



OACRAO Conference
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State Regents Update

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Areas to be Covered

- Institutional Admission and Retention policy
- Credit for Prior Learning policy
- Contractual Arrangements Between Higher Education Institutions and Other Entities policy
- Policy revision that is pending State Regents approval in October
- Policies that are under review
- State Authorization (new proposed federal requirements)

Institutional Admission and Retention (3.9.3.A.)

- Students need 15 high school units (including three units in math) for programs leading to AA, AS, and baccalaureate degrees
- Statistics & Probability was recently added as a course to count within the math section (student must have had Algebra II)

Credit for Prior Learning (3.15.3.D)

- The minimum required score on an AP examination for granting course credit for a particular lower-division course shall not exceed three.
- Policy exceptions may be granted if a State System institution determines, based on evidence, that a higher score on the examination is necessary for a student to be successful in a related and more advanced course for which the lower-division course is a prerequisite.

Contractual Arrangements Between Higher Education Institutions and Other Entities (3.6)

- Formerly the Cooperative Alliances Between Higher Education Institutions and Technology Centers policy
- Revised in January 2015 to:
 - Detail the process through which higher education institutions may enter into contractual arrangements with non-degree granting entities; and
 - Provide a policy framework to ensure higher education's oversight of these programs through control and assessment.

Contractual Arrangements Between Higher Education Institutions and Other Entities (3.6)

- When the policy was revised in 2015, the intent was for contractual arrangement to be specifically for technical programs (AAS and technical certificates), but it was not explicitly detailed in policy.
- In June 2016, the State Regents approved revisions to this policy to ensure that contractual arrangements are limited to technical programs (AAS and technical certificates)
- Revisions included amending the policy goal statement and adding a definition of “technical” as well as several references to “technical areas” and “technical” to further emphasize the type of education that would be associated with contractual arrangement programs.

Institutional Accreditation Policy

Institutional Accreditation Policy

- Policy is being revised to align with Senate Bill (SB) 1157
- SB 1157 requires the State Regents to develop a state authorization policy for private institutions* and out-of-state public institutions operating in Oklahoma.
- *Non-Profit private institutions participating in the Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant are exempt from this policy.

Institutional Accreditation Policy

- The revised version includes standards for operation, an enrollment agreement requirement, a student complaint process, and reporting requirements.
- Deleted all of the policy language that noted the State Regents as an accreditor.
- Provided that the proposed revisions are approved at the State Regents' October 20, 2016 meeting, the revised policy will go into effect on November 1, 2016.

Private School Issues

- Wright Career College closed all its campuses, which included campuses in Tulsa and OKC
 - Transcripts from August 27, 2007 to 2016 are available via the Oklahoma Board of Private and Vocational Schools
- ITT-Tech closed all campuses nationwide, which included campuses in Tulsa and OKC.
 - Transcripts are available via Parchment.
- Brown Mackie phasing out OKC and Tulsa campuses in 2018
- University of Phoenix phasing out OKC and Tulsa campuses in 2017

Policies Under Review

Concurrent Enrollment

- Proposed committee revisions include:
 - Creating a stand-alone Concurrent Enrollment policy.
 - Revising admission and course placement Standards.
 - Adding additional requirements, which are aligned with National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships standards, for off-campus concurrent enrollment.

Academic Program Approval Policy

- Right now, there are no existing policy parameters for embedded certificates.
- The committee is looking to establish a policy framework for embedded certificates.

State Authorization

State Authorization Background

- On October 29, 2010, the United States Department of Education (USDE) released “program integrity” regulations. These regulations set requirements for states to monitor and enforce statutes and policy in their states in various areas.
- One portion (§600.9c) set Title IV eligibility regulations requiring institutions to seek state authorization to deliver distance education courses to students residing in states in which they do not have a physical presence.

State Authorization Background

- On June 5, 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals agreed with a lower court ruling to 'vacate' the distance education portion (§600.9c) of the USDE's 'state authorization' regulation.
- It is important to note that this ruling is for 34 CFR 600.9(c) only and the USDE's ability to enforce the regulation. This outcome has no impact on the regulations of each state. Any distance education regulations remain in effect and the states still expect you to follow their laws.

State Authorization: Proposed Federal Distance Education Regulation

- While the USDE does not currently require states to gain state authorization for distance education, on July 25, 2016, the USDE released new proposed state authorization distance education rules. If these rules come to fruition, such rules would take effect on July 1, 2017.

State Authorization: Proposed Federal Distance Education Regulation

- Most notably:
 - If a Non-SARA institution wishes to deliver distance education to a student out-of-state, in order to award Title IV funding to such a student, the institution would have to gain state authorization if the state in which the student resides requires such a process; or
 - If a SARA institution wishes to deliver distance education to a student in a non-SARA state, in order to award Title IV funding to such a student, the institution would have to gain state authorization if the state in which the student resides requires such a process.

State Authorization: Proposed Federal Distance Education Regulation

- Institutions would be required to document authorization or SARA approval to the USDE Secretary upon request.

State Authorization: Proposed Federal Distance Education Regulation

- This would apply to programs that lead to licensure or certification in a profession, such as nursing, teacher education, or psychology.
- Under this proposed regulation, an institution would need to directly notify a distance education student regarding whether or not the program they are pursuing meets licensure/certification requirements in the state in which he/she resides.

State Authorization: Proposed Federal Distance Education Regulation

- If an institution enrolls a student from a state in which it does not meet the licensure/ certification requirements, the institution would need “to obtain an acknowledgement from the student that the communication was received prior to the student’s enrollment in the program.”

Authorization

Face-to-Face Instruction in Other Countries: Proposed Federal Regulation

- This would require that an additional location or branch campus located in a foreign location be authorized by an appropriate government agency of the country where the additional location or branch campus is located.
- Distance education in other countries is not referenced within this specific regulation.

Course Equivalency Project (CEP) Changes

- CEP Student Learning Outcomes
 - At the 9/22 CEP faculty meeting, faculty members began the process of developing Student Learning Outcomes to be associated with each course category on the CEP.
 - This is in addition to the generic course descriptions that already exist for each course category.
 - This initiative will help to determine where courses are actually equivalent and will be especially helpful for courses in a sequence.
 - In order to be included on the CEP going forward, new courses will need to meet all the outcomes in order to be accepted.
 - We hope to have SLOs approved by these 13 disciplines approved in May when the State Regents vote to approve the 2017-2018 CEP matrix.

CEP Changes

CEP Language Issue

- Some registrars brought to SR Staff's attention that, although the course description for the Introductory categories on the CEP specify those courses must be at least 4 hours to be included, several 3-hour courses were listed.
- All the world and foreign languages groups met as a large group at the CEP faculty meeting to resolve the issue.
- Although the issue was not able to be resolved at the meeting due to time constraints, several faculty members from those disciplines stepped forward as volunteers to form a working group to examine the issue and reach a resolution.