

DPSST Recognition of College Credits for Public Safety Certification

On March 1, 2006, a new DPSST Administrative Rule governing acceptable college credits became effective. The new rule and some helpful websites are printed on the reverse side of this document. Please use the following guideline to determine if DPSST will recognize your coursework as being eligible college credit for purposes of certification:

1. Is your college identified as being accredited?

YES – Proceed to Step 2.

NO – Your coursework is not eligible.¹

2. Is the accrediting body that has accredited your college a legitimate accrediting body (i.e., recognized by CHEA or USDE)?²

YES – Proceed to Step 3.

NO – Your coursework is not eligible.

3. Is your college's accreditation current?³

YES – Proceed to Step 4.

NO – Your coursework is not eligible, unless you can show evidence that it was accredited at the time you attended.

4. Is the institution accrediting your college a "degree-granting" institution (i.e., Associate's, Bachelor's or Master's Degrees)?⁴

YES – Proceed to Step 5.

NO – Your coursework is not eligible.

5. Determine if your program (or planned program) is: A) a degree program; or B) a diploma/certificate program.⁵

A – If your program is a program leading to a college degree, or the credits from your coursework would apply toward a college degree, then DPSST will need an official sealed transcript to calculate the appropriate number of credits awarded to you. These will be entered on your official DPSST training record.

B – If your program is a diploma/certificate program NOT leading to a college degree, then you will need to provide confirmation that the coursework you completed would have applied towards a recognized degree if you had chosen to pursue a degree. If so, then DPSST will need an official sealed transcript to calculate the appropriate number of credits awarded to you. These will be entered on your official DPSST training record.

¹ Oregon Law (ORS 348.594 and Chapter 546 of Oregon Laws 2005) provides a specific exemption for degree-granting institutions that offer degrees in theology or religious occupations. See the Office of Degree Authorization's website for a list of these institutions, even if the institution is not accredited by a recognized accrediting body.

² The Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) both provide on-line lists of recognized accrediting bodies. Oregon's Office of Degree Authorization (ODA) also provides useful links and helpful information about legitimate and non-legitimate accrediting agencies.

³ The CHEA, USDE, and ODA websites are helpful in this step. See website links on reverse page.

⁴ If the institution is only accredited to provide a certificate or diploma, your coursework is not eligible.

⁵ If the program length is one year or less, it was probably a diploma/certificate program.

Helpful websites include:

Council on Higher Education Accreditation: <http://www.chea.org/>

U.S. Department of Education accreditation information and resources:
<http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>

Oregon Office of Degree Authorization: <http://www.osac.state.or.us/oda/accreditation.html>

Current Administrative Rule governing eligible college credit:

259-008-0045

College Education Credits

(1) Credit for preservice or inservice college education will not be accepted in lieu of the Basic Course described in OAR 259-008-0025.

(2) College credits must be combined with experience and training in determining eligibility for Intermediate, Advanced, Supervisory, Management, and Executive Certification.

(3) College credits or degrees used for certification must have been earned from the following:

(a) A degree-granting community college, college or university accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting body; or

(b) A community college, college or university whose coursework or degree has been accepted for credit by a degree granting community college, college or university accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting body.

(c) A degree-granting college or university recognized by the Oregon Office of Degree Authorization under the provisions of ORS 348.594(2)(d).

(d) For purposes of this rule, a recognized national or regional accrediting body is one recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, or the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), or its predecessor.

(4) Any college credits obtained in a foreign country, which are claimed to be comparable to credits or a degree granted by a licensing body in the United States or US Territories must be evaluated by a credentialing agency that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). The credentialing agency must send an evaluation to the Department for approval, at the applicant's expense, before any educational credit is accepted as equivalent.

(5) Certification Credit. The Department must receive sealed official transcripts from a college or a certified true copy of official transcripts prior to entering college credit on an applicant's official record. Evaluation of these credits is subject to the conditions prescribed in sections (3) and (4) of this rule and OAR 259-008-0060.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 181.640

Stats. Implemented: ORS 181.640