

BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER  
HANDBOOK REVISION: ACT Proficiency Examination Program

**BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

Currently Title 4, Chapters 14 and 16 authorize NSHE institution to utilize the ACT Proficiency Examination Program or ACT PEP as part of an institution's authority to issue credit by examination.

The ACT PEP is no longer an exam issued by the ACT organization. Formerly called the ACT Proficiency Examination Program (ACT PEP), Excelsior College now administers these examinations. Excelsior College Examinations (formerly ACT/PEP) are used to meet specific college degree requirements of the Excelsior College degrees and are accepted for college credit by other colleges and universities as well.

**SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

Correct Board policy by changing references from the ACT PEP exam to the Excelsior College Examination (see attached policy proposal).

**IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

It has recently come to the attention of the System Office that the ACT PEP examination is no longer administered by ACT, but by Excelsior College.

**BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

The proposed policy revision will update Board policy to reflect correct examination references.

**POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

This is a technical change to correct the name of the examination only – no arguments against this technical correction have been brought forward at this time.

**ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:**

Broaden the policy to authorize NSHE institutions to utilize appropriate examinations for earning academic credits as necessary, deleting references to specific examinations. This would eliminate the need to update references to specific examinations as they change over time.

**COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 19; Chapter 16, Section 14 and Section A.9*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No    
 Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 14, SECTION 19**  
**ACT PEP**

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 19. Credit by Examination

1. The maximum number of credits that may be earned by examination to apply toward a degree may not exceed one half of the minimum number of credits required for that degree.
2. Credit may be granted for the satisfactory completion of College Board Advanced Placement Examination (*CBAPE*) with scores of 3, 4, or 5 and a satisfactory essay for English. With an objective test score of 5 on the English examination and a satisfactory essay, 6 credits may be granted. Refer to the respective institutional catalog for application of CBAPE credits toward degree requirements.
3. Credit may be granted for the satisfactory completion of the College-Level Examination Program (*CLEP*) general or subject examinations.
  - a. General Examinations : A maximum of six (6) semester credits may be granted for each of the five general examinations subject to institutional limitations for scores of 500 or above and a satisfactory essay where required. (Scores earned on the General English examination from October 1978 through April 1986 require a satisfactory essay and a score of 610 to 749 to award three credits, or 750 or higher to award six credits.) Refer to the respective institutional catalog for application of CLEP credit toward degree requirements. (B/R 8/86)
  - b. Subject Examinations : In general, a maximum of three (3) semester credits may be granted for each institutionally approved subject examination for scores of 50 or above and a satisfactory essay where required. Additional credit may be granted for selected examinations as permitted by institutional policy. With an objective test score of 64 or higher on the English subject examination and a satisfactory essay, 6 credits may be granted. Refer to the respective institutional catalog for application of CLEP credit toward degree requirements.
4. In general, three credits may be granted for each institutionally approved *Excelsior College Exam [formerly the ACT PEP examination]* [for] scores [of 50 or above, or a letter grade of C or higher, and a satisfactory essay where required. Additional credit may be granted for selected examinations as permitted by institutional policy. With an objective test score grade of A on the English examination and a satisfactory essay, 6 credits may be granted]. Refer to the respective institutional catalog for application of *the Excelsior College Exam credits [PEP credit]* toward degree requirements.

5. Other national testing organizations may be considered for the awarding of credit subject to institutional policy.
6. Special Department Examinations: An admitted student in good standing may earn credits by special department examination subject to institutional policy.
7. The posting of satisfactorily completed credit by examinations to the student's permanent academic record shall clearly identify that the credit was earned by examination, name of the testing program, date of the examination, number of credits, and a grade of S (*satisfactory*) or P (*pass*).
8. Credit earned by examination does not apply toward satisfying the minimum on-campus resident credit requirement of the institution from which graduation is sought and does not constitute an interruption of the resident credit requirement.  
(B/R 11/84)

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 14**  
University Credit by Examination

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 14. University Credit by Examination

1. The following examinations are permissible for determining university-level credit:
  - a.) College Board Advanced Placement Examination (CBAPE);
  - b.) College-Level Examination Program (CLEP);
  - c.) *Excelsior College Exam [formerly the ACT Proficiency Examination Program (PEP)]*;
  - d.) National League for Nursing Placement Examination (NLN), Profile II;
  - e.) National Occupation Trades and Industry Examination (NOCTI); and
  - f.) Special examinations administered by an academic department.
2. Each university shall establish a policy for administering and accepting credit by examination that must be outlined in the course catalog.

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION A.9**  
State College – Credit by Examination

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 9. Credit by Exam

1. There are five types of examinations approved for earning College-level credit:
  - a.) College Board Advanced Placement Examination (*CBAPE*) ;
  - b.) College-Level Examination Program (*CLEP*) ;
  - c.) *Excelsior College Examination [formerly the ACT Proficiency Examination Program (PEP)]*;
  - d.) National League for Nursing Placement Examination (*NLN*), Profile II; and
  - e.) Special examinations administered by an academic department.