

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Handbook Revision: Senate Bill 457 – Credit for Military Experience or Training

MEETING DATE: September 7-8, 2017

2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Existing Board policy includes provisions governing acceptance of transfer courses from NSHE and non-NSHE institutions and awarding of academic credit by certain examinations (AP, CLEP, etc..) under *Title 4, Chapter 14*. Currently, NSHE institutions may award credit for certain military education or experience, but Board policy does not include specific provisions governing military education or experience. The 2017 Legislature passed [Senate Bill 457 \(Chapter 603, Statutes of Nevada\)](#) which requires the Board of Regents, in consultation with the State approving agency designated pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 3671(Nevada Commission on Postsecondary Education) and the American Council on Education (ACE), establish statewide standards for awarding credit for military education, training or occupational experience. The bill further specifies what those standards must include. A copy of S.B. 457 is attached.

The process for evaluating and accepting credit for military training and experience has been extensively studied by nationally-recognized organizations like ACE. As noted in a *Joint Statement on Transfer and Award of Credit* by ACE, the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, accepting credit for military training and experience will require evaluating the educational quality of the learning experience which the student transfers; the comparability of the nature, content, and level of the learning experience to that offered by the receiving institution; and the appropriateness and applicability of the learning experience to the programs offered by the receiving institution, in light of the student's educational goals.

Following the passage of S.B. 457, System staff contacted and consulted with ACE and the Nevada Commission on Postsecondary Education (CPE) to develop a policy proposal for consideration by the Board of Regents that complies with S.B. 457. Suggested edits from ACE were incorporated. In addition, NSHE held two meetings in June and July 2017 attended by institutional academic officers, student affairs officers, registrars, and military and veterans services staff to review and facilitate implementation of the required policy.

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Board policy to add a new section to *Title 4, Chapter 14* of the *Handbook* that requires each institution to evaluate a Joint Services Transcript (JST), a transcript from Air University, and/or a transcript from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) for the purpose of identifying any military education, courses, training and/or occupational experience for which credit may be awarded. If, based on the institution's evaluation, any military education/experience is equivalent to a course that fulfills a general education, certificate, or degree requirement and does not duplicate other credit awarded to the student in fulfillment of those requirements, credit toward the applicable course requirement must be awarded to the student. Faculty must be consulted in the transcript evaluation process. General elective credit may also be awarded in certain circumstances.

In addition, exclude credit awarded under this section from the Excess Credit Fee and require institutions to develop – and make available publically through their websites – an inventory of the military education, courses, training and/or occupational experience evaluated by the institution for which credit was awarded to a student. Finally, include related technical revisions to *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 17* (Transfer Courses) and *Section 22* (Credit by Examination). See the attached policy proposal.

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

The 2017 Legislature passed S.B. 457, effective July 1, 2017, which requires the Board of Regents to establish statewide standards for the awarding of credit for military education, training or occupational experience.

5. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- The proposed policy revision is required by S.B. 457 and is consistent with the Board's existing policies that support members of the military and veterans in pursuing higher education.

- The proposed policy revision is consistent with existing authority for NSHE institutions to evaluate transcripts and award credit for all students, including members of the military and veterans.
- The creation of a public inventory of military experience/education that institutions have evaluated and determined to award credit will help students with military experience to recognize whether credit for that experience may be awarded.

6. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

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

None have been presented.

8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #_____ Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- X Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 14, Sections 17 and 22 and new Section 23.*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- Other:_____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes_____ No X_____
- Explain:_____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 14, SECTION 17
Transfer Courses – Evaluation of Military Transcripts

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

Section 17. Transfer Courses

1. A transfer course is one that is acceptable by a receiving NSHE institution to apply toward an approved degree program at that institution.
2. All baccalaureate level courses are transferable. In general, a baccalaureate level course is one that is commonly offered by a regionally accredited four-year educational institution as being applicable toward a bachelor's degree. Some courses within an AAS degree may be applicable only toward a BAS degree if that degree is offered by the receiving institution.
3. Each institution shall determine the acceptability of general elective transfer courses, and departmental, college, or other requirements or equivalents shall be forwarded to the appropriate department or college for course evaluation. If general elective credit from a non-NSHE institution is granted by one NSHE institution, then all NSHE institutions shall accept the credit unless the facts on which the original decision was based have changed. Appropriate consultation with the faculty is encouraged throughout the evaluation process.
4. A receiving institution shall not require a transfer student to take examinations to validate credit in those courses that are approved as transferable.
5. Application of credits toward major or college requirements is the responsibility of the college and department in which the student is seeking a degree. Validation of course content may be required when lower-division courses are used to satisfy upper-division curricular requirements.
6. Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 396.568, an NSHE institution shall not require a student to repeat a course on transfer to a university or State College if an equivalent course was taken and successfully completed at any other NSHE institution, except for programs that have defined a time limit for completion.
7. Each NSHE institution will create a brochure and Web site that outlines the transfer process and the protections given to baccalaureate degree-seeking students who enter the NSHE at a community college. Designed for students, parents, faculty, and legislators, these resources must include an explanation of the transfer process and a transfer student's "Bill of Rights." Telephone numbers regarding where a student can find assistance must be provided by each campus.
8. *Each NSHE institution shall evaluate military transcripts pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 23.*

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 14, SECTION 22
Credit by Examination

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

Section 22. Credit by Examination

1. The following examinations *and transcript evaluation* 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 Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI);
 - f. International Baccalaureate (IB);
 - g. Dantes Subject Standardized Tests (DSST);
 - h. [~~ACE Military Credit~~;
 - ±*] *American Council on Education (ACE) Corporate Credit*; and
 - [j]i. Special examinations administered by an academic department.*

2. Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection for the CBAPE, each institution shall establish procedures for administering and accepting credit by examination that must be outlined in the course catalog.

Beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, scores of 3, 4, and 5 on the CBAPE shall be accepted for credit to satisfy electives, general education requirements, or major requirements. Each institution shall publish the CBAPE score course granting policy in accordance with the requirements of this Section in its course catalog and on its Internet website before the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year.

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.

4. Other national testing organizations may be considered for the awarding of credit subject to institutional procedures.

5. Special Department Examinations: An admitted student in good standing may earn credits by a special department examination subject to institutional procedures.

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).

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 14, *new* SECTION 23
Military Prior Learning Assessment and Transcript Evaluation
Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 23. Military Transcript Evaluation

1. *In addition to credit awarded by examination under to Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 22, pursuant to Senate Bill 457 (Chapter 603, Statutes of Nevada 2017), each institution shall evaluate a Joint Services Transcript (JST), a transcript from Air University, and/or a transcript from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) submitted by a student for the purpose of identifying any military education, courses, training and/or occupational experience for which credit may be awarded.*
2. *Based on its evaluation of a JST, a transcript from Air University, and/or a transcript from the CCAF, if the institution determines that any military education, courses, training and/or occupational experience is equivalent to a course that fulfills a general education, certificate, or degree requirement and does not duplicate other credit awarded to the student in fulfillment of those requirements, credit toward the applicable course requirement must be awarded to the student. The institution may award general elective credit for any other credit that does not fulfill a general education, certificate, or degree requirement. Faculty must be consulted in the transcript evaluation process.*
3. *Credit awarded pursuant to this section is excluded from the Excess Credit Fee under Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 4.*
4. *Beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year, each institution shall maintain an inventory of the military education, courses, training and/or occupational experience evaluated by the institution for which credit was awarded to a student. The inventory must include the corresponding course; academic program; and general education, certificate, or degree requirement for which credit was awarded. By December 31, 2017, each institution shall post the inventory on its website in a location that is easily accessed by members of the military and veterans seeking information on course credit that may be available at that institution based on their military education, courses, training, occupational experience, and chosen program of study. The information on the website must be updated not less than each term.*
5. *In addition to the JST and the Air University or CCAF transcript, institutions may evaluate other assessments of prior learning pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 22 for purposes of this section.*

RENUMBER SECTIONS 23 THROUGH 29 AS SECTIONS 24 THROUGH 30

Senate Bill No. 457—Senators Parks, Spearman,
Hardy; Denis, Ford and Woodhouse

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Edwards, Kramer,
Wheeler, McArthur; and Pickard

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to postsecondary education; requiring the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to consult with certain entities to establish statewide standards for the awarding of credit for military education, training or occupational experience; requiring that credit earned by a student for military education, training or occupational experience be applicable toward the course work required for the award of a degree or certificate at a community college, state college or university in the Nevada System of Higher Education; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law requires the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to issue a diploma of graduation from the Nevada System of Higher Education upon the recommendation of a president of a branch within the System to students who complete the requirements for graduation and a degree. (NRS 396.560) This bill requires the Board of Regents or its designee to consult with the State approving agency designated pursuant to federal law and the American Council on Education to establish statewide standards for awarding credit for military education, training or occupational experience. This bill also requires that credit earned by a student for military education, training or occupational experience must be applicable toward the course work required of the student for the award of an associate’s degree, baccalaureate degree or certificate at any university, state college or community college in the System.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Board of Regents or its designee shall, in consultation with the State approving agency designated pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 3671 and the American Council on Education, establish statewide standards for awarding credit for military education, training or occupational experience. Such standards must include, without limitation, the:



79th Session (2017)

(a) Identification of any military education, training or occupational experience listed on a Joint Services Transcript or an Air University or Community College of the Air Force transcript for which credit must be awarded;

(b) Amount of credit that will be awarded for the completion of such education, training or occupational experience; and

(c) Specific academic program in a community college, state college or university to which such credit is applicable.

2. Credit earned by a student for military education, training or occupational experience must be applicable toward the course work required of the student for the award of an associate's degree, baccalaureate degree or certificate at any university, state college or community college.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.



Received
AUG 01 2017
Academic Affairs



COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

July 27, 2017

Nevada System of Higher Education
Crystal Abba
Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Ms. Abba:

Pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code 394.375, the Commission on Postsecondary Education serves as Nevada's State Approving Agency for veterans educational benefits and approves programs under 38 CFR 21. This letter confirms the Commission's support for the policy proposal of the Nevada System on Higher Education Title 4, Chapter 14, Sections 17, 22 and 23 as presented at the June 28, 2017 and July 25, 2017 collaboration meetings.

The proposed policy changes will provide NSHE institutions with a more uniformed and transparent evaluation process for awarding prior credit while assisting military members and veterans in making informed decisions concerning degree declaration. If you have any questions concerning the Commission's support of the proposed changes, please contact me at (702) 486-7330 or kdwuest@cpe.state.nv.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly D. Wuest".

Kelly D. Wuest
Administrator/State Approving Agency Director



DATE: August 7, 2017

FROM: Mary Beth Lakin
Director, College and University Partnerships

SUBJECT: Consultation with the American Council on Education

This memo confirms that Vice Chancellor Crystal Abba consulted with the American Council on Education in developing the Board policy in accordance with the provisions of Senate Bill 457 (Chapter 603, Statutes of Nevada 2017) and as required to implement the provisions of the legislation.

Mary Beth Lakin