

BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER  
*Handbook Revision: Credit by Examination*

**BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

As reported previously to the Board, NSHE is engaged in a System-wide project, *Non-traditional No More: Policy Solutions for Adult Learners*. This two-year grant-funded project is led by the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education and funded by the Lumina Foundation. Over the past year institutional leaders have been focusing on strategies to increase college degree attainment for Nevada's adult learners. During the course of the project NSHE policies and procedures have been examined to determine if revision is required in order to better meet the needs of adult learners and facilitate their progress towards a degree. One such policy reviewed by the project participants is on University Credit by Examination (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 19* and *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 12*). The current policy defines credit by examination for universities only. The proposed policy revision broadens the scope to include all institutions, adds additional examination categories to bring policy in alignment with current practice, and deletes provisions of the policy that are redundant or no longer applicable.

**SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

Amend Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 12 to include all NSHE institutions and add four new examinations by which institutions may award credit.

**IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

The Non-Traditional No More project participants requested the revision as part of their on-going analysis of existing policies and procedures.

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

- All NSHE institutions award credit by examination – the proposed revision will align Board policy with current practice;
- Including additional categories will ensure that all institutions are aware of the various examinations that may be used in granting credit; and
- The revised policy will assist in getting adult learners successfully through programs and to a degree.

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

- None have been brought forward at this time.

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

- Do not amend Board policy and continue to require credit by examination for universities only.

**COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #\_\_\_\_ Chapter #\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title #\_4\_ Chapter #\_14\_ Section #\_19\_ and  
Title #\_4\_ Chapter #\_16\_ Section #\_12\_
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 14, SECTION 19**  
**Credit by Examination**

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

**Section 19     Credit by Examination**

1.     *The following examinations are permissible for determining credit for prior learning:*

- a. College Board Advanced Placement Examination (CBAPE);*
- b. College-Level Examination Program (CLEP);*
- c. Excelsior College Exam;*
- d. National League for Nursing Placement Examination (NLN), Profile II;*
- e. National Occupation Trades and Industry Examination (NOCTI);*
- f. International Baccalaureate (IB);*
- g. Dantes Subject Standardized Tests (DSST);*
- h. ACE Military Credit;*
- i. ACE Corporate Credit; and*
- j. Special examinations administered by an academic department.*

2.     *Each institution shall establish procedures for administering and accepting credit by examination that must be outlined in the course catalog.*

~~1}~~ 3.     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. ~~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) scores. Refer to the respective institutional catalog for application of the Excelsior College Exam credits toward degree requirements.]~~
- [5] Other national testing organizations may be considered for the awarding of credit subject to institutional ~~[policy]~~ **procedures**.
- [6] 5. Special Department Examinations: An admitted student in good standing may earn credits by **a** special department examination subject to institutional ~~[policy]~~ **procedures**.
- [7] 6. 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] 7. 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.

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 12**  
University Credit by Examination

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

[~~Section 12. — 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);~~
- e. ~~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.]~~

*Renumber sections 13 through 39 as 12 through 38*