



**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
SUMMARY OF ITEM FOR ACTION,  
INFORMATION, OR DISCUSSION

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**TOPIC:** Creation of Board of Regents Policy on Credit for Competency-Based Education and Prior Learning (III-1.41) to replace Board of Regents Policy on Credit by Examination and Portfolio Assessment (III-1.40)

**COMMITTEE:** Education Policy and Student Life

**DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:** September 4, 2014

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013, the Maryland Higher Education Commission has approved guidelines for awarding academic credit for a student's military training, coursework, and education. In addition, revisions to COMAR Title 13B.02.02.16 - Competency Based Education has removed the limit on the number of credits that may be applied towards degree requirements. Subsequently, the Board of Regents must revise or develop a policy "governing the awarding of academic credit for a student's military training, coursework, and education."

We propose that the current Policy on Credit for Examination and Portfolio Assessment (III-1.40) be replaced with the attached Policy on Credit for Competency-Based Education and Prior Learning (proposed, III-1.41). As a result of the changes, institutions must review and revise, as appropriate, their policy (or policies) on credit for Competency-Based Education, including military training, coursework, and education, and implement during AY 2014-2015.

The draft policy was vetted with the presidents and provosts; no major objections or concerns were voiced.

**ALTERNATIVE(S):** The Committee could choose to not recommend approval of these amendments.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact associated with this proposed amendment.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** That the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the Policy on Credit for Competency-Based Education and Prior Learning (III-1.41) to replace Board of Regents Policy on Credit by Examination and Portfolio Assessment (III-1.40).

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Approval DATE: September 4, 2014

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BOARD ACTION: DATE:

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# DRAFT

## III-1.41-POLICY ON CREDIT FOR COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION AND PRIOR LEARNING BY EXAMINATION AND PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT

(Approved by the Board of Regents, February 22, 1990; Revised \_\_\_\_\_)

An institution may provide its undergraduate students with opportunities to earn up to sixty semester credit hours for competency-based education and prior learning towards the completion of the baccalaureate degree. Further, in accordance with §15-113 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the institution policy shall include guidelines for the awarding of academic credit to service member populations for their military training, education, and coursework.

- I. Credits awarded for competency-based education shall be based on the successful completion of ~~by examination. Such credits may be awarded through~~ standardized examinations such as those in the Advanced Placement Program of the College Entrance Board (AP), the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, ~~or in~~ the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DANES Subject Standardized Test (DSST) Program or through portfolio assessment, ~~or~~ institutional examinations conducted by the faculty of the institution in the appropriate discipline, ~~or another assessment method approved by the Chancellor and the Secretary of Higher Education. The total amount of credit earned through either institutionally developed examinations or portfolio assessment shall not exceed thirty semester credit hours.~~
- II. At each institution, the source of such credit shall be identified on the student's permanent record.
- III. Each institution shall submit the institution policy for approval to the Chancellor and the Maryland Higher Education Commission by December 1, 2014. The institution's policy should articulate standards for the assessment and awarding of credit hours to students and must be implemented by the spring semester, 2015.
- IV. Each institution shall ensure that its policy is aligned with the Maryland Higher Education Commission *2014 Guidelines for Awarding Academic Credit for Military Training, Education and Coursework*.
- V. Each institution shall publish the approved policy and point of contact for information on the institution website; and, provide clear and accessible policies, practices, and procedures.

Replacement for: BOR I-6.00, III-1.40 and BOT X-A.10