

Sec. 10a-34-16. Credit for prior learning

(a) Transfer credit and credit for noncollegiate sponsored instruction.

(1) Appropriate allowance of credit to students for relevant subject matter mastered through instruction at institutions of higher learning accredited by the Board or by a regional accrediting association and colleges and universities of known and demonstrable high quality located outside the United States may be given and is encouraged.

(2) Award of credit for studies completed at nonaccredited colleges and universities and noncollegiate institutions shall be based on an evaluation of prior experiential learning pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10a-34-16 of these regulations or on course evaluation procedures approved by the Department of Higher Education.

(b) Credit for prior experiential learning. Prior experiential learning means learning acquired through work or life experience and noncollegiate sponsored instruction which may be recognized for college credit based on verification that learning has occurred that is equivalent in level and nature to learning acquired in approved college programs. An institution proposing to award credit for prior experiential learning shall develop written policies and procedures in accordance with the following standards:

(1) Acceptable methods of assessment include (A) standardized tests, (B) nationally recognized evaluations for credit recommendations accepted by the Board, (C) individualized written or oral tests designed and administered by qualified faculty, and (D) portfolio review, in accordance with subsection (b) (2) of Section 10a-34-16 of these regulations.

(2) Portfolio review policies and procedures shall provide for:

(A) Written procedures for the development and assessment of portfolios.

(B) A process that adequately supports the development of portfolios, such as a credit course or non-credit workshop.

(C) Assessment of each portfolio by institutional faculty members (a minimum of two) qualified in pertinent subject areas.

(D) Verification that learning has occurred and that the learning is equivalent in level and nature to learning acquired in approved college programs.

(E) No credit shall be awarded via portfolio review outside of subject areas encompassed by the approved curricula of the institution.

(3) No more than 50 percent of the credits required for a degree shall be awarded for prior experiential learning.

(4) Comprehensive records of evaluations and credit decisions shall be maintained by the institution. The records shall specify the experience for which credit was awarded, the method(s) of assessment, the names and titles of faculty members and administrators who recommended approval of credit, and the number of credits awarded. Sufficient information shall be entered on the student transcript, or attached to it, to enable registrars at other institutions or employers to understand the basis for the award of credit.

(Effective March 7, 1986)