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.

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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

1918-1942
ACE is formally organized and develops policies and procedures for the evaluation of military training

1965-1974
ETS develops what will become the CLEP tests. CAEL is launched and holds the first national CAEL conference

1976-1979
ACE publishes the National Guide to College Credit. AACRAO, ACE, CHEA develop the Joint Statement of Transfer and Award of Credit

2009-2011
ACE reviews go virtual CAEL publishes Fueling the Race for Postsecondary Success

2011-2018
Federal TAACCCT grants require the development of CPL strategies for acceleration. 60% of the nation’s community colleges are impacted

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
Become an ACE Faculty Evaluator

www.acenet.edu/evaluator or evaluator@acenet.edu
Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP)

http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode
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
Learning Evaluations

(FORMERLY CREDIT - CORPORATE/WORKFORCE)
Learning Evaluations
(corporate/workforce credit)
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: 9/1/2019 - 8/30/2022

ACE National Guide Exhibit for Certificate
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.
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
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
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
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 Transcripting 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/](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/](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](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](https://www.acenet.edu/Programs-Services/Pages/Credit-Transcripts/Apprenticeship-Pathways.aspx)

Share Your Examples in Chat
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