

## Motion *re* Veteran Transfer Credit

Referred by the University Academic Policies and Procedures Committee

The Faculty Senate recommends the adoption of the following proposals:

**Proposal 1a:** To add the highlighted statements below to the transfer credit policies listed in the *Undergraduate Catalog*:

“Radford University will consider for transfer credit only those credits earned from a regionally accredited college or university as recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), **as well as military service at levels consistent with the American Council on Education (ACE) Guide to the Evaluation of Education Experiences in the Armed Services.**”

**Proposal 1b:** To continue to accept College Level Examination Program (CLEP) subject exams for transfer credit with the approval of the appropriate department or school.

**Proposal 1c:** To continue to not award transfer credit for experiential learning, even learning assessed by national online prior learning assessment services, e.g., the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL).

**Proposal 2:** To continue to direct all new students (new freshman and transfer) to the Academic Policies of the University at Quest (New Student Orientation), which includes the total and final semester residency requirements. And to add the highlighted statement below to the Exception to Academic Policy section of the *Undergraduate Catalog*:

“...There are several academic requirements for which exceptions are never made, even through the academic petition process: minimum grade point average (2.00) to graduate...the minimum number of semester hours (45) earned at Radford University to graduate (unless the student is graduating under the provisions of an articulation agreement between Radford University and a Virginia community college in which the possibility of graduating with fewer than 45 Radford University hours is clearly stipulated, **or if the student is a veteran or active duty member of the armed forces of the United States.) The armed forces exception to the existing policy must be approved by the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.**~~if this requirement compels a veteran of the U.S. armed forces to continue enrollment past the expiration of his or her military education benefits).~~...”

**Proposal 3:** Add the following statement to the end of the Transfer Credit policy in the *Undergraduate Catalog*:

“Radford University will respect the credit awarded by other accredited institutions by evaluating such credit based upon its own transfer credit policies. Any denial of transfer credit awarded by another accredited institution will include an educationally grounded rationale.”

While these proposals will ensure that Radford University's policies comply with the Virginia Code and the SCHEV guidelines, it is important to emphasize that Radford University, and the Colleges and Departments therein, will retain the right to make decisions autonomously regarding this policy. If adopted, these proposed policies will simply provide the Departments in each College the flexibility to *consider* the acceptance of transfer credits and military service consistent with the American Council on Education (ACE) Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services. In other words, if adopted, these proposed policies provide the Colleges and Departments more flexibility in their consideration of transfer credits rather than less flexibility.

**Rationale:** To comply with Virginia Code:

*§ 23-9.2:3.7 B. The governing boards of each public institution of higher education shall, in accordance with guidelines developed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, implement policies for the purpose of awarding academic credit to students for education experience gained from service in the armed forces of the United States.*

The SCHEV Guidelines for Institutional Policies related to the above proposals are as follows:

*Each two- and four-year public institution of higher education shall develop and implement processes for awarding credit to students for military education and training through prior learning assessment (the award of credit for learning that occurs outside of the academic setting).*

*1. Each institution shall exercise care in evaluating and determining its acceptance or rejection of each of the following methods as elements of these processes:*

*a. Awarding credit for appropriate learning acquired in military service at levels consistent with the American Council on Education (ACE) Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services and/or those transcribed by the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF).*

*b. Awarding credit for successful performance on national for-credit examination programs such as The College Board College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DSST exams, or the Excelsior College examination.*

*c. Awarding credit based upon individualized portfolio evaluation, which may be conducted by faculty at the individual colleges or by using the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) guidelines or CAEL's LearningCounts.org, a national online prior learning assessment service.*

*Nothing in these guidelines shall be construed to require institutions to award credit for coursework that is not offered, or is not reasonably comparable to coursework offered, by the institution. Neither should these guidelines be construed to limit awarding of credit solely to the three methods referenced above.*

*2. Institutional policies shall provide for disclosure to students of any academic residency requirements pertaining to the student's program of study, including total and any final year or final semester residency requirement, at or before the time the student enrolls in the program. The policies of an institution with a residency requirement that exceeds the minimum required by SACS-COC should establish a process for waiver, on a case-by-case basis - e.g., when that policy compels a student to continue enrollment past the expiration of his or her military education benefits.*

*3. Awarding of credit is ultimately the purview of each individual institution. Institutional policies should (i) respect credit awarded by other accredited institutions to the greatest extent possible; (ii) describe the process by which the institution evaluates such credit; and (iii) provide that any denials of credit will include documentation of an educationally grounded rationale.*

**Implementation:** The Office of the Registrar, in conjunction with the appropriate departments and schools, will be responsible for the implementation and enforcement of these policies.