

## **Proprietary/Non-Regionally Accredited Transfer Credit Policy**

As of May 28, 2019, the Ohio Department of Higher Education solidified a formal policy concerning the acceptance and application of credits from non-regionally accredited institutions/proprietary schools. The policy expressly states that the “Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation policies are not a barrier to accepting credit earned at proprietary institutions.”.

The policy that ODHE has passed is similar, if not identical, to the practice we employ at YSU (\*see attached ODHE Policy). Currently we treat all transcripts from proprietary institutions on a case by case basis, awarding credit based on what is applicable to a degree program via faculty approval. All approved credits must be a minimum of 1 credit and cannot be developmental.

Currently our evaluation of transfer credits from proprietary institutions is strictly in practice. We do not have a written policy. This language needs to be included in the university policy manual and should be transparent to the general public through the YSU admissions transfer page.

See proposed policy language below:

### Acceptance of Transfer and Articulated Credit

A course must meet the three standards:

1. Cannot be remedial or developmental
2. Carry one or more credit hours
3. Eligible to count toward graduation

All courses must be evaluated by faculty in the respective discipline. Students will be required to provide course descriptions and/or syllabi for courses upon request for proper evaluation. Transcripts will be reviewed on a case by case basis at the request of the student and/or academic advisor. Transcripts from proprietary institutions will not automatically be posted to the student’s academic record upon receipt in the Office of Admissions. A special request to the Office of Admissions will need to be made if the student desires to have courses evaluated. The evaluation process for courses from proprietary schools will follow the same policy as courses from regionally accredited institutions. All evaluated credits will be posted to the student’s academic record once course equivalencies are received from the departments.

\*ODHE Policy On transfer Credits from Proprietary Schools/Non-Regionally accredited

**Proprietary/Non-Regionally Accredited Transfer Credit Policy  
(Effective May 28, 2019)**

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER AND ARTICULATED CREDIT**

Acceptance of credit is a decision process performed by the receiving institution to determine which credit it will post to the student's official academic record (i.e., the transcript). Acceptance of transfer credit should not be confused with the application of credit to a specific program or degree, which is covered in Section D. 2. APPLICATION OF TRANSFER AND ARTICULATED CREDIT. To ensure student success and fair treatment of students, courses shall be reviewed for course credit at Ohio public institutions using transparent institutional course evaluation policies.

Credit for successfully completed college-level learning shall be accepted as specified in this Policy.

Three standards have offered useful guidance in the past: 1) The course is not remedial or developmental, 2) the course carries one or more credit hours, and 3) the credit hours of the course are eligible to count toward graduation at the sending and receiving institutions or should otherwise appear on the student's official academic record according to this Policy. How the receiving institution applies transfer credit to a program is covered in Section D. 2, APPLICATION OF TRANSFER AND ARTICULATED CREDIT.

To maintain objectivity and consistency, it is highly recommended that institutions use the same credit evaluation process for credits earned at domestic public, domestic independent non-profit and domestic independent for-profit (proprietary) institutions authorized by the Chancellor. It is important to note that Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation policies are not a barrier to accepting credit earned at proprietary institutions. Please see Appendix S for additional information on awarding credit earned at proprietary institutions.

## **APPENDIX S**

### **AWARDING CREDIT FOR EARNED HOURS AT PROPRIETARY INSTITUTIONS**

Transfer credit shall be reviewed for course credit at Ohio public institutions using transparent institutional course evaluation policies. To ensure equal treatment for all students, the Ohio Department of Higher Education highly recommends that institutions use the same credit evaluation process for credits earned at domestic public, domestic independent non-profit, and domestic proprietary institutions that have completed the authorization process through the Ohio Department of Higher Education and hold a Certificate of Authorization from the Chancellor.

Consistent with current state policy, Ohio public institutions must award credit for qualifying scores on CLEP exams taken by students from proprietary institutions, and are encouraged to use challenge exams and other forms of PLA to evaluate credit for students from proprietary institutions when such credit is not evaluated based on institutional course evaluation policies.

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) does not direct that institutions accept credits only from regionally accredited institutions. HLC policies for institutions on transfer of credits are [Assumed Practice A.5](#) (CRRT.B.10.020) and [Publication of Transfer Policies](#) (FDCR.A.10.040).