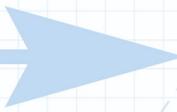




Board of Regents
University System of Ohio

1  **One-Year**
Option 

GETTING TO 30

Establishing a One-Year Option Credit
Articulation System for Ohio



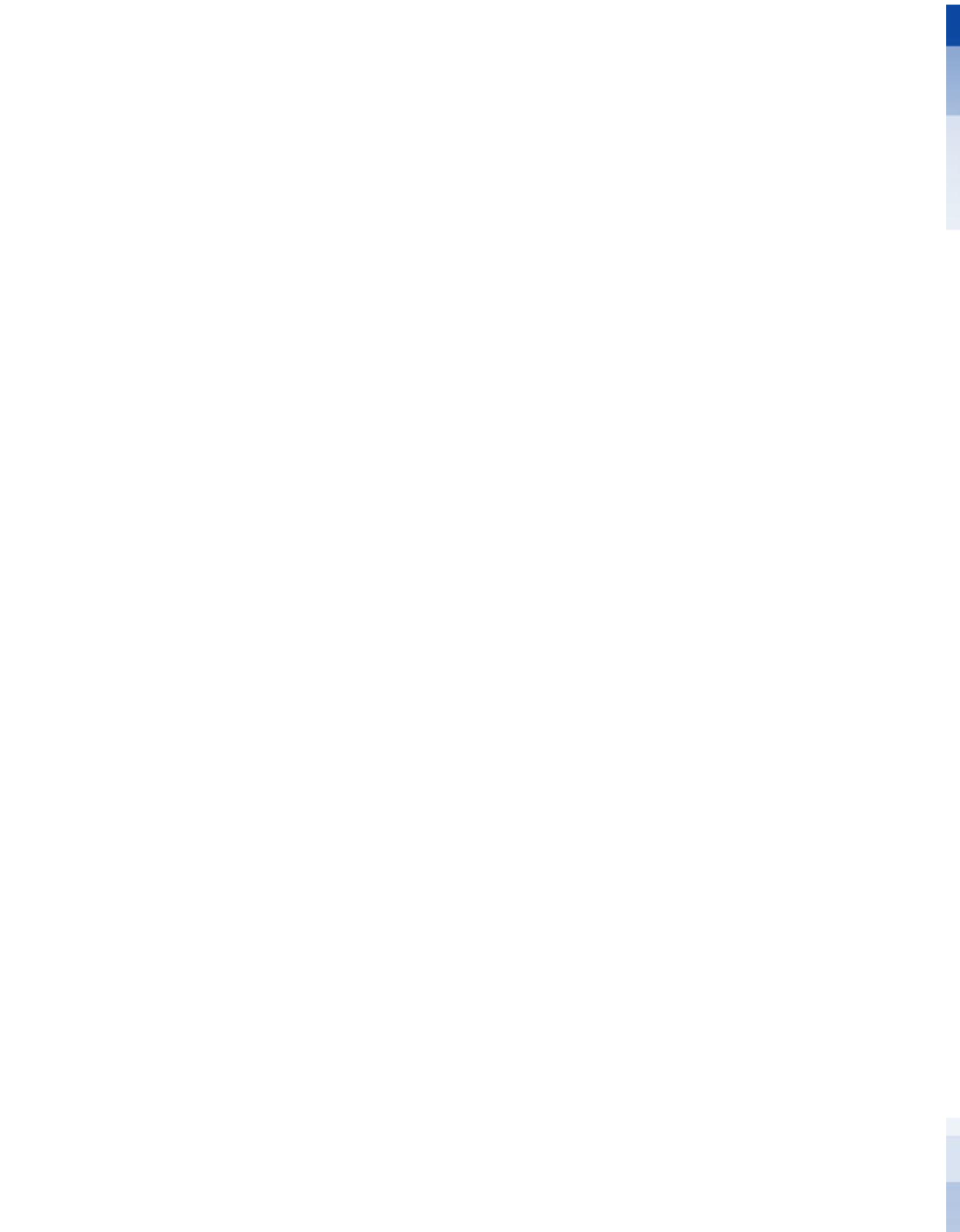


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	2
Ohio’s One-Year Option.....	2
Proposal : Establishing a One-Year Option Credit Articulation System.....	3
Introduction	4
Ohio’s One-Year Option Legislation.....	4
Credit Transfer System.....	4
Institutional Involvement.....	5
The 900 Hour Program and Industry Recognized Credential.....	6
Mutual Responsibility for Effective Implementation.....	6
One-Year Option Planning Process	7
Focus Groups.....	7
Internal Steering Team.....	7
Stakeholders.....	7
Participating List of One-Year Option Stakeholders.....	8
Proposal: Ohio’s One-Year Option Credit Articulation System	9
Meeting Goals.....	9
Associate of Technical Study Degree.....	10
Establishment of the System.....	12
Implementation of the System.....	12
Modification of Institutional Policies and Procedures.....	20
Notes	21



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OHIO'S ONE-YEAR OPTION

In order to provide another credit transfer option for adult students, which builds upon the current career-technical credit transfer process, Ohio legislators passed legislation known as the One-Year Option. Ohio's One-Year Option legislation states: "Not later than June 30, 2014, the Chancellor of the Board of Regents shall establish a One-Year Option credit articulation system in which graduates of Ohio Technical Centers who complete a 900-hour program of study and obtain an industry-recognized credential approved by the Chancellor shall receive 30 college technical credit hours toward a technical degree upon enrollment in an institution of higher education."

Based on this legislation, Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) convened focus groups of faculty and administrators from Ohio Technical Centers (OTCs), responsible for Ohio's Adult workforce education, and two-year colleges in order to assess issues and concerns. These conversations provided a starting point for OBR to move forward with establishing a One-Year Option Credit Articulation System. OBR created an internal steering team to outline an approach to address the legislation and then invited stakeholders from OTCs, two-year colleges, and partnering organizations to assist in developing a system.

PROPOSAL: ESTABLISH A ONE-YEAR OPTION CREDIT ARTICULATION SYSTEM

After a series of meetings with the stakeholders, the group agreed upon a system and implementation process for establishing the One-Year Option, proposing the following actions to the Chancellor:

ESTABLISHMENT:

1. Establish a “standardized” ATS degree that students, who qualify for the One-Year Option, can obtain at any Ohio institution of higher education.

IMPLEMENTATION:

2. Form Credit Affirmation Teams that will review industry-recognized credentials within OTC 900 hour programs to affirm 30 technical hours of college credit.
3. Implement the One-Year Option as a part of Ohio’s Credit Transfer System.

MODIFICATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

4. Work with OTCs and OH-TECH to ensure OTC student transcripts have the consistency and capability to be shared through the Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse.
5. Work with institutions of higher education to waive, specifically for the One-Year Option “standardized” ATS degree, institutional residency requirements for technical instruction.

A photograph of a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a light-colored shirt, standing in a laboratory or technical center. He is looking slightly to the right. The background shows shelves with various equipment and containers.

INTRODUCTION

OHIO'S ONE-YEAR OPTION LEGISLATION

In order to provide another credit transfer option for adult students, which builds upon the current career-technical credit transfer process, Ohio legislators passed legislation known as the One-Year Option. Ohio's One-Year Option legislation states: "Not later than June 30, 2014, the Chancellor of the Board of Regents shall establish a One-Year Option credit articulation system in which graduates of Ohio Technical Centers who complete a 900-hour program of study and obtain an industry-recognized credential approved by the Chancellor shall receive 30 college technical credit hours toward a technical degree upon enrollment in an institution of higher education."

On July 1, 2014, Ohio's Fiscal Years 2014-2015 biennium budget, House Bill 59, became law. Within this legislation, the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) was given a mandate "to establish a One-Year Option credit articulation system by no later than June 30, 2014." It noted that "This Option will allow graduates of Ohio Technical Centers who complete a 900-hour program of study and obtain an industry-recognized credential approved by the Chancellor to receive 30 college technical credit hours toward a technical degree upon enrollment in an institution of higher education."

CREDIT TRANSFER SYSTEM

The One-Year Option legislation fits well into Ohio's nationally recognized and well respected credit transfer system. Ohio's articulation and transfer system has been operational since 1990 and continues to grow, allowing the transfer of credit between all of Ohio's secondary and postsecondary public institutions.¹

The Credit Transfer System's components that students utilize in order to transfer throughout Ohio's public higher education institutions include:

1. **Ohio Transfer Module (OTM)**
2. **Transfer Assurance Guides (TAGs)**
3. **Career-Technical Credit Transfer Assurance Guides (CTAGs)**
4. **Advance Placement (AP)**
5. **Experiential Transfer of Credit**
 - a. Military Credit Transfer
 - b. Prior Learning Assessment
 - c. Apprenticeship Articulation

The One-Year Option will be recognized as another component available to students that meet the legislative and institutional requirements.

6. **One-Year Option**

INSTITUTIONAL INVOLVEMENT

The postsecondary partnerships between institutions involved in Ohio's credit transfer system are important to its overall success. Ohio has a robust higher education system comprised of 56 Ohio Technical Centers (formerly Adult Career-Technical Education or Adult Workforce Education Centers), 23 Community Colleges, 14 Universities, and 24 University Regional Campuses. In order for the One-Year Option to work, all institutions have to ensure that students qualifying for this Option will be able to successfully transition from an Ohio Technical Center (OTC) to an institution of higher education. As defined in Ohio's Revised Code, section 3345.12 (A)(2), an "'Institution of higher education' or 'institution' means a state university or college, or a community college district, technical college district, university branch district, or state community college, and includes the applicable board of trustees or, in the case of a university branch district, any other managing authority."

THE 900 HOUR PROGRAM AND INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL

Ohio's OTCs have several 900-hour programs, which can be organized into approximately 30 subject areas. The Ohio Board of Regents, with input from the Ohio Department of Education and Office of Workforce Transformation, is establishing an approved list of industry-recognized credentials informed by historical OTC approval processes and creation of uniform criteria among agencies. If a credential is not currently on the list, a program may submit the certification or license for review so that it may be approved by the Chancellor and added to the list. While this list is created for the purposes of reporting and defining technical certificates throughout the USO, the list is also foundational information for the One Year Option process.

MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

For OTC students to obtain the 30 technical college credits there is a high level of collaboration, coordination, agreement, and implementation that must take place. This action includes implementation by students, Ohio Technical Centers, Ohio's public higher education institutions, the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, Ohio Board of Regents staff, and other key stakeholders.

For the One-Year Option to be effective the following individuals and entities play a critical role in its implementation:

- **Students** – Must utilize the Option.
- **Ohio Technical Centers** – Must promote the Option, and if necessary, adjust program content to align with the One Year Option articulation system to align with expectations for student success. OTCs must also be accredited by an accreditor recognized by the US Department of Education (USDE).
- **Ohio Institutions of Higher Education**– Must award the 30 technical credits to which the student is entitled based on the student qualifying for the Option. Colleges and universities must also be regionally accredited.
- **Ohio Board of Regents Staff** – Must work with Ohio's regional accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission, to ensure that the process meets accreditation standards. Staff must also aid the development of the OTC transcript so it can be accessed by colleges through the Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse (ATC). Moreover, OBR must coordinate other key aspects of implementation that occur between OTCs and colleges and universities.
- **Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents** – Must establish One Year Option system and approve the industry-recognized credentials offered at OTCs in 900 hour programs based on feedback from staff and stakeholders.



ONE-YEAR OPTION PLANNING PROCESS

FOCUS GROUPS

In September 2013, Ohio contracted with Public Agenda, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that helps diverse leaders and citizens navigate divisive, complex issues and work together to find solutions, to conduct focus groups with the OTC and two-year college leadership. Public Agenda invited selected individuals from the OTCs and two-year colleges, and met with both groups separately. After getting feedback from the two groups, they organized a joint meeting with OTC and two-year college participants. There were many issues and concerns between both groups; however, they did agree that strong leadership and direction from the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) was needed in order to implement the initiative.

INTERNAL STEERING TEAM

The Chancellor convened a group of OBR staff to provide leadership and direction for the initiative. This group met and had discussions on how to approach the work, as well as what type of stakeholders might be critical to this work. Also, OBR staff outlined the goals for the initiative, focusing on developing a framework that fits into the credit transfer system structure.

STAKEHOLDERS

On behalf of the chancellor, invitations were sent to leadership at the OTCs, two-year colleges, universities, regional campuses, and partnering organizations (e.g., Ohio Association of Community Colleges, Inter-University Council, Ohio Association of Career-Technical Superintendents, and Ohio Association of Career-Technical Education). The invitation made it clear that Ohio would build upon existing systems and processes.

PARTICIPATING LIST OF ONE-YEAR OPTION STAKEHOLDERS²

Ohio Technical Centers & Ohio Colleges and Universities

- **Dan Burklo**, Dean of Math, Science and Engineering Technologies, *Northwest State Community College*
- **Dorey Diab**, President, *North Central State College*
- **Dennis Franks**, Superintendent, *Pickaway-Ross CTC*
- **Kim McKinley**, Director, Adult Education, *Tri-County Adult Career Center*
- **Karen Miller**, Vice President Enrollment Management & Student Affairs, *Cuyahoga Community College*
- **Stephen Nameth**, Dean, *Columbiana County Campuses, KSU (East Liverpool & Salem)*
- **Kristi Nelson**, Senior Vice Provost, *University of Cincinnati*
- **Sonja Pluck**, Director, *Madison Adult Career Center*
- **Harry Snyder**, Director, *Adult Workforce Development*
- **Vicki Thompson**, Adult Education Director, *Trumbull Career & Technical Center*

Ohio Educational Partners

- **William A. Bussey**, Superintendent, *Mid-East Career & Technology Centers*; representative for the *Ohio Association of Career Technical Superintendents*
- **Christine Gardner**, Executive Director, *Ohio Association of Career Technical Education*
- **Cindy McQuade**, Vice President of Operations, *Inter-University Council of Ohio*
- **Mike Snider**, Project Coordinator and Project Director, *Ohio Association of Community Colleges*
- **Steve Gratz**, Senior Executive Director, *Ohio Department of Education*

Ohio Board of Regents Internal Steering Team

- **Stephanie Davidson**, Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
- **Brett Visger**, Associate Vice Chancellor, Institutional Collaboration & Completion
- **Paula Compton**, Associate Vice Chancellor, Articulation & Transfer
- **Anthony M. Landis**, Senior Director, College and Career Access & Success (One-Year Option Team Leader)
- **Stephanie McCann**, Director, Data Management & Analysis
- **Barbara Nicol**, Director, Perkins Reporting and Compliance
- **Jamilah Jones-Tucker**, Director, Career-Technical Initiatives
- **Calista Smith**, Project Manager



PROPOSAL: OHIO'S ONE-YEAR OPTION CREDIT ARTICULATION SYSTEM

MEETING GOALS

After the One-Year Option stakeholders were in place, the OBR moved forward with conducting meetings with the stakeholders' team. The first three meetings (December 17, 2013; January 30, 2014; and February 17, 2014) of the group set the tone for the One-Year Option work. OBR set a goal for each meeting based on the tasks accomplished from the previous one in order to meet the Chancellor's goal of "establish[ing] a One-Year Option credit articulation system," as stated in the legislation. This approach worked well, moving the group quickly to the goal. Below are the goals and outcomes from each meeting:

FIRST MEETING

- **GOAL:** Develop and Agree on framework(s) that Award 30 College Credits from a 900+ Clock Hour Program with an Industry Recognized Credential.
- **AGREED TO:** Explore the Associate of Technical Study (ATS) degree, which applies a set of outside hours or experiences from an OTC or other entities in the form of a block of credits– "Block Credit"– in order to meet one-half of an institution's degree requirements.

SECOND MEETING

- **GOAL:** Finalize a “Block Credit” framework that will result in an ATS degree within a specific discipline area, which aligns to a 900+ clock hour program and can be issued by any college throughout the Ohio Higher Education System.
- **AGREED TO:** Establish a standardized ATS degree within discipline areas that align to 900 clock hour programs and have an industry-recognized credential.

THIRD MEETING

- **GOAL:** Establish the One-Year Option Credit Articulation System by using a standardized ATS degree within specific industry clusters/programs, and agreeing on the process for implementation of the system.
- **AGREED TO:** Establish the One-Year Option Credit Articulation System by using an ATS degree defined by industry cluster.

THE ASSOCIATE OF TECHNICAL STUDY DEGREE

During the first meeting, the stakeholders stated that they wanted to move beyond the CTAG process; however, they did not want to rule out CTAGs. For example, they agreed to use CTAGs that provide a student with 30 credit hours upon transfer from an OTC to a college. The group expressed this should be encouraged as an option. Yet, it was clear to the group that the CTAG process based on program to course review was not in the scope of the legislation. In order to meet the legislation, OBR staff suggested the use of the ATS degree.

The ATS degree has been an option for students in Ohio for over a decade; however, the degree is institution specific. The degree was developed, in part, to address the transfer of non-credit education that has occurred at institutions other than Ohio’s public colleges to be accepted at a two-year college and translated into credit. In Ohio, the ATS degree is defined and functions in the following manner³:

Associate of Technical Study degrees are awarded for successful completion of an individually planned program of study designed to respond to the need for specialized technical education not currently available in the formal degree programs available on a particular campus. The program must have an area of concentration which is equivalent to at least 30 semester credit hours (45 quarter credit hours) in technical studies and a clearly identifiable career objective. The area of concentration can either be formed by:

- **Type A**— *a coherent combination of technical courses selectively drawn from two or more technical programs currently offered by the college to serve a career objective that would not be adequately addressed by one of the existing programs alone; or*
- **Type B**— *courses completed or training received by a student at other institutions of higher education, career centers, or other educational enterprises judged by the institution to be of college level and for which the institution awards degree credit, to a maximum of 30 semester credit hours (or 45 quarter credit hours).*

For the One-Year Option, the “Type B” approach fits the intent of the legislation. Still, for this approach to be system wide, higher education institutions must accept the student’s 30 technical hours and apply it to this specific degree under the One-Year Option.

Ultimately, the stakeholders agreed to use the ATS degree structure for the Option. However, the degree path would need to be “standardized” so that there is consistency in what One Year Option eligible students can expect from the initiative. As an example, a potential pathway for an OTC student that studied within a 900 or more clock hour Automotive Mechanics Technology program that meets the requirements for the Option might likely pursue an Associate of Technical Study in Auto Technologies degree upon enrollment into an institution of higher education.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SYSTEM

After much discussion between the One-Year Option Stakeholders Team on how the ATS degree would work under the Option, as well as how institutions might affirm the block of 30 technical college credits associated with a Chancellor approved credential, the One-Year Option Stakeholders Team propose the following actions in order to establish the One-Year Option Credit Articulation System.

#1 PROPOSED ACTION

Establish a “standardized” ATS degree that students, who qualify for the One-Year Option, can obtain at any Ohio institution of higher education.⁴

- **One-Year Option Associate of Technical Study Degree Structure**—Ohio will use the ATS degree structure. The ATS allows a college to customize the degree to accept a student’s 30 technical credits from an OTC and offer 30 non-technical credits in general education, electives, or other educational coursework (e.g., foundational/introductory courses, entrepreneurial classes, technical writing, etc.).
 - Degrees will be “standardized,” by program of study or industry cluster so that every college throughout the Ohio higher education system can accept the credits and have a framework for the student to complete the coursework for the degree.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEM

Whereas “**Proposed Action #1**” establishes the One-Year Option as another component within Ohio’s Credit Transfer System, the processes that define the system must be implemented. Again, after extensive discussion and advisement from the One-Year Option Stakeholders Team, the Stakeholders propose the following action in order to implement the One-Year Option Credit Articulation System.

#2 PROPOSED ACTION

Form Credit Affirmation Teams that will review industry-recognized credentials within OTC 900 hour programs to affirm 30 technical hours of college credit.

- **Credit Affirmation Teams**—Ohio will create Credit Affirmation Teams that will consist of approximately eight core members (e.g., OTC instructors, College faculty, post-secondary administrators, subject matter experts, faculty/instructors versed in competency based learning/prior learning assessment, etc.) with two co-leaders, one from an OTC and one from a college or university. The teams will review the body-of-knowledge, competencies evaluated by industry exams, and other pertinent information to affirm that the credentials merit 30 technical credit hours in a student’s program of study. The review will provide the rationale for awarding a block of credit; it will NOT be a course to course review.

#3 PROPOSED ACTION

Implement the One-Year Option as a part of Ohio’s Credit Transfer System.

As a part of Ohio’s Credit Transfer System, the One-Year Option will function in the following manner:



Credit Affirmation Teams

To comply with the Higher Learning Commission and best practices, Credit Affirmation Teams will be responsible for affirming the statewide articulation of 30 technical college credits through a peer review process, as well as recommending the design of the non-technical portion of the “standardized” ATS degree for each discipline. The teams will be organized by the following discipline clusters: a) Health/ Allied Health, b) Industrial Trades, c) Business and Information Technology, and d) Service Industries and Agriculture. Each cluster will have multiple disciplines that the team can review in succession and provide recommendations as they become available.

Process for Affirming Credit

The Credit Affirmation Teams will ensure that the affirming of credit is sound, defensible, and has been peer reviewed for all Ohio public higher education institutions to award credit. In the review of the approved industry-recognized credential, the Credit Affirmation Teams will affirm that successful completion of the 900 clock hour program and attainment of the associated industry-recognized credential(s) corresponds to 30 semester hours of college-level technical work.

To make this affirmation, the Teams will conduct the following process for each discipline or subject code for which an OTC 900 hour program exists:

1. Review the approved industry-recognized credential(s) to see if the credential's competencies are comparable in quantity and level of learning that would be expected in 30 technical credit hours. While there is no singular rule on the amount or level of credit to award for learning, the precedents for affirming credit could include, but are not limited to: a) sample program-level outcomes for 30 credit hour college programs, b) the Lumina Degree Profile matrix, particularly the Specialized Knowledge and Applied Learning domains, c) expectations among colleges for passage of the industry credential, or d) other areas the Teams might think relevant to this work.
2. If the industry-recognized credential does not meet the bar of a 30 credit hour award, consider additional credentials to be reviewed in a bundle to warrant a 30 credit hour award.
3. If multiple industry-recognized credentials still do not reasonably merit a 30 credit hour award, consider additional information about learning and skills obtained but not assessed in industry credentials.
4. Provide recommendations on other relevant parameters for accepting credit, such as recency of obtaining the credential, recency of program completion, required program-level accreditations for the discipline, and waivers for technical residency requirements.

Credit Affirmation Team Articulation Review Diagram



THE CREDIT AFFIRMATION PROCESS "IS"

Establishing acceptance of a block of credit

Determining how much credit should be awarded for an industry-recognized credential based on the program outcomes assessed.

Comparing the breadth and depth of the competencies assessed by the credential to the breadth and depth of a representative sample of college 30 credit program-level outcomes to determine credit-worthiness.

Reviewing all relevant credentials to determine how 30 technical college credits may be awarded. If existing credentials do not merit 30 credits, the team might consider reviewing other information such as OTC program-level outcomes and expectations of skills from industry advisory committees.

Reviewing acceptance of credit for and recommending design of an ATS degree.

Recommending non-technical course work for the remaining 30 credit hours of a program

Ensuring integrity of process and ease of student access by setting parameters around recency and residency requirements

THE CREDIT AFFIRMATION PROCESS "IS NOT"

Establishing course-to-course equivalencies

Determining if an industry-recognized credential is valid for use by a program. The OBR staff approves credentials for an OTC program.

Requiring the learning outcomes of the credential to match exactly the program-level outcomes at each college or university accepting the credit; the OTC program does not need to be the same as the college or university program

Reviewing OTC program-level outcomes if a credential or series of credentials merit 30 semester credits.

Reviewing acceptance of credit to or design of an existing applied associate degree.

Recommending additional technical coursework for the college or university to deliver

Setting recency and residency requirements to unnecessarily restrict access for One Year Option eligible students

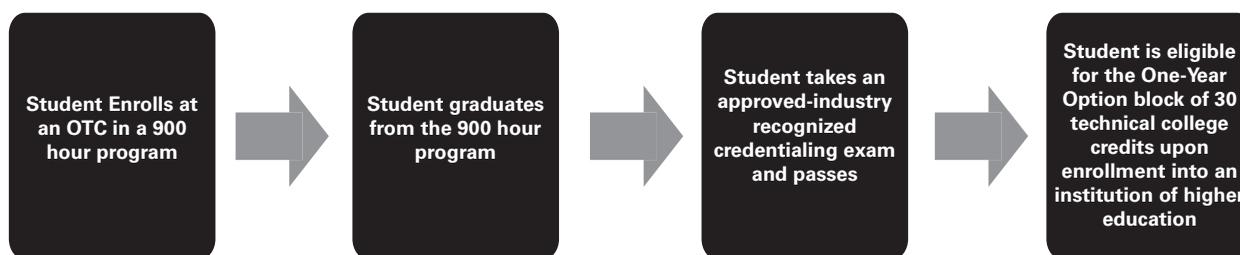
Providing Guidance on the Non-Technical College Credits of the ATS Degree

The Teams will also provide guidance to colleges and universities on the design of the remaining 30 credit hours of the One-Year Option "standardized" Associate of Technical Study degree. The remaining 30 credits for the degree should be feasible to complete in one

year or two semesters of full-time study. The credit delivered by the college should focus on the general education and non-technical requirements needed to complement the technical coursework and earn the degree.

Ohio Technical Centers

The opportunity for a student to qualify for the One-Year Option occurs when they enroll into a 900 hour program at an accredited Ohio Technical Center (OTC). It is the responsibility of the OTC to ensure the student is provided the necessary services and support required for program completion. Once the student graduates from the OTC program and obtains a Chancellor approved industry-recognized credential that has been affirmed for credit through Credit Affirmation Team review, then the student is eligible to receive 30 technical college credits upon enrollment into a college.



Ohio Institutions of Higher Education

Under the “standardized” ATS degree, the student will automatically receive 30 technical college credits, which are equivalent to one-year of study at an Ohio institution of higher education. These credits have been affirmed through the Credit Affirmation Teams’ process and accepted by the Chancellor for implementation under the One-Year Option. Regardless of the associate degree-granting college that a qualifying One-Year Option student enters, the institution will offer the “standardized” ATS degree in their specific discipline/industry cluster area.

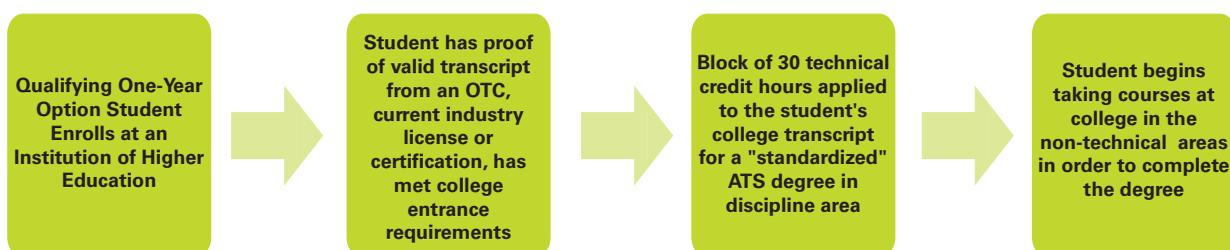
Process for offering the “standardized” ATS degree

An institution of higher education will offer One-Year Option students the ATS degree in two parts:

- A. Technical College Credits
- B. Non-technical College Credits

An institution of higher education will offer One-Year Option students the ATS degree in two parts:

- **Technical College Credits** – Upon enrollment, based on the student’s current and valid certification or license, along with the transcript showing the information required by the OneYear Option and meeting the entrance requirements of the institution, the higher education institution will apply the 30 technical credit hours to the student’s college transcript as completing the technical portion the “standardized” ATS degree in the student’s discipline/industry cluster area (e.g., HVAC, Medical Assisting, Automotive, etc.).
- **Non-Technical College Credits** –The One-Year Option student will enroll in courses that meet the remaining non-technical credit hours of instruction towards completion of the degree. In most cases, based on feedback from the Credit Affirmation Teams, “standardized” degrees will have recommended courses or subjects a student should take in order to complete the degree requirements. These courses could be comprised of general education requirements and other academic subjects (e.g., foundational/ introductory courses, entrepreneurial classes, technical writing, etc.).



year or two semesters of full-time study. The credit delivered by the college should focus on the general education and non-technical requirements needed to complement the technical coursework and earn the degree.

OTC Programs of 600 to 900 Clock Hours

Ohio Technical Centers also offer important career development certification programs that lead to good jobs in less than one year. While significant in content and scope, they are less time and, as such, would not likely have content to equal a full 30 credits and satisfy the technical block of coursework for an Associate of Technical Studies degree. Like the 900 plus hour technical programs, students would be required to successfully complete the program at the OTC, pass the third-party industry recognized credential in a program approved by the Chancellor, but what differs is that graduates of these programs would have to complete additional work to “get to 30” and satisfy their technical coursework.

The Credit Affirmation Teams will review the 600-899 clock hour programs and recommend the ideal pathway to an Associate of Technical Studies for each. The Credit Affirmation Teams will review these programs individually to determine if a proportionally awarded block of credit from these programs should be bundled with additional, complementary certification programs to complete the technical requirements or if maintaining the existing Career Tech Credit Transfer (CT2) agreements makes sense because it would avoid students being required to duplicate coursework to complete their technical requirement; these determinations will be dependent upon the content necessary to complete the Associate of Technical Studies in the most expedient way for the student without duplication of coursework. This review process will begin after all of the 900+ clock hour programs have been completed.

Communication Strategy

In conjunction with One-Year Option stakeholder institutions, the Ohio Board of Regents will assist in providing strategies on how to inform the public about the availability of the One-Year Option for Ohioans who qualify. This communication must take place in two ways:

1. Students: Past graduates, current students, and general public
2. Institutions: OTC placement and transition counselors, college and university academic advisors, registrars, faculty and instructors, program administrators

Students: Past graduates, current students, and general public–This will encompass messaging from OBR via website and other networks to inform the public about the process, specifically how a student can access the Option as well as how the process works so institutions can address questions or concerns about its functionality. Institutions, both OTCs and Institutions of Higher Education, must be encouraged to market and promote this opportunity to prospective, current, and former students. There is tremendous upside for individuals who are currently in the workforce and qualify for the Option to return to school at an institution of higher education and complete a degree program.

Institutions: OTC placement and transition counselors, college academic advisors, registrars, faculty and instructors, program administrators– Institutions involved in the One-Year Option must provide awareness to students and staff. Administrators must ensure that staffs are well trained and knowledgeable about how the Option works. Counselors, advisors, data entry personnel, registrars, admissions officers, instructors, and faculty need to understand how to assist students who qualify for the Option, as well as make sure a student can access the Option. Staff handling transcripts and degree audits must understand the One-Year Option and the directives and guidance coming from the credit affirmation teams as a result of the legislation.

Timeline

The timeline for implementation of the One-Year Option will be driven by two factors:

1. Communications
2. Credit Affirmation Teams

The Ohio Board of Regents will need to initiate communication with the various stakeholders in the institutions to make sure there is thorough understanding of the system. Some basic communication such as a web site and emails to administrators has been initiated. OBR will establish additional institutional communication throughout Spring and Summer 2014. The specific tactics and timeline for communicating to the public will be determined after institutions are fully informed and credit affirmation teams provide lessons learned.

Credit Affirmation Team leaders began meeting in June 2014. Process to begin review will occur in July 2014 with an initial meeting of all Credit Affirmation Teams. This process will give OBR a more firm understanding of how much time is needed for institutions to establish institutional policies and procedures to ensure students can access the Option, as well as how long it might take Credit Affirmation Teams to affirm credit.

MODIFICATION OF INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The proposed actions in this document address the establishment and implementation of the One-Year Option system. Still, to be fully operational throughout Ohio's Credit Transfer System, institutions will have to make adjustments to some policies and procedures that could impede implementation. In order to fully implement the Option, the One-Year Option Stakeholders Team propose the following actions in order to establish the One-Year Option Credit Articulation System.

#4 PROPOSED ACTION

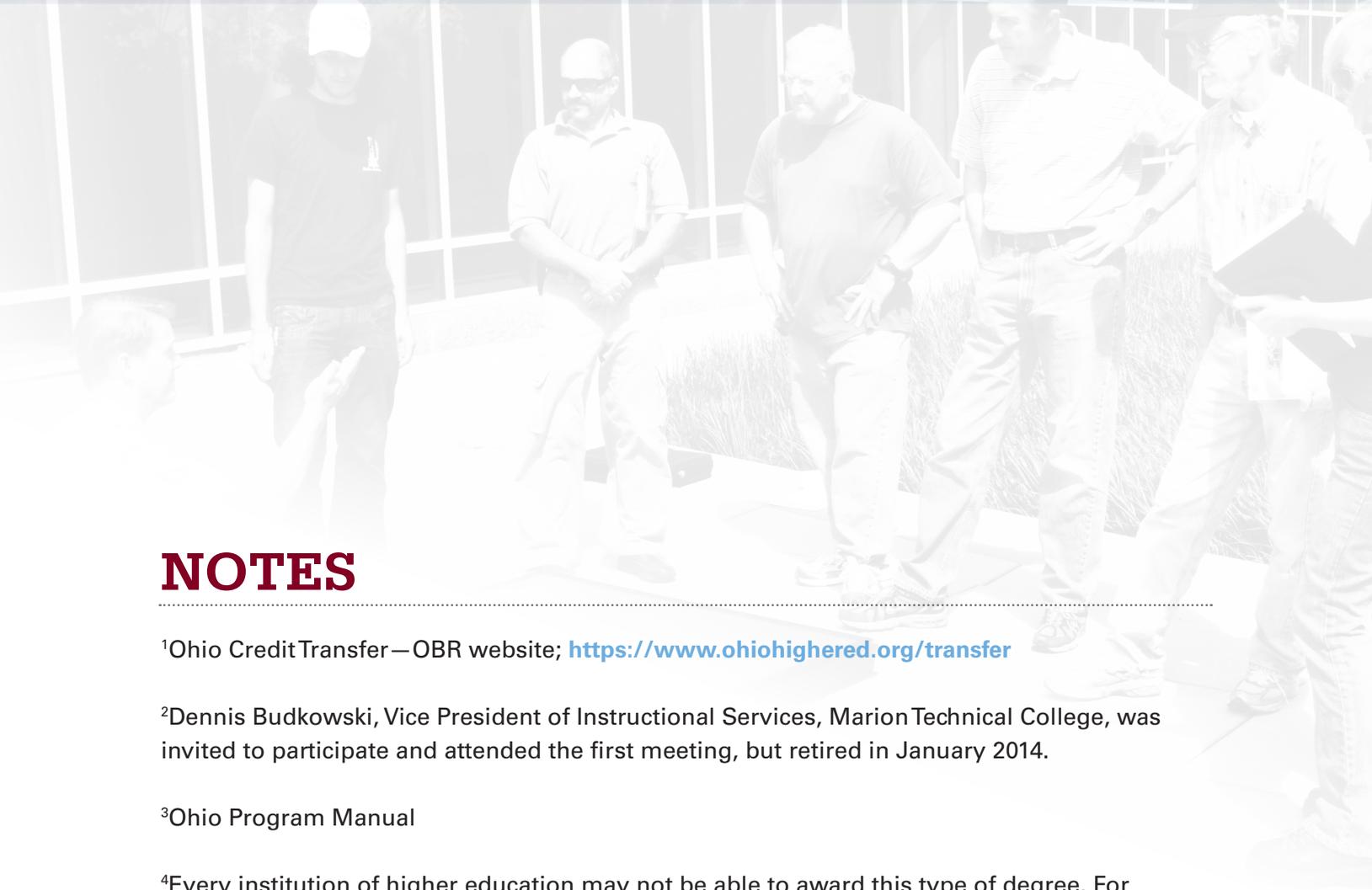
Work with OTCs and OH-TECH to ensure OTC student transcripts have the consistency and capability to be shared through the Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse.

As a Higher Learning Commission requirement and a precaution to prevent the loss of accreditation for Ohio's institutions of higher education, the establishment of official OTC Transcripts aligned to college data standards is extremely important. The transcripts will help to validate the student's learning from the OTC in a manner consistent with Higher Learning Commission articulation standards. Currently, OBR is working with OTCs to identify how transcripts are developed, distributed, and shared with receiving institutions. Secondly, for optimum implementation of the One-Year Option in the long-term, OTC transcripts could be shared electronically through the Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse (ATC), which is utilized by Ohio's institutions of higher education. In order to do this, OBR will work with OH-TECH to develop a solution for the ATC which will allow OTCs to submit transcripts through the system.

#5 PROPOSED ACTION

Work with institutions of higher education to waive, specifically for the One-Year Option "standardized" ATS degree, institutional residency requirements for technical instruction.

Many, if not all, Ohio two-year colleges have residency requirements within their applied degree programs that are specific to the amount of technical credits a student must earn on an institution's campus. OBR will work with institutions requesting them to waive technical credit residency requirements they may have for the One-Year Option "standardized" ATS degree.

A group of seven people, including men and women, are gathered in a meeting. They are standing in a room with large windows in the background. One man on the left is gesturing with his hand while speaking to the others. The group appears to be engaged in a discussion or presentation.

NOTES

¹Ohio Credit Transfer—OBR website; <https://www.ohiohighered.org/transfer>

²Dennis Budkowski, Vice President of Instructional Services, Marion Technical College, was invited to participate and attended the first meeting, but retired in January 2014.

³Ohio Program Manual

⁴Every institution of higher education may not be able to award this type of degree. For example, Ohio's universities, unless they have a regional campus affiliate, may not have the capacity or structure for awarding an ATS degree to students. This action only applies to institutions that are able to provide the necessary instruction and capacity for the degree.

OhioHigherEd

