SC Military Credit Mobility
Institutional Representatives
Workgroup Meeting

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

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director
Office of Student Affairs

SC
CHE

Agenda September 14, 2023

1. Introduction 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 Military Credit Mobility   Alfie B. Mincy, Program Coordinator,
    for SC Servicemembers   SCNG CAP and Veterans Outreach

3. SCNG CAP Survey Mid-point Update (Survey Monkey)

4. Military Credit Transfer Policies: Case Studies
           Research Institution   Adam Downs, President
           Comprehensive Institution   Alternative Academic Solutions,
           Technical College

5. SC Military Credit Mobility Roadshow Chat (October – December)

6. Spring 2024 SC Military Credit Mobility Taskforce Convening

7. Next Institutional Representatives Workgroup Meeting (November)

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 (23) responses were received as of 10/23/23

Institution - Respondents

Respondents 2nd Survey Monkey		
Institution **Public, four-year**	**Institution** **Public, Two-year**	**Institution** **Independent, four-year**
*Clemson University	Central Carolina Technical College	*Anderson College
*Coastal Carolina University	Horry-Georgetown Technical College	*Charleston Southern University
*College of Charleston	Midlands Technical College	*Coker University
*Francis Marion University	Northeastern Technical College	Columbia International
Lander University	*Spartanburg Community College	Furman University
*South Carolina State University	*Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College	*Limestone College
*The Citadel	*Technical College of the Lowcountry	Morris College
*USC Beaufort	*Trident Technical College	**Newberry College
*USC Columbia & Palmetto College (USCL, USC Salk, USC Sumter, USC Union)	*Florence Darlington Technical College	North Greenville University
*USC Upstate	**Response Received 2nd Survey as of 10.23.23**	Southern Wesleyan University
*Winthrop University		Voorhees College

Survey Responses Received from the following Institutions –<u>Click Here</u>

Next Steps: Action Step #1

Complete Survey Monkey Questions 1 – 5
FINAL Deadline: Monday, October 30th

Survey Responses Received from the following Institutions –Click Here

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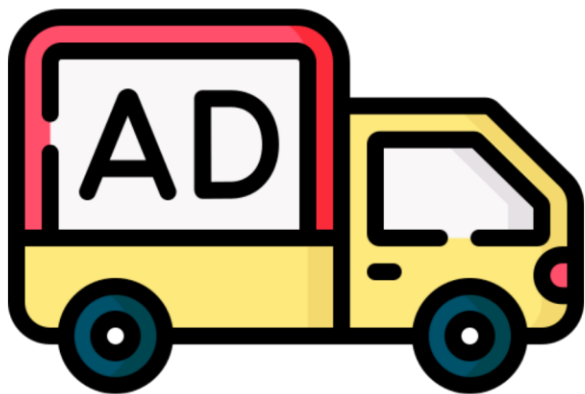**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZLF5WSK**
- Only one submission per institution is needed.

Action Step #2 SC Military Credit Mobility

Schedule a time to meet with CHE staff (Roadshow- Chat)

SC Military Credit Mobility Taskforce Roadshow

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 support the state-wide initiative

South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education

Book a Roadshow Chat

Click Here to schedule a Roadshow Chat

8

SC CHE

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT

SC MILITARY CREDIT MOBILITY TASKFORCE CONVENING

POLL

✳ Save ✳
the date

SPRING 2024

**March 2024
or
April 2024**

9

SC CHE

Institutional Representatives Workgroups Meeting

Next Meeting
Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 9:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.

Case Study Analysis

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

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.

SC
CHE

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.

14

AACRAO **CHEA** Council for Higher Education Accreditation / CIQG CIIEA International Quality Group **ACE** American Council on Education

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."

SC CHE

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.			

SC CHE

Military Transfer Credit Mobility

Transfer Friendly
Policies/Procedures

+

Transfer Friendly
Degree Plan

= Military Credit Mobility

SC
CHE
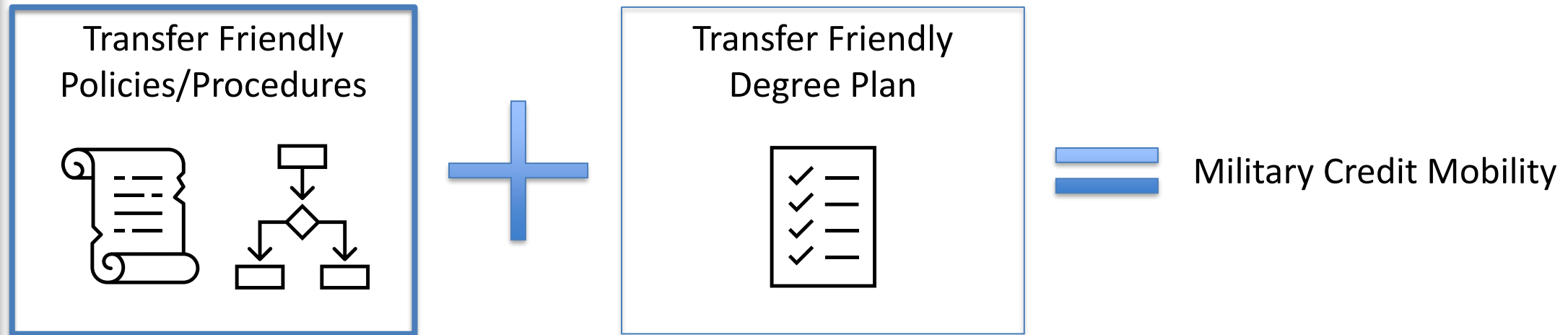
Formal courses taught through military schoolhouses.

Military Courses

Military Course ID	ACE Identifier Course Title Location-Description-Credit Areas	Dates Taken	ACE Credit Recommendation	Level
750-BT	**AR-2201-0399 V0** **Basic Combat Training:** Upon completion of the course, the recruit will be able to demonstrate general knowledge of military organization and culture, mastery of individual and group combat skills including marksmanship and first aid, achievement of minimal physical conditioning standards, and application of basic safety and living skills in an outdoor environment.	23-SEP-1990		
	• First Aid		1 SH	L
	• Marksmanship		1 SH	L
	• Outdoor Skills Practicum		1 SH	L
	• Personal Physical Conditioning		1 SH	L
	(10/00)(10/00)			

Military Experience

Occupation ID	ACE Identifier Title Description-Credit Areas	Dates Held	ACE Credit Recommendation	Level
MOS-09S10 Duty	**NONE ASSIGNED** **Officer Candidate School:** Provides training to become a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army.	01-JAN-2005		
	• Business Communications		3 SH	L
	• Office Administration		7 SH	L
	• Word Processing or Computer Applications		3 SH	L
	• Field Experience In Management		3 SH	U
	• Human Resources Management		3 SH	U
	• Management		3 SH	U

On-the-job learning.

Standardized set of validated knowledge, skills, and abilities expected of a servicemember in a specific occupation at specific rank/paygrade.

18

Admissibility

R1 Institution	R2 Institution	Technical Institution

• May enter as a freshman or transfer student.
 	
• If transfer student:
  • 30 semester hours for prior college required.
  • 6 semester hours of military credit may be used towards the 30.
 	
• JST is required prior to admission if the student self-identified as a servicemember.
	• May enter as a freshman or transfer student.
	
	• If transfer student:
	  • 30 semester hours or prior college required.
	  • Military credit does not count towards the 30.
	
	• JST is not required prior to admission.
		• Military prior learning plays no role in the admissions decision.
		
		• Transfer students may have some placement testing waived based on their college transcripts.
		
		• JST is not required prior to admission.

SC CHE

Transferability

R1 Institution	R2 Institution	Technical Institution
• Maximum of 30 semester hours of military credit for a Bachelor degree. • Maximum of 76 semester hours may be transferred from a regional 2-year institution.	• Maximum of 30 semester hours of military credit for Bachelor degree. • Maximum of 15 semester hours of military credit for Associate Degree.	• No specific maximum of military credit. Max of 75% of degree may be transfer credit.

Course Equivalency

R1 Institution	R2 Institution	Technical Institution
• Reviews Courses • Reviews Military Experiences* • Typically equated to electives but turning the corner on creating specific course equivalencies. • Equivalency decisions are made by faculty and are not student or degree plan specific.	• Reviews Courses • Reviews Military Experiences • Credit given if the military credit aligns to the types of courses offered at the institution. • Not evaluated as equivalent to any specific course. • Equivalency decisions made by Military Programs staff.	• Reviews for 3 Courses • Does not review Military Experiences • Gives credit for supervision, cpr, and leadership • *Credit beyond these three ACE recommendations is based Dean approval.* • Equivalency decisions made by Military Programs staff based on inherited equivalencies.

*Military experiences are reviewed for some limited populations where a partnership exists with the military. They are also starting some proactive "canvasing" of military experiences with specific schools, but the practice is limited.

SC CHE

Degree Applicability

R1 Institution

- Separate Course Equivalency from Degree Applicability.

- Credit applied as elective. Some student advisors are authorized to move the credit from elective to non-elective requirements.

R2 Institution

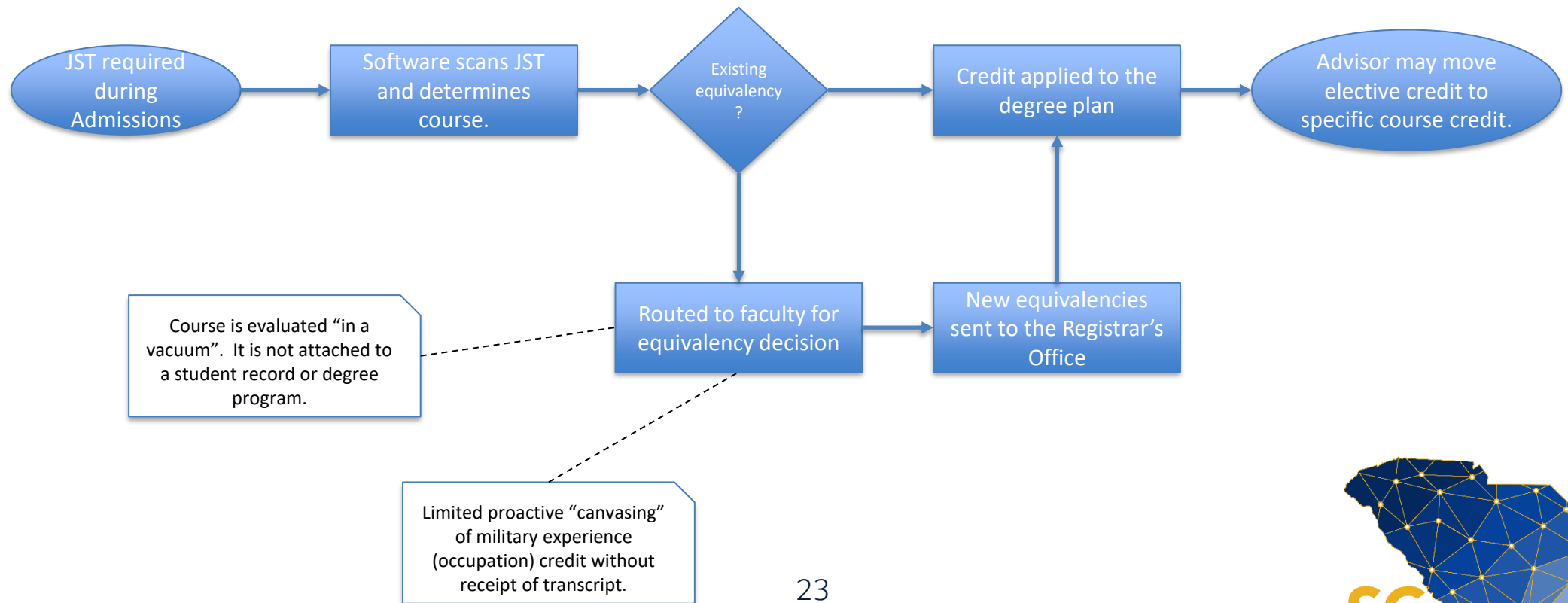- All credit applied as elective credit.

Technical Institution

- Course Equivalency is dependent on Degree Applicability
  - If fulfilling a SAC requirement for Math, more flexibility.
  - If filling a specific course, must ensure qualification of course instructor due to SACS criteria.
- Three pre-approved courses may apply as a specific course.

22

Evaluation Process: R1

Current State: Student initiated during their first advisement session with academic advisor.

Future State:

JST required during Admissions → Software scans JST and determines course. → Existing equivalency? → Credit applied to the degree plan → Advisor may move elective credit to specific course credit.

Routed to faculty for equivalency decision → New equivalencies sent to the Registrar's Office

Course is evaluated "in a vacuum". It is not attached to a student record or degree program.

Limited proactive "canvasing" of military experience (occupation) credit without receipt of transcript.

23

Evaluation Process: R2

```
┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐
│ JST reviewed │ ───▶ │ JST reviewed │ ───▶ │ Evaluation   │ ───▶ │ Credit       │ ───▶ │ If requested,│
│ after        │      │ by Military  │      │ results sent │      │ applied to   │      │ student      │
│ admission    │      │ Programs     │      │ to the       │      │ the degree   │      │ notified     │
│              │      │ team.        │      │ Registrar's  │      │ plan         │      │ results      │
│              │      │              │      │ Office       │      │              │      │ posted.      │
└──────────────┘      └──────────────┘      └──────────────┘      └──────────────┘      └──────────────┘
```

Typically, within 24 hours of receipt.

Courses and occupations reviewed. All credit applied as electives.

Typically, within 24-48 hours of receipt
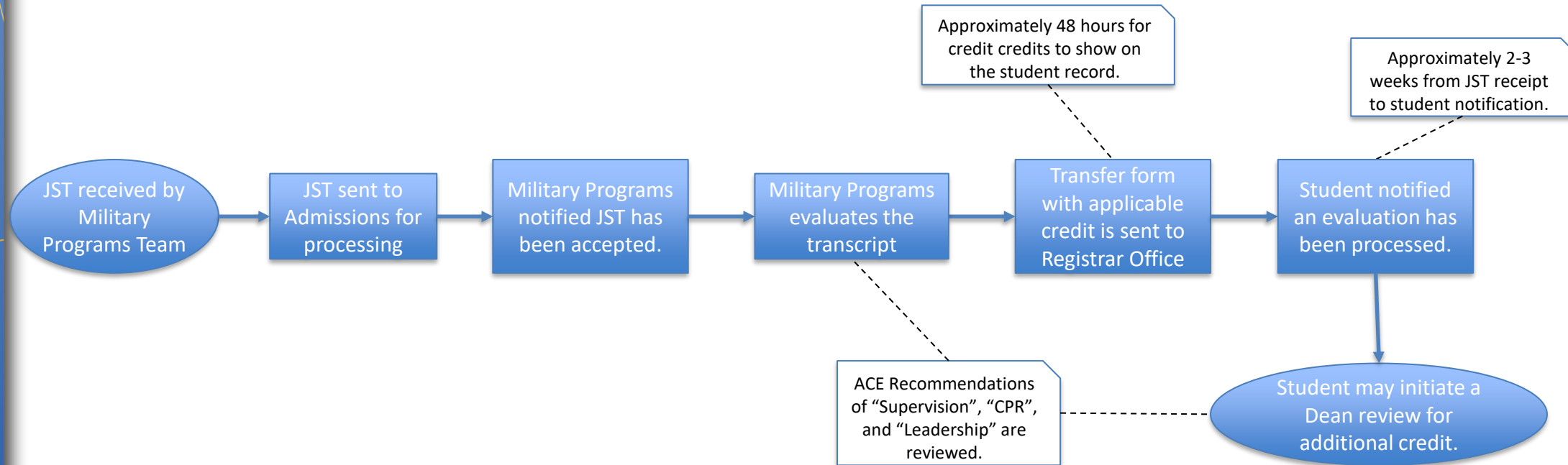
For military students, Military Programs is notified when the student file is complete. Then the admission decision, JST receipt, and military evaluation is all conducted by Military Programs.

24

Evaluation Process: Technical

```
JST received by Military Programs Team → JST sent to Admissions for processing → Military Programs notified JST has been accepted. → Military Programs evaluates the transcript → Transfer form with applicable credit is sent to Registrar Office → Student notified an evaluation has been processed.
```

Approximately 48 hours for credit credits to show on the student record.

Approximately 2-3 weeks from JST receipt to student notification.

ACE Recommendations of "Supervision", "CPR", and "Leadership" are reviewed.

Student may initiate a Dean review for additional credit.

SC CHE

At a Glance

Summary: South Carolina Academic Institution Military Evaluations			
Evaluation Category	**R1**	**R2**	**Technical**
Military Courses	✓	✓	3 specific preapproved ACE Recommendations
Military Experience	✓	✓	No
Specific Course Equivalencies	**Current State:** Electives only **Future State:** Starting to do specific equivalencies	No	3 preapproved - yes. Others with student-initiated Dean approval.
Apply as non-electives[1]	With Academic Advisor approval	No	✓
Bachelor Transfer Credit Limits	30	30	N/A
Associate Transfer Credit Limits	N/A	15	75%
Pre-Admission Unofficial Evaluation	✓	✓	No
Pre-Academic Start Evaluation	✓	✓	Possibly. Evaluation initiated once JST is received.

[1] This is different than applying as a specific course equivalency. For example, military learning may be deemed equivalent to POLI 101, but can it apply as POLI 101 outside the elective category.

SC CHE

Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit

> **1. Standard for evaluating credit should be the same regardless where the learning took place.**

For this key consideration, the evaluation standards and process for evaluating traditional credit from an accredited institution was compared to the evaluation standards for evaluating military credit.

R1	The R1 institution has decoupled Course Equivalency from Degree Applicability for both traditional and military credit. The same staff conducts the evaluation process. Courses that are determined equivalent to a program requirement are automatically applied to the student's degree plan. **Traditional transfer credit may automatically apply as general education, major, or electives.** **Military credit is listed as equivalent to either a lower level or upper level elective and may automatically apply within that category.** Specially trained academic advisors are given the authority by the college to apply the course outside of the elective category. Learning occurred through military courses are reviewed. Learning occurred through military experience are reviewed. Essentially, if ACE Recommends credit then credit is considered. Military credit is limited to a maximum of 30 semester hours. Traditional transfer credit may apply up to 75% of a degree.

Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit

1. Standard for evaluating credit should be the same regardless where the learning took place.

For this key consideration, the evaluation standards and process for evaluating traditional credit from an accredited institution was compared to the evaluation standards for evaluating military credit.

R2	At the R2 institution, traditional transcripts are evaluated for college credit during the admissions process. Military evaluations occur after the student is accepted. However, a student may receive an unofficial evaluation of credit for both prior to admissions. Traditional and military evaluations are handled by different teams. Military credit is applied as elective credit only. Military credit will only be applied if it is aligned to something they offer at the institution. For example, a lower level "Land Navigation" may not apply as there is no similar course of study at the R2 institution. Learning occurred through military courses are reviewed. Learning occurred through military experience is also reviewed. Military credit is limited to a maximum of 30 semester hours. Traditional transfer credit may apply up to 75% of a degree.

SC
CHE

Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit

> **1. Standard for evaluating credit should be the same regardless where the learning took place.**

For this key consideration, the evaluation standards and process for evaluating traditional credit from an accredited institution was compared to the evaluation standards for evaluating military credit.

Technical	At the technical institution, student records conducts the evaluation for traditional credit and Military Programs conducts the evaluation for military credit.
	
	 Military credit has pre-determined equivalencies established for ACE Recommendations of "Supervision", "CPR", and "Leadership".
	
	 No new equivalencies are determined during a military transfer credit review. New equivalencies may be established during a traditional transfer credit review.
	     Traditional Review: Student records will award a placeholder if they are unsure of course equivalency and contact the Dean or Department chair for an equivalency decision.
	     Military Review: Student must initiate a Dean or Department Chair for any equivalencies beyond the established three.
	
	 Military credit may apply as an elective, major, or general education – depending on the degree.
	
	 Learning occurred through military courses are reviewed. Learning occurred through military experience is not reviewed.
	
	 Military credit follows the same transfer limit guideline as traditional credit: 75% of the degree.

Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit

2. Credit award should be applied consistently and equitably for all students.

R1	R1 Institution is in the process of implementing a system that will automatically scan the Joint Service Transcript and check for established equivalencies. Any new equivalency that is established is recorded in their system and will be automatically applied. Faculty are trained on how to make equivalency decisions for traditional transfer credit. Training on how to evaluate military credit is very limited.
R2	All military credit evaluations are conducted by the same person within the Military Programs staff. All military credit is transferred as elective credit with no specific equivalencies established.
Technical	Technical Institution applies military transfer credit for three established equivalencies. All military credit evaluations are conducted by the same person within the Military Programs staff. Military credit may apply as an elective, major, or general education – depending on the degree requirements.

Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit

3. Policies should aim to maximize the amount of credit applied to fulfill requirements.

R1	Military credit is capped at 30 semester hours. Credit from military courses and military experience are reviewed. Military transfer credit is typically applied as elective credit.
R2	Military credit is capped at 30 semester hours. Credit from military courses and military experience are reviewed. Military transfer credit is applied as elective credit.
Technical	Military credit is capped at 75% of degree requirements. Credit from military experience is not reviewed. Military credit may apply as elective, general education, or major. Military credit is limited to three established equivalencies unless the student initiates a dean review process.

SC CHE

Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit

4. Policies/Practices must be reasonable, transparent, and easily understood.

R1	In the unofficial pre-admission evaluation, the student can see the equivalencies that have been established but not see how those equivalencies would apply to a degree. Post acceptance and pre academic start, the student can see how their credit has applied to their degree. A webpage specifically for military transfer credit, including established equivalency exists.
R2	Students are able to obtain an unofficial pre-admission evaluation. Traditional transfer credit is evaluated during the admissions process and, once admitted, students are able to see what has transferred prior to academic start. JST evaluations are conducted post admittance and available within 72 hours after JST receipt. No webpage specifically for military transfer credit. An equivalency table is available, but not linked to.
Technical	Evaluations process upon JST receipt. Typically, 2-3 weeks from receipt to student notification. Student is notified the JST was received and reviewed for transfer credit, that credit will be viewable on their account, and they can meet with their Dean if they would like to have additional credit reviewed. Unofficial rule of thumb is that the student should only attend on semester based on an unofficial transcript. No webpage specifically for military transfer credit.

SC
CHE

Additional Points of Interest

- R1 and Technical both referenced SACS accreditation, but with different contexts.
  - **R1:** SACS was adamant that faculty be involved in making equivalency decisions for incoming transfer credit. Additionally, as long as R1 had a transfer evaluation process and was following that process, the criteria for transfer credit was up to them.
  - **Technical:** A key decision in determining eligible transfer credit is the qualification of the instructor for the incoming credit. This is to ensure any programmatic articulation agreement they are putting in place with a different institution will meet the SACS criteria.

- All institutions have legacy policies/procedures inherited from previous staff. The R1 institution is working to implement large scale procedural changes in both traditional and military evaluations.

- At the Technical institution, having consistency in evaluations within the technical college system of 16 institutions is important.

- All institutions discussed ideas on how they could improve the awarding of military transfer credit.

- All institutions believe additional training on military evaluations would be useful.

SC CHE

Thank You

Thank you to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Military Credit Mobility Task Force for their support in putting together the case study.

And thank you to the three institutions who dedicated time and resources to document their policies and procedures.

SC
CHE

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 can help you create 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)

Questions?

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

2023-2024 SC Military Credit Mobility Institution Workgroup(s) Suggested Timeline:	
Date	**Action Items**
Spring 2023	Establish Institutional Advisory Committee
June 9,2023	**Survey issued by "Taskforce" due to CHE**
Fall 2023	
August 2	Taskforce Institution Representative Workgroups Meeting
September 14th	Taskforce Institution Representative Workgroups Meeting Mid-Point – Check in
October 24th	Meeting with Experts (i.e., Registrars, Faculty) and Action Items
November	Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) (Save the Date) Annual Conference November 8-10,2023, Baltimore, MD Institution Advisory Workgroup Meeting/ **SC Military Credit Mobility Taskforce Meeting**
December	
Spring 2024	**Spring 2024 SC Military Credit Mobility Taskforce Convening**
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

Contact Information

CHE Point of Contact
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Director of Student Services
(803) 856-0578
kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov

Ms. Alfie Mincy
Program Coordinator SCNG CAP & Veterans Outreach Coordinator
(803) 856-0579
amincy@che.sc.gov

Technical Colleges Point of Contact

Ms. Jennifer Black

Director of Academic Partnerships & Engagement

(803) 896-5357

blackje@sctechsystem.edu

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

South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities

Dr. L. Jeffrey Perez
President & CEO
Cell Phone: 803-322-2918
Office: 803-799-7122
jeff@scicu.org

SC CHE