

## POSTSECONDARY ACCELERATION

## Credit for Prior Learning and Credentials



*The model policy on Credit for Prior Learning and Credentials seeks to recognize that there are experiences and credentials earned outside the classroom walls worthy of college credit and an opportunity to spur or accelerate college enrollment and success. The policy directs the higher education agency to adopt a statewide articulation agreement that recognizes industry-recognized credentials for academic credit and a statewide policy to recognize work-related experiences for academic credit to potentially reduce student time to earning a postsecondary credential.*

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**Credit for Prior Learning Model Policy**
**SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS**

As used in this section, the terms have the following meanings

- (1) “Articulation agreement” means a formal agreement that defines course equivalencies and accepted credits that transfer toward general education or specific major/program requirements. Articulation agreements may exist between institutions of higher education or between an institution of higher education and a local education agency.
- (2) “Industry-recognized credential” means a voluntary process through which students are assessed by an independent, third-party certifying entity using predetermined standards for knowledge, skills, and competencies, resulting in the award of a credential that is recognized by employers in the state, nationally or internationally.

**SECTION 2. CREDIT FOR INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS**

- (1) By (date), the (higher education agency) shall conduct a review and adopt a statewide articulation agreement that recognizes industry-recognized credentials for postsecondary, academic credit, as appropriate.
- (2) The (higher education agency) shall prioritize the industry recognized credentials on the state approved list of industry-recognized credentials and/or the credentials that align with the state’s high-demand, high-wage, high-skill industry occupations.
- (3) The academic credit shall be awarded towards program or general education requirements.
- (4) The (higher education agency) shall every three years conduct a review to determine if additional credentials should be added to the list for articulation agreements or if any changes are necessary to the policy.



- (5) The *(higher education agency)* shall adopt rules to implement this section.

### SECTION 3. CREDIT FOR WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCES

- (1) By *(date)* the *(higher education agency)* shall conduct a study to determine which work-related experiences are most in need of credit for prior learning policies and develop a credit for work-related experiences plan.
- (2) The *(higher education agency)* shall adopt a statewide policy that recognizes work-related experiences for postsecondary, academic credit, as determined by the plan outlined in Section 3(1).
  - (a) The policy shall identify the processes by which an individual can receive academic credit, such as through successful completion of a portfolio assessment, individual assessment, examination or any combination thereof that is appropriate to the learning outcomes of the course that is tied to the academic credit.
  - (b) For purposes of this subsection, “work-related experiences” means any experience acquired within the past 10 years through employment, an internship, a residency, a pre-apprenticeship, a youth apprenticeship, or an adult apprenticeship program.
- (3) The academic credit shall be awarded towards program or general education requirements.
- (4) The *(higher education agency)* shall adopt rules to implement this section.

### SECTION 4. REPORT

- (5) By *(date)* of each year, the *(higher education agency)* shall report to the *(Governor and Legislative leaders)* on credit for prior learning experiences in the state. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following information broken down by institution and student demographics, where applicable:
  - (a) The statewide articulation agreement that identifies industry-recognized credentials that articulate into postsecondary, academic credit.
  - (b) The number of industry-recognized credentials that articulated that year by type of credential.
  - (c) The number of students who were awarded postsecondary, academic credit and the number of credits awarded by institution under subsection (2).
  - (d) The statewide policy that recognizes work-based learning experiences for postsecondary, academic credit and the processes used by institutions to determine the award of credit.
  - (e) The number of students who were awarded postsecondary, academic credit for work-related experiences by type of experience, the process used to award credit, and the amount of credit awarded.
  - (f) The number of students who were denied postsecondary, academic credit by type of work-related experiences.
  - (g) Any recommendations to improve the statewide articulation agreement and statewide policy under this section.

### SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

