

Legislation, ASCCC Resolutions, and other ASCCC Items Regarding Credit for Prior Learning

Legislation in the past 8 years:

AB 2462 (Block, 2012)

SECTION 1.

Section 66025.7 is added to the Education Code, to read:

66025.7.

By July 1, 2015, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, using common course descriptors and pertinent recommendations of the American Council on Education, shall determine for which courses credit should be awarded for prior military experience.

SB 1071 (Roth, 2018)

SEC. 2.

Section 66025.71 is added to the Education Code, immediately following Section 66025.7, to read:

66025.71.

(a) The Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, in collaboration with the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges, shall do both of the following:

(1) ~~Commencing January 1, 2019, begin development of, and each community college district subsequently shall begin adoption and implementation of, a uniform~~ *By September 1, 2019, develop a consistent* policy to award military personnel and veterans who have an official Joint Services Transcript containing courses that have been evaluated by the American Council on Education with full descriptions and credit recommendations, course credit for California Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum, California State University General Education Breadth, or local community college general education requirements, as appropriate for the student's needs, in a course with subject matter similar to that of his or her military education, training, and service.

(2) Periodically review and adjust the policy developed pursuant to this subdivision to align it with policies of other public postsecondary educational institutions.

~~(b) If the policy to be adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) is not implemented for the entering class in the fall 2019 academic term, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall report to the appropriate legislative committees the reasons for not implementing the uniform policy and the plan for implementing the policy for the entering class in the fall 2020 academic term.~~

(b) By December 31, 2020, each community college district shall have a policy consistent with the policy developed by the chancellor pursuant to subdivision (a) to assess Joint Services Transcripts for the awarding of course credit.

(c) Each community college campus shall post on its Internet Web site the most recent policy adopted pursuant to this section.

SEC. 3.

If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government ~~Code~~. *Code, except that funding provided for community college districts pursuant to Section 84750.4 shall be used to directly offset any mandated costs.*

AB 1786 (Cervantes, 2018):

SECTION 1.

Section 66025.7 of the Education Code is amended to read:

(a) By ~~July 1, 2015, March 31, 2019~~, the Chancellor of the California Community ~~Colleges, using common course descriptors and pertinent recommendations of the American Council on Education, shall determine for which courses credit should be awarded for prior military experience.~~ *Colleges shall establish an initiative to expand the use of course credit at the California Community Colleges for students with prior learning. The initiative shall identify best practices for the use of course credit for students with prior learning, locate and collect available resources, and provide professional development in connection with the identified best practices. The initiative shall identify the best practices for purposes of establishing potential pilot programs and shall provide recommendations for internal systemwide policy changes to expand the use of course credit at the California Community Colleges for students with prior learning.*

(b) (1) *By January 1, 2020, the chancellor shall submit a report to the Legislature, pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code, on the initiative described in subdivision (a), including, but not limited to, activities established by the initiative. The report shall include recommendations for legislative policy changes necessary to implement the best practices identified by the initiative.*

(2) *The requirement for submitting a report imposed under paragraph (1) is inoperative on January 1, 2024, pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.*

Failed Legislation:

Several bills regarding credit for prior learning for veterans failed:

AB 733 (Mansoor, 2014) would have authorized districts to grant credits to veterans for military training and experience

AB 851 (Logue, 2014) would have required the Dental Board to accept education, training, and experience in the military towards the qualifications and requirements for licensure.

AB 372 (Hernandez, 2012) would have require that military personnel and veteran students be given a prior learning assessment to determine college-level learning gain in other than a college learning setting.

AB 1976 (Logue, 2012) called for military service to be accepted towards licensure or certification qualifications.

AB 2534 (Block, 2012) focused on credit for experiential learning in CTE courses and called for the creation of a pilot program.

Block's other bill regarding establishing policies around credit for prior learning for veterans (AB 2462) passed in 2012.

ASCCC Resolutions:

Resolution 18.04 (S11)

Whereas, United States veterans from all branches of military service learn skills and often have educational experiences while serving in the military that may be comparable to associate- or baccalaureate-level coursework;

Whereas, Service Members Opportunity Colleges (SOC), which was created in 1972 to address the need to provide educational opportunities for service members, has worked with the American Council on Education (ACE) to pursue the goal of helping veterans achieve their higher education goals by working with colleges and setting standards to help military members and veterans with course credit, especially to avoid excessive loss of previously earned credit and coursework duplication;

Whereas, SOC and ACE seek to obtain recognition and use of the ACE Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services in evaluating and awarding academic credit for military training and experience, and, in accordance with the recommendations listed in the guide, currently fifty California community colleges apply credit for educational experiences during military service toward the associate degree while all 23 California State University (CSU) campuses apply credit for educational experiences during military service toward the baccalaureate degree; and

Whereas, Credit by exam is an established process for awarding credit to students who have not taken a given course but who wish to demonstrate comparable skills and knowledge through an examination process that may include written, oral, or skill demonstration components;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges urge local senates to apply credit for educational experiences during military service toward the associate degree – including the fulfillment of general education, major coursework, and other degree requirements – in accordance with the recommendations listed in the American Council on Education (ACE) Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges provide training on the use of the American Council on Education (ACE) Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services by enlisting assistance from colleges that are already using it to apply credit toward the associate degree; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage colleges to offer credit by exam for veterans wishing to demonstrate comparable skills and understanding of course content through examination means established by discipline faculty. <http://www.militaryguides.acenet.edu/>

Resolution 7.01 (S16)

Whereas, AB 2462 (Block, 2012) calls for “the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, using common course descriptors and pertinent recommendations of the American Council on Education, [to] determine for which courses credit should be awarded for prior military experience”; and

Whereas, Responsibility for determining credit for prior learning, using mechanisms like credit by exam, relies on input and evaluation by faculty in the disciplines for which credit is being sought and is an academic and professional matter;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, in conjunction with the Chancellor’s Office and other system partners, research the costs of implementation of credit for prior military experience; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, in conjunction with the Chancellor’s Office and other system partners, work to secure sufficient and ongoing funding to cover the costs for colleges to ensure the timely implementation and ongoing awarding of credit for prior military experience.

Resolution 7.02 (S16):

Whereas, AB 2462 (Block, 2012) called for the California Community College Chancellor’s Office to “determine for which courses credit should be awarded for prior military experience”;

Whereas, The creation of baccalaureate degrees at the California community colleges has increased interest in allowing credit for a variety of prior learning experiences, which could be problematic without guidelines and faculty participation;

Whereas, The awarding of credit for prior experiences, rather than prior coursework, may be a new concept for many colleges; and

Whereas, As with credit by exam and other forms of awarding of credit, the purview of discipline faculty in determining what experience should count, how many units should be awarded, and other issues is paramount to the process;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges work with the Chancellor’s Office and other interested stakeholders to develop effective practices for the awarding of credit for prior military learning and experience; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges work with the Chancellor’s Office and other interested stakeholders to explore the option of awarding credit for forms of prior learning and experience outside of those involving military experience.

Resolution 9.03 (F17)

Whereas, The California Community Colleges are currently implementing numerous impactful initiatives and in the early stages of the wholesale transformation called for by the guided pathways movement;

Whereas, The system of 114 locally governed colleges ensures that communities are served by colleges that are responsive to the needs of their people and businesses, and all 114 colleges could benefit from assistance with implementing academically appropriate and rigorous alternative mechanisms for the awarding of credit as well as development of alternate means of delivering online education, including varied term lengths and the embedding of student support services;

Whereas, A single online college as called for by Governor Jerry Brown in his May 11, 2017 letter to Chancellor Oakley that builds on existing student success efforts has been defined without any consultative process to focus on serving a unique student population (defined by Chancellor Oakley for Flex Learning Options for Workers (FLOW) workgroup as 2.5 million Californians, most working adults, with a high school degree but no college credentials) that is unlikely to be well-served by an online approach;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recognize the value of making online Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs available across the state, the use of online instruction to compensate for knowledge gaps that might normally impede the awarding of credit for experiential learning, and the role of local, regional, and statewide faculty in implementing and delivering such programs;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage the development of structures to award credit through competency-based mechanisms and prior learning; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges support faculty in identifying and implementing innovative online approaches to support students consistent with the guided pathways movement and competency-based instructional programs.

ASCCC Rostrums

Defining the CCC Baccalaureate Degree (September 2015)

<https://www.asccc.org/content/defining-ccc-baccalaureate-degree>

Prior Learning Experience for Credit: A Faculty Question (May 2016)

<https://www.asccc.org/content/prior-learning-experience-credit-faculty-question>