

## Competency Based Credit-Earning Options Procedure

(See academic catalog regarding Foreign Language Requirement)

These options provide opportunities to earn academic credit without participating in formal instruction. Such credits may not be transferable to another institution. Credits are posted in the term during which the credits are granted. Credits earned through these options are given S/U grades. Only 30 total competency based credits may apply toward graduation with a Bachelor's degree, and only 15 total may apply for graduation with an Associate's degree. Competency based credits may be used toward the 30 total credits that must be earned at DSU for graduation with a DSU degree. Students may not apply for competency based credit for a course that was previously attempted or taken. Competency Based Credit is recorded on the official transcript.

- Standardized Exam. Nationally recognized, standardized examinations that document knowledge and competencies and award degree credit for one or more subject areas.
  - Recognized standardized exams include: CLEP, AP, DSST, and IB.
  - Students may have to pay a fee for a standardized exam.
  - Minimum credit-granting scores are determined by the NDUS-Credit-by-Exam Chart.
- Challenge Exam. An institutionally developed exam that enables a student to earn degree credit for a course through testing.
  - An exam is available for CSCI 101 for those who have not previously registered in the course.
  - Approval is also needed from the advisor, the instructor of the course, and the Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.
  - Successful students must pay a fee to record the class on the official academic transcript or may have the requirement waived. In the latter case, students must complete the required number of credits in general education and for graduation.
- Foreign Language Requirement Exemption. An option that provides students who have prior learning in a language to complete degree credit in that language.
  - International students whose languages are other than English receive automatic waiver. Students still must complete the required number of credits in relevant programs and for graduation.
  - Those who can document graduation from a non-English speaking high school or college also receive waiver. Students still must complete the required number of credits in relevant programs and for graduation.
  - A standardized exam exists for the language in which students are proficient.
  - By placement exam and/or interview with a language instructor, students may enter an advanced class. Passing the class with a B allows students to pay a fee to record previous classes in the language sequence or have the requirement waived. In the latter case, students still must complete the required number of credits in relevant programs and for graduation.
- Prior Learning Assessment. Institutional evaluation of a student portfolio, training modules, or other documentation for the purpose of granting degree credit for learning acquired through experience.
  - Students seeking to apply for prior learning assessment must register for UNIV 200 for instruction in the process.
  - Students must apply for a specific course. Prior learning assessment credit cannot be designated and transcribed under catalog numbers 292/492 or 299/499.
  - Successful students must pay a fee to record the class on the official academic transcript.
- Evaluated Non-College Coursework Credit. This award of degree credit through use of published recommendations for formal instructional programs offered by non-collegiate agencies, especially the military. GERTA and/or the American Council on Education (Guide to Evaluation of Education Experiences in the Armed Services on the ACE website) provide equivalencies between military training and specific college courses. Similarly, published and authorized equivalencies between civilian instructional programs and specific college courses must be available.
  - Students must have matriculated to DSU and be in good standing to apply.
  - HPER 100 is waived for basic training.
  - In addition to specific courses, 10 elective credits are available for military training.
  - Credits earned from evaluated military courses are recorded on the official academic transcript without charge.
  - Credits earned from civilian instructional programs must pay a fee to record the class on the official academic transcript (See Prior Learning Assessment)

- Articulated Credit. The award of degree credit for activities, typically non-college course or training content, that have been evaluated, deemed equivalent to specific courses, and detailed in a corresponding articulation agreement prior to the non-college course or training.
  - Students must have matriculated to DSU and be in good standing to apply.
  - Credits earned must pay a fee to record the class on the official academic transcript.

#### Restrictions

1. For Prior Learning Assessment, the student must have matriculated to Dickinson State University, must meet with an advisor and, with the recommendation of the advisor, must register for UNV 200 – Portfolio Preparation. The student may apply for Prior Learning Credit during the class or for one year after completing the class.
2. For Evaluated Non-College Coursework Credit, the student must have matriculated to Dickinson State University.
3. The student may not apply for Competency Based Credit-Earning Options for any course that was previously attempted or taken (appearing on the DSU transcript as W, F, or other letter grade).
4. Competency Based Credit-Earning Options are graded S (Satisfactory). Credit sought but not approved does not appear on the student's transcript and a U (Unsatisfactory) is not applied. Competency Based Credit-Earning options do not count as courses that students elect to take with S/U grading, therefore they do not count toward the limit of 15 credits of those that may be applied toward graduation.
5. No more than 30 credits earned through Competency Based Degree Credit Earning Options may be applied toward graduation for a bachelor's degree, and only 15 total may apply for an associate's degree.
6. A recording fee of 50% of regular per semester hour residency tuition (non-refundable) will be charged to have Prior Learning Assessment Credit and Foreign Language placed on the transcript. No transcription fees will be charged for standardized exam credit or military credit.
7. Competency Based Degree Credit Earning Options do not apply to the 30 semester hours that are required to be earned at Dickinson State University for graduation.