

Faculty Senate: approved changes from EPC for Transfer Credit Evaluation (1/30/18)

Consistent with senate procedures all items have been through the vetting process by the committees involved.

Item: The Transfer Advisory Committee requested that the Education Policy Committee (EPC) review certain components in the College Catalog and College Handbook that specifically look at the review process of “transfer credit from non-regionally accredited colleges”.

Rational: Our current policy dictates that all transfer credit must be earned at institutions granted regional accreditation by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). We recently had student situations that prompted a review of this policy. The Transfer Advisory Committee recently met and reviewed other SUNY campuses’ policies, guidance from SUNY, and guidance from Middle States Association. Based on this, the committee has endorsed a change to our policy to allow for a case-by-case review of transfer credit from non-regionally accredited institutions (**see more detail information at the end of this document**).

Note: for revisions, changes are indicated in bold; deletions are noted by strike out

Current	Revised
<p>2017-2018 College Catalog Academic Policies > Transfer Credit Policies and Evaluation Course Work from Other Colleges or Universities</p> <p>All credit hours accepted for transfer must have been earned at institutions granted regional accreditation by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), such as the Middle States Association, Southern Association, Higher Learning Commission, New England Association, Northwest Association or Western Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges.</p>	<p>2018-2019 College Catalog Academic Policies > Transfer Credit Policies and Evaluation Course Work from Other Colleges or Universities</p> <p>All credit hours accepted for transfer must have been earned at Transfer credit is accepted from institutions granted regional accreditation by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), such as the Middle States Association, Southern Association, Higher Learning Commission, New England Association, Northwest Association or Western Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. Credit for courses from institutions with accreditation other than regional accreditation is evaluated for transfer purposes on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>2017 College Handbook, Part Four 410.10 ACADEMIC CREDIT FROM OTHER COLLEGES</p> <p>Only course work satisfactorily completed at regionally accredited collegiate institutions will be accepted.</p> <p>Usually credit is allowed only for those courses in which a grade of “C-” or better has been earned. However, credit may be granted for “D” grades if the student has received an Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Science (A.S.) or any bachelor’s degree at the time of first admission to SUNY Cortland. Grades of Pass “P” and Satisfactory “S” awarded at another institution may be accepted at the discretion of the associate dean of the school of the student’s major at the initial point of matriculation. The associate deans will have the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decline to accept the course, • waive a requirement on the basis of a Pass 	<p>2018 College Handbook, Part Four 410.11 ACADEMIC CREDIT FROM OTHER COLLEGES</p> <p>Only Course work satisfactorily completed at regionally accredited collegiate institutions will be accepted. Credit for courses from institutions with accreditation other than regional accreditation is evaluated for transfer purposes on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Usually credit is allowed only for those courses in which a grade of “C-” or better has been earned. However, credit may be granted for “D” grades if the student has received an Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Science (A.S.) or any bachelor’s degree at the time of first admission to SUNY Cortland. Grades of Pass “P” and Satisfactory “S” awarded at another institution may be accepted at the discretion of the associate dean of the school of the student’s major at the initial point of matriculation. The associate deans will have the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decline to accept the course, • waive a requirement on the basis of a Pass

<p>“P” and Satisfactory “S” grade without granting course credit,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> allow the course to count as its equivalent at Cortland in the case of activity/participation courses, award credit under the General Elective (GE) or Liberal Arts (LASR) labels. <p>All credits accepted for transfer must have been earned at institutions granted regional accreditation by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), e.g., the Middle States Association, Southern Association, North Central Association, New England Association, Northwest Association, or Western Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges.</p>	<p>“P” and Satisfactory “S” grade without granting course credit,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> allow the course to count as its equivalent at Cortland in the case of activity/participation courses, award credit under the General Elective (GE) or Liberal Arts (LASR) labels. <p>All credits accepted for transfer must have been earned at institutions granted regional accreditation by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), e.g., the Middle States Association, Southern Association, North Central Association, New England Association, Northwest Association, or Western Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges.</p> <p><i>(For handbook the above is repetitive to above and not necessary to spell out all regional accreditors.)</i></p>
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Rational: continued from first page...

Other SUNY Campuses

A review of other SUNY campuses’ transfer policies show that while regional accreditation is the typical standard for acceptance of transfer credit, many campuses leave room in the policy for review of credit from non-regionally accredited colleges on a case-by-case basis. SUNY Brockport, Stony Brook, Oswego, and the University at Buffalo all have such policies.

Guidance from SUNY

A 2005 memo from then SUNY Provost Peter Salins specifically addresses the fact that there is no such SUNY policy that would “require or support the refusal to accept transfer credits from institutions solely because they are accredited by bodies other than regional accrediting agencies.” The memo specifically addressed the New York State Board of Regents as an accrediting body, and per SUNY, it is a “legitimate national accrediting body – in fact it is the only state entity in the country recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as having met the same federal regulatory standards that govern regional accrediting agencies.”

Guidance from Middle States

Middle States Association also provides guidance that supports the position that regional accreditation should not be the only standard for acceptance of credit. In its report Characteristics of Excellence in Higher Education, Standard 11 (Educational Offerings) advises that “transfer credit or recognition of degrees will not be determined exclusively on the basis of the accreditation of the sending institution or the mode of delivery but, rather, will consider course equivalencies including expected learning outcomes, with those of the receiving institution’s curricula and standards.”

Difference between Regional and National Accreditation

The committee sought clarification on what the difference was between regional and national accrediting agencies, but could not find a clear answer. While public and private nonprofit colleges typically have regional accreditation, private for-profit colleges, technical colleges or faith-based colleges are typically nationally accredited. While the perception may be that national accreditation is less rigorous than regional accreditation, the [Government Accountability Office](#) reports that the U.S. Department of Education applies the same requirements to both regional and national accrediting agencies. CHEA also advises that “because CHEA affiliation and [U.S. Department of Education] recognition depend on a range of factors, readers are strongly cautioned against making judgments about the quality of an accrediting organization and its institutions based solely on CHEA and USDE status.”

Based on the above factors, The Transfer Advisory Committee is seeking to modify SUNY Cortland’s policy and better align with the guidance from SUNY and Middle States. We want to allow for the review of transfer credit from institutions with other than regional accreditation on a case-by-case basis. Note: In practice, Advisement and Transition will consult with the associate deans on institutions’ accreditation status to determine transferability of credit. Advisement and Transition will then consult with departments as needed on specific course equivalencies, per our regular practice.