

**West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
Meeting of August 24, 2018**

ITEM: Series 59, Procedural Rule, Awarding Undergraduate College Credit for Prior Learning, Advanced Placement Credit, and College-Level Examination Program

INSTITUTIONS: All

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION: Information Item

STAFF MEMBER: Corley Dennison

BACKGROUND:

At its meeting of June 22, 2018, the Commission approved revisions to Series 59, Procedural Rule, Awarding Undergraduate College Credit for Prior Learning, Advanced Placement Credit, and College-Level Examination Program. During the thirty-day public comment period, the following comments were received:

Comment: In 133-59-5.8.a, we ask that you change 60 credits to 90 credits for bachelor's degrees, and 30 credits to 45 credits for associate's degrees, so as to be consistent with HLC. It would read: *"Institutions may set a higher limit not to exceed 90 credits for bachelor's degrees, not to exceed 45 credits for associate's degrees, and not to exceed 15 credits for certificate programs."* For reference, here is HLC's policy. Policy Title: Assumed Practices, Number:CRRT.B.10.020, B. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support, 1.b.The institution maintains structures or practices that ensure the coherence and quality of the programs for which it awards a degree. Typically institutions will require that at minimum 30 of the 120 credits earned for the bachelor's degree and 15 of the 60 credits for the associate's degree be credits earned at the institution itself, through arrangements with other accredited institutions, or through contractual relationships approved by the Commission. Any variation from the typical minima must be explained and justified.

Response: *With regard to the request to be in line with Higher Learning Commission (HLC) policy, the upper limits for allowable credits under Prior Learning be expanded to 90 from 60 credit hours for a bachelor's and 45 credit hours for an associate's, the staff has concluded the current wording is already compliant with HLC practices. HLC Assumed Practices Number: CRRT.B.10.020, Section B, part g reads, "The institution has a clear policy on the maximum allowable credit for prior learning as a reasonable portion of the credits required to complete the student's program."*

While the 90 hours refers to overall transfer credits, Series 59 references only

credits allowed under the prior learning policy and not general transfer hours. Therefore, the maximum allowable hours currently written in Series 59 are compatible with HLC guidelines.

Comments: In 133-59-6.1, we ask that you include all schools located in West Virginia that are accredited by HLC. It would read: *“Credits earned through PLA will be transferable from one HLC-accredited college or university located in West Virginia to another HLC- accredited college or university located in West Virginia. Once on a student’s transcript, credits earned through prior learning shall be treated no differently than other credit coursework on a student’s transcript.”*

In 133-59-6.2, we ask the same here that you include all schools located in West Virginia that are accredited by HLC. It would read: *“PLA credit awarded at one HLC-accredited college or university located in West Virginia must be accepted as transfer credit toward the degree if the student transfers to another HLC-accredited college or university located in West Virginia.”*

Response: *State code prevents the suggested change in language regarding the transfer of credit from one institution to another. The suggested change is “Credits earned through PLA will be transferable from one HLC accredited college....to another HLC accredited college....” However, West Virginia Code §18B-14-2, Transfer of Credit for Courses Completed, requires all institutions in West Virginia recognized as eligible for U.S. Department of Education Title IV funding to accept transfer credits from another Title IV approved West Virginia institution provided the course is 70 percent similar or the same.*

These comments were not relative to the content of the rule and therefore no additional revisions to Series 59 were made.