South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education
Access | Affordability | Excellence

September 14,2023

SC Military Credit Mobility

(please place name, title, and institution in the chat box)

SC Military Credit Mobility
Institution Representatives
Workgroup

Introductions
(please place name, title, and institution in the chat box)

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director
Office of Student Affairs

Agenda September 14, 2023

1. Introductions and Welcome   Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director,
                                                                Office of Student Affairs

<mark>(Please put in name, title, and institution in the chat box)</mark>

All Around Discussion

2. Overview: Statewide Credit Mobility for SC Servicemembers   Alfie B. Mincy, Program Coordinator,
                                                                 SCNG CAP and Veterans Outreach

3. SCNG CAP Survey Mid-point Update

4. Case Study Analysis Overview   Adam Downs, President
                                                                 Alternative Academic Solutions. LLC

5. Institutional Workgroup Action Items

6. Next Meeting: Week of October 15th- Select a Date (Poll or Doodle Poll)

SC Military Credit Mobility Taskforce
Statewide Credit Mobility for SC Servicemembers

(Transfer credit mobility towards a certification, associate, or bachelor's degree rather than electives)

➢ **Key Stakeholders and Collaboration**

- SC Department of Veterans' Services, SC American Council on Education (ACE) Evaluators, Colleges and Universities, and SC Technical College System

Models in other states

- Minnesota Veterans Education Transfer System (VETS).
- Tennessee Prior Learning Assessments tn-sop.tn.gov Tennessee Higher Education Commission
- Purdue Global University Earn Credit for Your Military Training - Servicemember Portal
- Kansas Board of Regents https://military.kansasregents.org/

Beginning steps to implement statewide military credit mobility:

What Institutional Stage are you in?

ENGAGEMENT- Emerging Stage?

➢ **Establish advisory/work groups at each institution** (Key players on each campus)

- Registrar, Provost, faculty, Dept. Chair, Student Support Personnel, Academic/Transfer Advisor, Veterans/Military Support Services

DEVELOPMENT- Developing Stage?

- Acknowledging the role of prior learning in postsecondary pathways.
- Developing centralized policies and procedures
- Creating venues for information–sharing across institutional constituencies; involving faculty in developing and vetting policies/practices such as crosswalks and articulations.

Survey Results
What are we learning?

The **2ⁿᵈ online survey** was sent to South Carolina's two-year and four-year public and independent institutions. The information provided will be shared with the **SC Military Credit Mobility Institution Representative workgroups,** SC colleges and universities, SC Commission on Higher Education, SC Technical College System, SC Independent Colleges and Universities, and other stakeholders.

Data Collection Period: August 2, 2023 – September 14, 2023. Deadline extension: Friday, September 29, 2023

Types of survey questions: Multiple choice, Skip logic, and Open-ended

Number of responses: Twelve (12) responses were received as of 9/13/23

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Institution - Respondents

Respondents 2nd Survey

Institution Public, four-year	Institution Public, Two-year	Institution Independent, four-year
*Clemson University	Central Carolina Technical College	*Charleston Southern University
*Coastal Carolina University	Horry-Georgetown Technical College	Coker University
*College of Charleston	Midlands Technical College	Columbia International
*Francis Marion University	Northeastern Technical College	Furman University
Lander University	Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College	*Limestone College
*South Carolina State University	Technical College of the Lowcountry	Morris College
The Citadel	*Trident Technical College	Newberry College
*USC Beaufort	*Florence Darlington Technical College	North Greenville University
*USC Columbia & Palmetto College (USCL, USC Salk, USC Sumter, USC Union)		Southern Wesleyan University
*USC Upstate	*Respondents to the 2nd Survey as of 9.13.23	Voorhees College
Winthrop University		

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Survey Questions:

Midpoint Check-in: September 14 2023

1. Does your institution accept credit for prior learning? If so, what methods does your institution use towards degrees or credentials
   - Standardize Examinations,
   - Faculty-developed challenge exam,
   - Portfolio-based, and other individualized assessment
   - Evaluation of non-college programs: (i.e. Earn credit based on recommendations provided by the National College Credit Recommendation Service (NCCRS) and the American Council on Education (ACE)

2. Does your institution consider military service members and veterans as transfer students? If so, how do transfer policies apply to servicemembers and veteran students in reference to admissions and transfer?

Survey Question Cont.

4. Does your institution have any MOUs with any SC Military Installations? If so, please provide a copy or the terms of the MOU. Further information needed based on survey responses (Only 2 institutions responded)

5. Institutions create their own course equivalencies. To help our SC servicemembers and veterans, how can we centralize and create venues for information-sharing, collaboration across institutional lines for state-wide military credit mobility.
   - Provide at least (2) recommendations

Survey Questions Cont.

3. List ACE Courses and/or ACE Occupation Recommendations your institution has accepted within the last two (2) years for academic credit and/or elective credit (example table below)

➤ Download – Blank Template: SC Military Credit Mobility ACE Course- Occupation- Blank Template
➤ View the list of ACE Course ID and Occupation ID Numbers connected to the ACE Military Guide recommendations. All occupation ID numbers have three (3) letter codes and all course ID numbers have two (2) letter codes that identify the service.
➤ Email Excel sheet to **amincy@che.sc.gov.**

ACE ID Course/Occupation	Exhibit Title	ACE Recommendation & Semester Hours (SH)	Institution Course Prefix/Number	Institution Course Title	Sem Hrs Credit Awarded	Applied to what Degree/ Major
EXAMPLE (Occupation) NER-HN-005	Hospitalman	Intro to Supervision - 3 SH	MGMT 2023	Princ of Supervision	3 hours	MGMT 2023 in business programs or elective hours depending on Major
EXAMPLE (Course) AR-0702-0030	Structured Self Development (SSD-1)	Supervision - 3 SH	MGMT 2023	Principles of Supervision	3 hours	MGMT 2023 in business programs or elective hours depending on Major

Case Study Analysis Overview

Alignment between the ATCD Best Practices Framework and the Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit

➢ [ATCD Best Practices Framework](#)

➢ [Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit](#)

Adam Downs, President
Alternative Academic Solutions. LLC

Things to Keep in Mind – Transfer Mobility of Credits
(ATCD Model)

1. **A**dmissibility: Refers to the extent to which military experience credit courses determine a transfer student's admission to a university and, when applicable, admission to a specific program within a university.

2. **T**ransferability **and** **D**egree **A**pplicability-. Refers to the conditions under which a college/university accepts military experience credit courses for inclusion in the student's record.
    - THINGS TO WORK ON: Take a look at your military equivalences. Work with colleges to consider more direct subject matter equivalencies

3. **C**ourse Equivalency **and** **T**ransferability: Refers to the process of equating a transfer student's military experience credit courses, both in hours and content, to a university's coursework.
    - THINGS TO WORK ON: Take a look at transfer equivalences your institution has already established for military credit within current articulation agreements (if any)

4. **D**egree **A**pplicability: Applicability of credit toward a degree refers to the prerogative of an academic authority to count specific military experience credit courses toward the fulfillment of a student's degree requirements.

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Case Study Analysis Overview

Alignment between the ATCD Best Practices Framework and the Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit

- ➤ ATCD Best Practices Framework
- ➤ Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit

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Best Practices – Transfer Mobility of Credits

Keep in mind the following (ATCD):

1. **A**dmissibility: Refers to the extent to which military experience credit courses determine a transfer student's admission to a university and, when applicable, admission to a specific program within a university.

2. **T**ransferability: Refers to the conditions under which a college/university accepts military experience credit courses for inclusion in the student's record.

3. **C**ourse Equivalency: Refers to the process of equating a transfer student's military experience credit courses, both in hours and content, to a university's coursework.

4. **Degree A**pplicability: Applicability of credit toward a degree refers to the prerogative of an academic authority to count specific military experience credit courses toward the fulfillment of a student's degree requirements.

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JOINT STATEMENT ON THE TRANSFER AND AWARD OF CREDIT[1]

- First released in 2001, it was revised in 2017. The current version was issued in December of 2021.

- It provides 8 "…**key considerations** to help colleges and universities implement credit award policies that lead to greater student success and reflect equity-minded practice."

Important to Remember:

"…every institution is responsible for determining its own policies and practices with regard to the award of credit, consistent with its individual mission and academic standards…."

"However, **denial of credit without a reasonable basis and clear rationale undermines both students' and the public's trust in our system of higher education** as a societal good and a driver of upward mobility."

ATCD/JSTAC: Combined Model

Admissibility	Transferability	Course Equivalency	Degree Applicability
1. Standard for evaluating credit should be the same regardless where the learning took place.			
		2. Credit award should be applied consistently and equitably for all students.	
			3. Policies should aim to maximize the amount of credit applied to fulfill requirements.
4. Policies/Practices must be reasonable, transparent, and easily understood.			

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Military Prior Learning Inventory

Question

How are South Carolina institutions currently handling military transfer credit within the ATCD Framework, as viewed through the lens of the Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit (JSTAC)?

Participants

Three SC institutions:

R1 Institution
R2 Institution
Technical Institution

Procedure

Meta analysis of catalog policies and external facing websites. Followed by an interview with key transfer players at each institution.

Purpose

To provide a baseline analysis of current policies/procedures. We will not make specific recommendations or judge "good" or "bad". Each institution can use the results of their study to make internal decisions aligned with their unique mission.

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Examples

		Institution Policies & Procedures			
		Admissibility	**Transferability**	**Course Equivalency**	**Degree Applicability**
First Key Consideration	The standards for evaluating and awarding credit for prior learning should be the same, regardless of where the prior learning took place. This is true whether the learning was acquired at:				
	At Another Institution	**Transfer Admission:** An applicant who, having graduated from high school, has attended another regionally accredited postsecondary institution and attempted one or more courses is a transfer student, regardless of credit earned. If fewer than 30 semester hours (45 quarter hours) of college-level work have been attempted, the applicant must meet both transfer and freshman entrance requirements.	A maximum of 76 semester hours may be transferred for degree credit from a junior college or two-year institution which is accredited by a regional association		
	High School dual-enrollment program	N/A	N/A		
	On-the-job training at employer	N/A	N/A		
	On-the-job training in the military	**Freshman Admission:** SC resident applicants with at least two years of active duty military service may be admitted as freshmen provided that they graduated high school with a 3.0 HS GPA, completed minimum college preparatory course requirements outlined by the SC Commission on Higher Education, and have not attempted any postsecondary work since graduation. **Transfer Admissions:** Applicants with a Joint Services Transcript may receive up to 6 hours of credit toward the required 30 semester hours.	A maximum of 30 semester hours of credit by correspondence and credit awarded for educational experiences in the military may be applied toward meeting the requirements for a baccalaureate degree. The 30 semester hours of credit which may be awarded for educational experiences in the military should be in accordance with recommendations published by the American Council on Education and be consistent with University policy on the transfer of credit but will only be applied to a degree program upon the approval of the dean of the college from which the degree is to be awarded.		
	Experiential learning	N/A	N/A		
	Alternative learning provider (Added)	Students transferring from non-accredited colleges may be allowed to validate credit after admission to the University. Details of the validation procedure vary and may be obtained from the dean's office of the college in which the student is enrolled.			
	The award of credit also needs to be independent of the learning modality by which it was acquired.	Our policy does not explicitly state this but we do not differentiate between modalities (online, in person, hybrid).			
Second Key Consideration	Policies for how credit award decisions are made should be consistent across the institution, regardless of the particular school, college, department, or program of study. *(Case study analysis is limited to the college level.)*				
	College of Arts & Sciences		At least half of the major courses must be taken in residence in the College of Arts and Sciences in order to apply to the degree. (Same as university policy)		No courses of a physical education, first aid, remedial, developmental, skill-acquiring, or vocational nature may be applied as credit toward a degree in the College of Arts and Sciences. (Same as university equivalency policy)
	Darla Moore School of Business				
	College of Education				
	College of Engineering and Computing				
	College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management				
	Arnold School of Public Health				
	College of Information and Communications				
	School of Music		The last 25% of a students' degree must be completed in residence (meaning through USC Columbia coursework or other USC campus), and at least half of the hours in the student's major and minor courses (if applicable) must be taken at the University, i.e. (120 credits = 30 hours). Advanced placement exam credits or transfer credits do not meet this requirement. (Same as university equivalency policy)		Electives toward credit hour requirements for all degrees in the School of Music must be in academic subjects. No courses of a remedial, developmental, or vocational nature may be applied as credit toward a degree in the School of Music. (Same as university equivalency policy)
	College of Nursing				
	College of Pharmacy				
	College of Social Work		In accordance with the mandates of the Council on Social Work Education, no credit is given for life experiences. (the university does not award credit for life experiences. It could be the case that the college needs to explicitly state this in the bulletin for accredititation reasons.)	courses must be from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Any student wishing to transfer credit must submit a course syllabus that includes learning objectives, assignments, and the titles and authors of textbooks to the BSW Program Coordinator. If it appears that the requisite competencies, knowledge, skills, and cognitive and affective processes have been addressed, the student will be exempted from the BSW course (Accreditation)	
	South Carolina Honors College				
	Palmetto College		All students must earn at least 30 USC hours after admission to this program. (it's a rewording of the university residency policy)		

Who We Are

Alternative Academic Solutions, LLC is dedicated to creating transformative partnerships with academic institutions to embrace alternative pathways for their students to earn a credential.

We specialize in helping institutions recognize the untapped potential of prior learning, allowing students to receive the credit they deserve for their diverse educational experiences. With a special emphasis on military learning.

Our expertise extends to building tailored education programs that leverage prior learning, enabling students to accelerate their academic journeys.

Additionally, we excel in creating customized programs that foster meaningful connections between higher education and employers, facilitating partnerships that align education with real-world skills and career opportunities.

Contact Information:
Adam Downs
adam.downs@alternativeacademicsolutions.com
402.770.1534 (call/text)

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Next Steps: Action Step #1

Complete Survey Monkey Questions 1 – 5
Extension Deadline: Friday, September 29th

Complete the **SC Military Credit Mobility Questions**
- ▪ If you have any issues opening the link, use this link:
  https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZLF5WSK
- ▪ Only one submission per institution is needed.

Action Step #2 ATCD Model

1) Establish an Institutional Workgroup with key players for credit mobility for SC servicemembers and veterans (if applicable)

2) Meet with your Institutional Workgroup to discuss institutional policies and procedures to support this state-wide initiative.

3) Review ACE Recommendations and establish a process for prioritizing postsecondary equivalences for military experience to support the initiative

4) ⭐ Schedule a time to meet with CHE staff

What Institutional Stage are you in?

ENGAGEMENT- Emerging Stage

- Establish advisory/work groups at each institution   (Key players on each campus)
  Registrar, Provost, faculty, Dept. Chair, Student Support Personnel, Academic/Transfer Advisor, Veterans/Military Support Services

DEVELOPMENT- Developing Stage

- Acknowledging the role of prior learning in postsecondary pathways.
- Reviewing ACE-recommended courses to share across institutional constituencies
- Creating venues for information—sharing across institutional constituencies; involving faculty in developing and vetting policies/practices such as crosswalks and articulations for more mobility of military courses and/or training.
- Develop recommendations to centralize policies and procedures to support the state-wide initiative

Transfer Mobility of Credits

Keep in mind the following (ATCD):

1. **A**dmissibility: Refers to the extent to which military experience credit courses determine a transfer student's admission to a university and, when applicable, admission to a specific program within a university.

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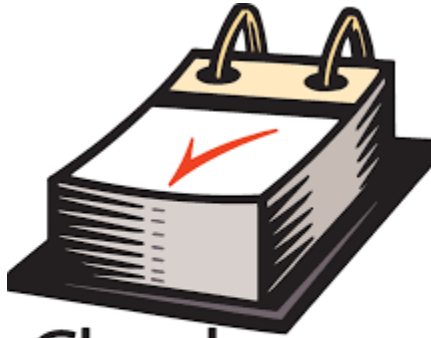
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Who Should Be Involved?

○ CHE will not make determinations on which courses equate to military training at your institutions. Faculty are the most important participants in this initiative.

○ The **registrars** are keepers of institutional policies, **veteran services professionals** are experts in understanding and serving veterans and **faculty** are the subject matter experts in their field of study.

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SC Military Credit Mobility Institution Workgroup(s) Suggested Timeline:

2023-2024 Tentative	
Date	**Action Items**
Spring 2023	Establish Institutional Advisory Committee
June 9th	**Survey issued by "Taskforce" due to CHE**
Fall 2023	
August 2	Taskforce Institution Representative Workgroups Meeting
September	Taskforce Institution Representative Workgroups Meeting Week of September 11 – Mid Point – Check in
October	CHE Meeting with Experts (i.e., Registrars, Faculty) and Action Items Case Analysis Update
November	Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) (Save the Date) 2023 Annual Conference November 8-10,2023, Baltimore MD Institution Advisory Workgroup Meeting/ **SC Military Credit Mobility Taskforce Meeting**
December	
Spring 2024	**- Superconvening – Taskforce- TBA**
January	CCEME Conference (Save the date) 2024 Council of College and Military Educators Symposium January 29-February 1,2024 – Colorado
February	Institution Advisory Workgroup Meeting/ **SC Military Credit Mobility Taskforce Meeting**
March	Institution Advisory Workgroup Meeting
April	Institution Advisory Workgroup Meeting
Spring 2024	
May	Institution Advisory Workgroup Meeting
June	Institution Advisory Workgroup Meeting/ **SC Military Credit Mobility Taskforce Meeting**
July	Institution Advisory Workgroup Meeting

Institutional Representatives Workgroups Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Questions?

Contact Information

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Technical Colleges Point of Contact

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SC Military Credit Taskforce Resource Page
https://che.sc.gov/sc-military-credit-mobility-task-force

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