The ACE Review and Recommendation Process

Recognizing and Evaluating Credit for Prior Learning Summit
RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner

American Council on Education

Christopher Johnson, Ph.D.
ACE Affiliate
Agenda

• Introductions
• A Little History
• ACE Review and Recommendation Process
• Reviewer Perspectives
• Tools for Mapping
• Q & A
A Look Inside the Evaluation
The ACE Review Process

It is the charge of the faculty to determine the academic rigor and course equivalency based on the depth and breadth of the materials and alignment with the evaluation of content mastery.
What’s the faculty member’s job?

- Grounded in *current* curricular standards
- Bring content area expertise
  - Ex. Healthcare, leadership, aviation
- Represent all post secondary levels of education
  - Each bring a different perspective
- Apply multidisciplinary approach
Evaluation Activities

Corporate Program - College Credit Recommendation Service (CREDIT)- Evaluate workplace education and training (courses and examinations) for academic credit.

Military Evaluations Program- Evaluate formal courses and occupational specialties within the military and recommend college-level credit.
Third Party Validation

Credit for Military Training and Experience

- Award credit for military service schools
- Recognize and use ACE Guide in evaluating military training experiences

Credit for Nationally-Recognized Testing Program

- Award credit for at least one nationally-recognized testing program such as CLEP (General and Subject Exams), DSST (DANTES Standardized Subject Tests), ECE (Excelsior College Examinations)
ACE Review Team

- Team Coordinator
- Subject Matter Experts selected from college faculties
- Psychometrician if needed
Items Reviewed By Team

- Course syllabus
- Textbooks
- Assessment methods
- Student & instructor guides
- Laboratory projects
- Instructional support materials
- Instructor Qualifications
Evaluation Criteria

Content

Learning Outcomes

Applicability to Postsecondary Programs

Depth and Breadth of Material

Level of Difficulty
Content, scope and rigor must be at the post-secondary level!
Team Recommendations

- Based on college equivalencies: what can be found in college curriculum

- Credit Categories
  - Vocational Certificate
  - Lower Division Baccalaureate/Associate
  - Upper Division Baccalaureate
  - Graduate
ACE’s Military Evaluations Program: Terms and Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Hours</td>
<td>Hours within the delivery of a program of instruction that are instructor led or which are performed under the supervision of the instructor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation, and Evaluation (ADDIE Model)</td>
<td>A method of curriculum design that incorporates the Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation, and Evaluation (ADDIE) phases. Core to the ADDIE model is the establishment of Terminal and Learning Objectives to derive the desired learning outcomes by the students for each module of instruction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Refers to the wide variety of methods that educators use to evaluate, measure and document the academic readiness, learning progress, and skill acquisition of students. These may be standardized tests or performance assessments among others. The assessment should be rigorous in that it should be of such complexity as to properly evaluate the learning desired for the scope of the course. Education conducted in an operational medical setting such as patient, emergency, clinics, hospitals, laboratories, examinations, and ambulance transports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community College of the Air Force (CCAF)</td>
<td>The Community College of the Air Force is a regionally accredited degree-granting institution for enlisted airmen. ACE does not evaluate courses that fail to meet CCAF standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>The knowledge, skills and attitudes imparted by learning activities and performance activities. Topics and subjects and align with higher education, professional, national, state, and standards of curriculum. A connection to higher education level I are clear and descriptive. Resources and materials are coherent with education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Description</td>
<td>The identification of the course materials including items such as objectives or outcomes and scope.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Goal</td>
<td>The course goal simply states the intent or desired accomplishment of the course is designed to teach the student.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Terminal Objective</td>
<td>Describe the learner’s expected level of performance/certificate/ course/training and describe results of the training needs for the learning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 2: Course Planning Resources

- A. The course planning tools such as a POE provide a thorough overview of the course expectations.
- B. The curriculum is current.
- C. There are a documented course objectives.
- D. The learning outcomes are defined within the planning tools (such as a POE, ICFP, syllabus).

Section 3: Instructional Materials/Resources

- A. The quantity and type of instructional materials are sufficient to align with the learning outcomes.
- B. The lesson plans relate to the learning outcomes.
- C. The lesson plans address a skill, behavior or knowledge to be learned.

Section 4: Academic Content

- A. The modules/units within the course align to current post-secondary curricula.
- B. The level of the content being taught is equivalent to post-secondary expectations.
- C. The learning outcomes reflect what the student is expected to know, understand or be able to demonstrate.
- D. The learning outcomes have measurable criteria.
Welcome to CREDIT

The American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (CREDIT) connects workplace learning with colleges and universities by helping adults gain access to academic credit for formal courses and examinations taken outside the traditional classroom.

The ACE National Guide to College Credit for Workforce Training contains ACE credit recommendations for formal courses or examinations offered by various organizations, from businesses and unions to the government and military.

View organizations below or search for a specific course or exam.

ACT Education Solutions
ACT, Inc. Workforce Development Division
ALEKS Corporation (McGraw Hill)
AMC Logistics Leadership Center
American Bankers Association
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Inc.
American Management Association
American Payroll Association (APA)
American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists
American Society of Military Comptrollers
American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA)
College Credit for Military Service

Military Guide

Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services

ACE's Military Guide presents credit recommendations for formal courses and occupations offered by all branches of the military.

All recommendations are based on ACE reviews conducted by college and university faculty members who are actively teaching in the areas they review.

You can search for courses and occupations using:

- ACE identification number
- Military course number
- Military course title
- Training location
- Dates completed
- Subject and level

Search Courses

Course exhibits begin with a two-letter code.

Search Occupations

Occupation exhibits begin with a three-letter code.

More stories on College Credit for Military Service

www.militaryguides.aceret.edu
Review Summary

No magic elixir
- Content, scope, and rigor
- Learning outcomes; alignment to assessment
- Current curriculum

Not always credit
- Insufficient materials
- Inadequate Assessments
- Limited scope
- Too organizational specific

Faculty collaboration
- 100% consensus
- Multiple faculty per course
- Aligned subject area expertise
Models & Examples

Ohio Department of Higher Education
https://transfercredit.ohio.gov/pg_35?0::NO:::

MNSCU
http://www.mnscu.edu/military/transfer.html

Ivy Tech Community College
https://www.ivytech.edu/pla/

Central Texas College
http://www.ctcd.edu/degree_plans.html

Coastline Community College
http://military.coastline.edu
Serve as an Evaluator

• Must be actively teaching college-level courses.

• Discipline expertise is needed, you are contacted directly to serve on the ACE team.

• ACE provides an honorarium and for travel expenses.

www.acenet.edu/evaluators

evaluator@acenet.edu
Contact Information

Mary Beth Lakin, Director
College & University Partnerships
American Council on Education
mlakin@acenet.edu

Christopher Johnson, Ph.D.
ACE Affiliate
Central Penn College
christopherjohnson@centralpenn.edu