



DIRECTIVE 2011-004

March 4, 2011

RE: A PROPOSAL FOR AWARDING COLLEGE CREDIT FOR MILITARY TRAINING, EXPERIENCE, AND COURSEWORK TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN OHIO

Guiding Philosophy

The Chancellor recognizes that students can document their achievement in college-level subject matter via military training, experience, and coursework. In order to provide consistency and clarity for students, the policy for awarding college credit for military training, experience, and coursework should be adopted by all public institutions of higher education in Ohio.

The guiding philosophy behind the policy includes the following:

- The policy should recognize prior-learning acquired through military training, experience, and coursework, and Ohio's public institutions of higher education should award appropriate college credit for such learning.
- Prior-learning credits associated with training, experience, and coursework in the Armed Forces should be counted toward degrees consistently across Ohio public institutions of higher education.
- It should be clear to prospective students how military training, experience, and coursework credits will be awarded at any public institutions of higher education in Ohio.
- The policy should promote student success.
- The policy should be fair to "native" students, as well as transfer students.
- There should be a balance between maintaining standards and advantaging students in awarding college credit for military training, experience, and coursework.
- Students should not be disadvantaged in the acceptance of military training, experience, and coursework credits when transferring within the public institutions of higher education system.
- Students should consult with academic advisors to determine how military training, experience, and coursework credits can be used most effectively in meeting degree requirements. It should be recognized that advisors may recommend that students take a bridge course in order to be successful in their major areas or in a second course in a highly dependent sequence of courses.

Ohio GI Promise, created through Executive Order 2008-17S in July 2008, calls for all 36 University System of Ohio institutions to participate in the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium. The Chancellor

acknowledges the importance of this commitment; in fact, it is a key component in the Strategic Plan for Higher Education 2008-2017 for the University System of Ohio (Page 59). One example of the SOC principles is the recognition of military experience as evaluated by the American Council on Education (ACE). The above guiding philosophy supports the spirit of the Ohio GI Promise and the Strategic Plan for Higher Education.

While a policy should provide clarity for most cases, any uncertainties should be adjudicated consistent with the guiding philosophy. All public institutions of higher education in Ohio should adhere to the following policy in awarding college credit for military training, experience, and coursework:

Policy

1. College credit will be granted to students with military training, experience, or coursework that is recognized by the American Council on Education (ACE).
2. All public institutions of higher education in Ohio will use *ACE Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services* in evaluating and awarding academic credit for military training, experience, and coursework.
3. If the course to which the military training, experience, or coursework is equivalent fulfills a general education or major course or degree program requirement at the receiving institution, the credit should count towards graduation and meet a requirement accordingly. Otherwise, appropriate course credit including free elective course credit will be granted.
4. Each public institutions of higher education in Ohio will provide information on awarding of college credit for military training, experience, and coursework, which should include the number of credits awarded and the course equivalents.
5. Credits earned via military training, experience, and coursework are transferable within public institutions of higher education in Ohio according to the state's Transfer Module, Transfer Assurance Guides, Career-Technical Credit Transfer, and transfer policy.

Timeline

The policy should be fully implemented by fall 2012 and will be applied to students who are enrolled at a public institution of higher education in Ohio in the fall of 2012 and have not had their military training, experience, and coursework evaluated for college credit. The new policy should be communicated to prospective students and to other key stakeholders during the Academic Year 2011-2012. A statewide system reporting how institutions align their courses to military training, experience, or coursework will be developed over time.

Assessing the Effect and Progress of the Policy

The Chancellor, or Chancellor's staff, will review the policy to determine its effect and present the review findings to the Articulation and Transfer Oversight Board and the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council. The Articulation and Transfer Oversight Board and the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council will recommend to the Chancellor any needed modifications in the policy to bring it into consistency with the guiding philosophy.

Staff worked closely with the Articulation and Transfer Oversight Board and the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council in writing the policy. Members of the Articulation and Transfer Oversight Board and the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council support this directive and recommended the adoption of the policy and staff posted the recommendation to the Regents website for purposes of providing public comment before final approval by the Chancellor.

The chancellor's staff reviewed with the Oversight Board the public comments received. After discussion, the Oversight Board recommends the adoption of the policy.

Based on my review of the recommendations of staff and the Oversight Board, I hereby adopt the policy described in this directive for awarding college credit for military training, experience, and coursework, and all public institutions of higher education in Ohio should adhere to the policy in awarding college credit for military training, experience, and coursework.

This Directive takes effect immediately.



Eric D. Fingerhut
Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents

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