
No Credit Recommended

Course is too limited in scope or too narrowly focused to be comparable to college courses.

Course content lacks academic rigor expected in college-level courses.

Evaluation and assessment methods are inadequate to support learning outcomes and course content.

Material presented for review is insufficient to allow team to make judgment.



ACE Faculty Review Process

ACE Tools and Resources



Evaluations, Credit, and Transcripts

Training Providers: Elevate Your Programs

Colleges and Universities: Grant Credit

Learners: Put Your Learning to Work

Faculty: Join ACE's Evaluations Team

Learn More

EVALUATIONS, CREDITS, AND TRANSCRIPTS

Learning Evaluations

(FORMERLY CREDIT - CORPORATE/WORKFORCE)


Learning Evaluations (corporate/workforce credit)




ACE National Guide

The screenshot displays the ACE National Guide website interface. At the top, a dark blue navigation bar contains links for NEWS ROOM, PUBLICATIONS, EVENTS, BLOG, PODCAST, ABOUT US, and DONATE, along with a search icon. Below this, a white navigation bar features the ACE logo (American Council on Education) and four main menu items: PROGRAMS & SERVICES, RESEARCH & INSIGHTS, POLICY & ADVOCACY (highlighted in yellow), and MEMBERSHIP & ADVANCEMENT. A secondary navigation bar below has three tabs: Search the National Guide (green), Guide Announcements (blue), and Learning Evaluation at a Glance (light blue). The main content area features a yellow heading "Want to learn what's new with the National Guide?" followed by a sign-up prompt: "Sign-up for Guide-related news and announcements from the ACE Learning Evaluation team." Below this is a form with an "Email Address" input field and a green "SIGN UP" button. Further down, a section titled "Search the National Guide" includes a search bar with the placeholder "Search for a Course, Exam, or Organization:", a "SEARCH" button, and a link to "Advanced Search". Below the search bar are filter options: "Type" and "Topic" dropdown menus, an "Active" checkbox, and "From" and "To" date input fields. "FILTER" and "CLEAR ALL" buttons are positioned to the right of these filters.

ACE National Guide

NEWS ROOM | PUBLICATIONS | EVENTS | BLOG | PODCAST | ABOUT US | DONATE 

 PROGRAMS & SERVICES RESEARCH & INSIGHTS **POLICY & ADVOCACY** MEMBERSHIP & ADVANCEMENT

Course Summary Credit Recommendation & Competencies Description **Instruction & Assessment**

[ACE National Guide](#) » [Google IT Support Professional Certificate](#)

GOOGLE IT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE

Course Summary

Credit Type:	Course
ACE Course Number:	GOOG-0001
Organization:	Google
Location:	Classroom-based
Length:	5 months (109 hours)
Dates Offered:	<input type="text" value="9/1/2019 - 8/30/2022"/>

[ACE National Guide Exhibit for Certificate](#)

ACE Working Transcripts (CREDLY ACCLAIM)



UNDERSTANDING THE ACE WORKING TRANSCRIPT

The American Council on Education (ACE) Working Transcript includes credit recommendations and competencies that learners have earned through workplace training, exams, certifications, and alternative educational experiences. They are designed to help colleges grant transfer credit for valid, college-level learning that happens outside of accredited colleges and universities.

The transcript includes:

- The name of the course and provider
- The ACE course number
- Course description
- Credit recommendation, including the number of semester hours, educational level, and subject area
- Competencies that students master through the course

For additional information about course structure, grading standards, assessment, learning outcomes, and more, look up the provider and course in the ACE National Guide, or use the National Guide's Course/Examination Search.

The ACE National Guide

Discover corporate training, certifications, exams, and alternative educational programs with ACE credit recommendations and validated competencies.

THE NATIONAL GUIDE >

RETURN TO COLLEGES AND

ACE Working Transcript

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PROGRAMS & SERVICES

RESEARCH & INSIGHTS

POLICY & ADVOCACY

MEMBERSHIP & ADVANCEMENT

About ACE Transcripts

Military Transcript
Requests

Working Transcript
Requests

Previous Credentials

Transcript Examples

Resources

Effective December 1, 2020 transcript services for ACE's Learning Evaluations (formerly CREDIT®) migrated to Credly's platform in an effort to provide enhanced credentials to learners and allow additional flexibility for providers.

Many of our providers are already issuing free digital transcripts and badges, some have elected to no longer participate in ACE transcript services, and others are still transitioning to the new system.

If you completed and passed a course or exam that carries Learning Evaluations recommendations, and your provider has already migrated to the new system, you will be sent an email invitation to claim your free badge. After claiming the badge, you may create an account on Credly and use that account to order free academic transcripts without further approvals. Visit [Credly's Transcript help](#) page for questions that may arise regarding Working Transcripts.

If you completed an ACE-endorsed course or exam and have not received an email invitation to claim your badge, please contact your training provider for more information. If you are not sure whom to contact at your training provider, please connect with the ACE Resource Center at credit@acenet.edu for assistance.

<https://www.acenet.edu/Programs-Services/Pages/Credit-Transcripts/Request-Transcripts.aspx>

Kelsey Donally

ID#: 000001

Birth Date: 12 December 1988

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www.youracclaim.com/user/KelseyDonally



Disney Creativity and Innovation Course

Issued by: Walt Disney Company

Issued to: Kelsey Donally

Issued on: 17 December 2015

Description:

The course objective is to provide the knowledge and skills to correctly and profitably manage a service center, properly handling all aspects of running a business and building innovative solutions.



Course Number: YRUDF-099222

Total Credits: 3

Grade: Pass

Credit Recommendation:

- 3 semester hours in hospitality management in the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category

Competencies:

- Demonstrating concern for others
- Show sincere interest in others and their concerns
- Demonstrate sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others



Management Training

Issued by: Jiffy Lube University

Issued to: Kelsey Donally

Issued on: 31 August 2015

Objective:

The course objective is to provide the knowledge and skills to correctly and profitably manage a service center, properly handling all aspects of running a business and building innovative solutions.

Example of ACE Working Transcript:
https://www.acenet.edu/Documents/ACE_Transcript_Sample_August2019.pdf

Minnesota State: Opportunities and Obstacles

Minnesota State CPL Policy & Procedure

[Board Policy 3.35](#) - Credit for Prior Learning

[System Procedure 3.35.1](#) - External Assessments

[System Procedure 3.35.2](#) – Internal Assessments

[System Procedure 3.35.3](#) - Military Courses and Occupations

[Board Policy 3.21](#) - Undergraduate Course and Credit Transfer and the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum

[System Procedure 3.21.1](#) - Transfer of Undergraduate Courses, Credit, Associate Degrees & Minnesota Transfer Curriculum



MINNESOTA STATE

Credit for Prior Learning Assessment Network

The Credit for Prior Learning Assessment Network (CPLAN) is a Minnesota State collaborative serving 26 colleges and 7 universities in implementing and sustaining credit for prior learning policy and practice.

www.minnstate.edu/cplan



Minnesota State: Credit for Prior Learning

Credit for prior learning (CPL) is academic credit awarded for demonstrated college- and university-level competencies gained through learning experiences outside the college or university classroom, such as military, workplace, and community-based training and experiences. CPL assessments are carried out through academically sound and rigorous methods and processes.

<https://www.minnstate.edu/board/policy/335.html>



CPL Options at Minnesota State

External Assessments

- Third Party validated
- Programs evaluated by faculty
- Act as transfer credit with official proof of successful completion.
- Examples include:
 - College-Level Examination Program (CLEP, AP, DSST)
 - Military Training & Occupations
 - Industry Certifications
 - Online Education Vendors
 - Workplace or Community-based Training

Internal Assessments

- Faculty developed/led
- Evaluate students' informal learning experiences on the job, in the community, or through self-study
- Act as “home” or resident credit in a degree program
- Examples of assessment methods
 - Portfolio
 - Skills Demonstration
 - Credit by Exam
 - Interview
 - Research/Projects
 - Hybrid

Both

- May fulfill general, technical, MN Transfer Curriculum, program/major/minor, and/or elective courses.
- Can be applied in certificate, diploma, associate, bachelor, or graduate programs.

CPL Crosswalks

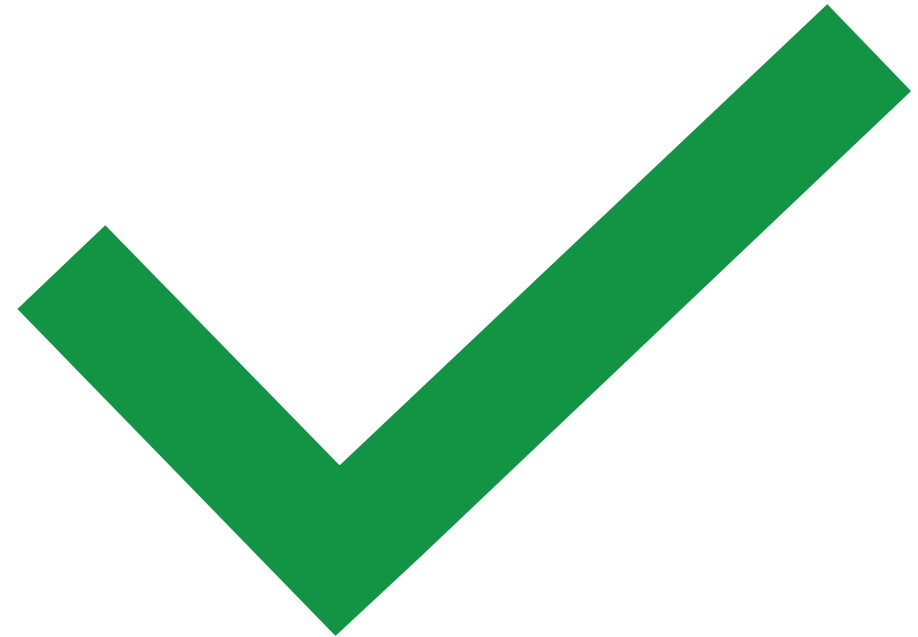
- Recognizes assessed learning experiences in workplace, military, or community
- Maps to course equivalency, subject area, or competency
- Creates side-by-side comparison to create pre-approved equivalencies.

Promotes equity through:

- Validation
- Transparency
- Consistency
- Accessibility
- Affordability

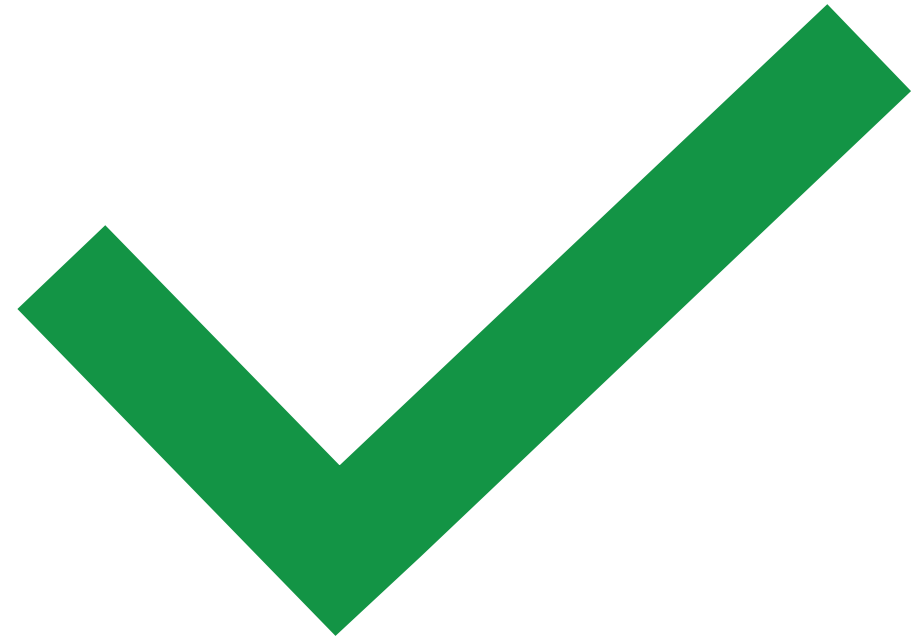
Mapping Crosswalks: Considerations

- Mapping crosswalks is a process and takes a team.
- ACE credit recommendations are recommendations, not requirements.
- Perfect matches are rare.
- Training courses can be bundled or connected with other forms of prior learning assessment.



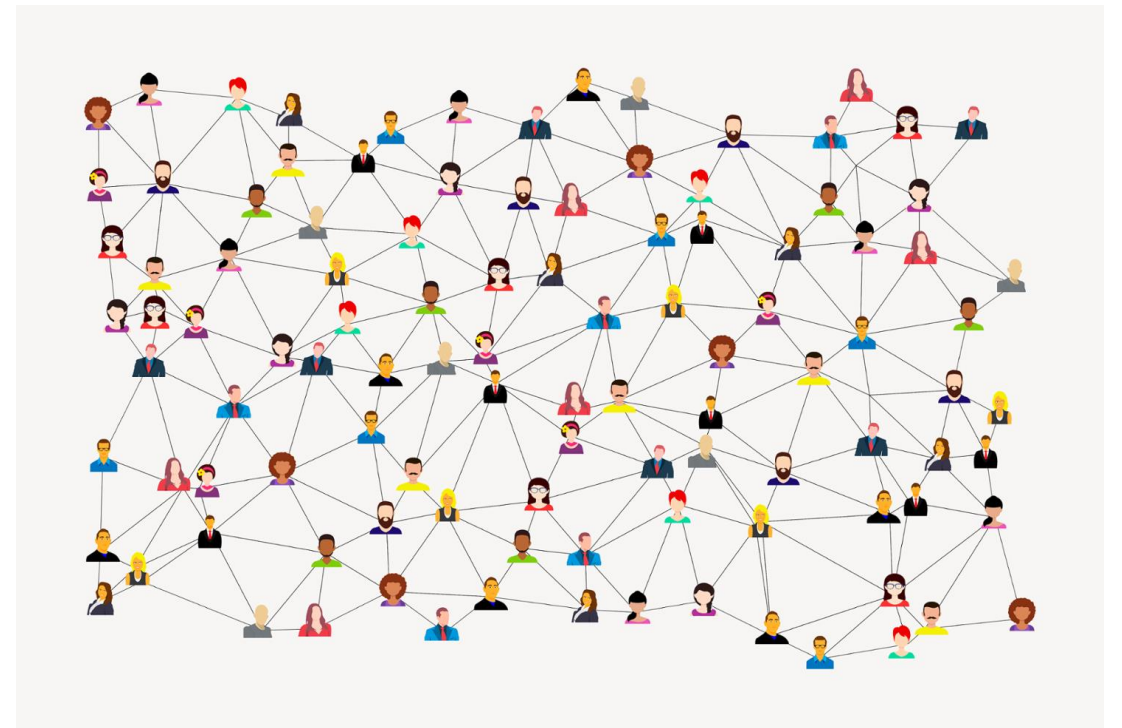
Mapping Crosswalks: Considerations

- What helps you make your decision?
 - Amount/type of description
 - Currency
 - Sufficiency
 - Assessment methods
 - Learning outcomes
 - Instructional methods
 - Time on course
 - What else?



Promoting ACE Credit Recommendations

- Webinars and Info Briefs
- Certificates to Credits: Rubrics and Assessment Process
- Coding and Transcribing for Ease of Transfer
- DEED-Coursera C-to-C Crosswalks: Packaging Assessment Tools
- CPL Campus Roadshows: Collaborative Disciplinary Teams



Obstacles

Faculty hesitancy to award credit

Transferability Concerns

No public-facing display of equivalency

Institutional Examples and Initiatives

- **Memphis University Finish Line:** <https://www.memphis.edu/cree/finishline/>
Uses Saylor Academy courses to help returning adults complete degree programs.
- **Ivy Tech Community College System, Indiana:** <https://www.ivytech.edu/pla/>
(see crosswalk links for exams, industry credentials and military training)
- **ACE Alternative Credit Project:** Establishing rubrics for online education vendors; developing partnerships with colleges such as Dallas Community College and SUNY Empire State
<https://www.acenet.edu/Documents/ACE-Alternative-Credit-Project-Final-Report.pdf>
- **ACE Apprenticeship Pathways:** Evaluating Apprentices for College Credit; developing college pathways and partnerships <https://www.acenet.edu/Programs-Services/Pages/Credit-Transcripts/Apprenticeship-Pathways.aspx>
- **Recognition of Learning Across Military and Corporate Settings:** How ACE Blends Standard Processes, Disciplinary Expertise, and Context to Ensure Quality
<https://www.wiche.edu/key-initiatives/recognition-of-learning/recognition-of-learning-across-military-and-corporate-settings/>

Share Your Examples in Chat





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