

Welcome!

Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed the first issue of the American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT[®]) newsletter, *CREDIT[®] Check*.

In this issue we will continue to explore the history of the program, introduce you to the Center for Education Attainment and Innovation and its leadership team, and share new tools and resources.

If you have ideas about what you would like to see included in future issues of our newsletter, please send your suggestions to creditinfo@acenet.edu.

We hope you enjoy this second edition.

Celebrating 40 Years of Success

In recognition of 40 years of service, we offer a little CREDIT[®] history.

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The Center for Education Attainment and Innovation

In the last issue, we learned about the Center for Education Attainment and Innovation and its mission to advance innovative and effective practices that promote postsecondary attainment among nontraditional learners. This is achieved through the various programs within the center, including:

- College and University Partnerships
- CREDIT[®]
- Military Programs
- Veterans' Programs

In upcoming issues of *CREDIT[®] Check* we will showcase each program within the center. This issue focuses on College and University Partnerships (CUP).

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CREDIT[®] Tips and Advice

We answer FAQs about the hows and whys of ACE CREDIT[®].

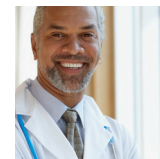
This issue:

"What are Content, Scope, and Rigor?"

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A History Lesson: CREDIT® Turns 40

2014 marks 40 years of serving adult learners through the review and recommendation process of non-military college credit through ACE CREDIT®. CREDIT® was begun to provide the same opportunities to adult learners in the civilian workforce that military service members and veterans had been afforded since 1945. A few of the first reviews were McDonald's Hamburger University (IL), the Federal Aviation Administration Academy (OK), and the College Level Examination Program (CLEP).

In recognition of 40 years of service, here is a little CREDIT® history:

1974	▶ ACE's Office of Educational Credit begins the evaluation of non-military courses, first known as the Program on Non-Collegiate Sponsored Instruction.
1975	▶ ACE launches the Credit by Examination program to review and provide recommendations for national examinations.
1976	▶ ACE rolls out the first edition of the National Guide to Educational Credit for Training Programs, a directory of organizations providing training with ACE credit recommendations.
1978	▶ The Registry of Credit Recommendations, now the Registry and Transcript System , provides student records for ACE credit recommendations.
1997	▶ The evaluation program changes its name to the College Credit Recommendation Service.
1999	▶ In celebration of its 25th year, CREDIT® initiates the Adult Learner of the Year Award to recognize learners applying ACE credit recommendations to complete college credentials.
2000	▶ The National Guide goes online.
2010	▶ CREDIT® reviews go virtual, offering eligible organizations a streamlined process.
2013	▶ CREDIT® evaluates massive open online courses (MOOCs), providing learners with easy access to a range of subjects.
2014	▶ The number of faculty serving on ACE review teams is 1,000 strong and growing, representing disciplines such as math, information security, and nursing.

Today, ACE CREDIT® serves hundreds of clients across a multitude of sectors, expanding its portfolio of evaluations to encompass:

- Apprenticeship programs, from automotive and transportation services to electric and gas industries
- National examinations, such as Advanced Placement, CLEP, DSST, Excelsior, and professional licensing
- Certifications, including ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate and Microsoft and other IT certifications
- Competency-based programs in education, hospitality, and the building trades
- Languages, with over 50 programs receiving ACE credit recommendations

College and University Partnerships

College and University Partnerships (CUP) is an ACE program in the [Center for Education Attainment and Innovation](#) that promotes partnerships for more effective education pathways.

What does CUP do? CUP works with higher education institutions, employers, and other organizations and stakeholders to maximize collaborative efforts and increase effective pathways to postsecondary credentials. Through webinars, technical services, and special initiatives, CUP supports the work of higher education institutions and the learners they serve.

A primary focus of CUP is to advance greater awareness, acceptance, and application of credit for prior learning

as a key element for increasing postsecondary participation and completion.

CEAI Resource Center: For questions about ACE CREDIT recommendations and transcripts, contact the CEAI Resource Center staff at credit@acenet.edu.

ACE College and University Network: Join the network of more than 2,000 institutions that recognize and consider ACE credit recommendations for workplace and military training and occupations and other credit for prior learning options.

Conferences and webinars: Learn more about upcoming conferences, workshops, and webinars. View archived webinar sessions.

Postsecondary pathways: Find initiatives and programs that expand

pathways to postsecondary credentials through effective applications of credit for prior learning.

CUP regional liaisons: Regional liaisons are seasoned college and university faculty who are subject-matter area experts and experienced credit for prior learning practitioners. Their efforts include advancing greater awareness, acceptance, and application of credit for prior learning options, including ACE credit recommendations for military and credit training, and facilitating a broader application of effective practices in credit for prior learning programs.

Best practices: Look for best practices in credit for prior learning and related programs and services that advance education attainment.

Faces of CREDIT®



Mary Beth Lakin
Director, College and University Partnerships

Mary Beth Lakin is the director of College and University Partnerships (CUP) in the Center for Education Attainment and Innovation (CEAI) at ACE. With close to 10 years at ACE, Lakin has concentrated on expanding educational pathways for adult learners, including military service members and veterans. Lakin's office capitalizes on state-wide, regional, and national initiatives to raise awareness, acceptance, and application of credit for prior learning and boost postsecondary credential completion rates. She also oversees the CEAI Resource Center,

which provides information and assistance to adult learners, colleges and universities, and ACE CREDIT® clients. Currently, Lakin is CEAI's lead for several initiatives focusing on the mapping of ACE credit recommendations and other credit for prior learning experiences to postsecondary credentials. Her recent research projects related to adult learning and credit for prior learning include **Maps to Credentials**, the **Virtual Career Network**, and **Mapping New Directions: Higher Education for Older Adults**.

Lakin has more than 25 years of experience as a faculty member,

academic advisor, and program administrator. In her previous position at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, she developed and directed the university's experiential learning program and an interdisciplinary degree program geared to adult learners, offered in a blended format. Her published articles and presentations center on credit for prior learning, adult learning, and lifelong learning trends. Lakin has an MA degree in human development, with a specialization in college teaching and teaching adults, from Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, California.



Success Profiles

from College and University Partnerships

Current research shows that adult learners are more likely to enroll in, persist in, and complete postsecondary programs when institutions recognize students' prior learning, including ACE credit recommendations for corporate and military training. ACE's [College and University Partnerships \(CUP\)](#) and its regional liaisons help institutions build credit-for-prior-learning policies and practices. Through webinars, workshops, and other technical assistance, CUP staff and liaisons help colleges and universities map ACE credit recommendations to specific degree programs and collaborate with employers and other organizations to support adult learners' completion of postsecondary credentials.



CUP staff and faculty evaluators facilitate a workshop at the University System of Georgia Adult Learning Consortium's Summer Institute.

Credit to Credentials™ Partnerships: A new partnership between [Coggins International](#), an ACE CREDIT client, and [Fayetteville Technical Community College](#) (NC), offers adult learners new degree pathways by applying ACE credit recommendations for Coggins' training: Read news release [here](#).

CUP Webinars: A series of webinars on credit for prior learning provides participants information on the benefits of aligning corporate training to postsecondary credentials, student navigation of credit for prior learning (CPL), faculty engagement, and regional accreditation: More info [here](#).

Do you have an employee or student who has a phenomenal story? Is your organization doing great things as a result of your participation in the CREDIT® program? Please share your success stories with us at creditinfo@acenet.edu.

What are Content, Scope, and Rigor?

The ACE CREDIT® evaluation faculty teams consist of subject-matter experts who have applied and been approved to serve as evaluators. They must be actively teaching at appropriately accredited academic postsecondary institutions for at least five years. The ACE staff identifies evaluators to serve on the team based on the alignment of the courses they are currently teaching with the content of the courses or examinations under review.

The team is required to see evidence of the learning outcomes before making a credit recommendation and is focused on the content, scope, and rigor of the courses and assessments they are evaluating. This can include tests, papers, projects, and performance rubrics. Evaluators may need to review samples of the actual graded assessments and evaluative rubrics, not just the assessment plan, to verify the assessment process. Rubrics are evaluative tools that are implemented to ensure consistency across all courses. They make the individual assessment process more authentic, and the measurement of performance is then based on defined criteria.

Evaluators consider the factors of pre- and post-course assignments, prior work-related experience, the concentrated nature of the learning experience, and the reinforcement of the course material gained in the subsequent work setting. Faculty members assess, using stringent guidelines established by ACE, the varied education and training which occur in participating organizations. The faculty evaluators validate the organization's course materials to determine content, scope, and rigor to align with curricula currently being taught at accredited institutions.

Reviewers consider a number of relevant factors in arriving at recommendations, including:

- Course content
- Learning outcomes
- Level of difficulty
- Depth and breadth of material
- Evaluation methods (tests, papers, presentations, etc.)
- Applicability to postsecondary programs.

The end result and the value are the number of useable academic credits with subject areas that fit within the scope and sequence of an academic program for potential transfer. Acceptance of transfer credit is determined by the receiving institution.

Do you have questions? We are ready to provide answers to your most pressing questions. Send your questions to creditinfo@acenet.edu.

Upcoming Events



Workshops

In-House Workshops

Do you have a large team working on your CREDIT® project or would you like to participate in a workshop that is designed to address concerns specific to your organization? CREDIT® can provide a workshop in which we bring the experts to you. Contact us at creditinfo@acenet.edu to see how an in-house workshop may benefit your organization.

ACE CREDIT Workshop for Organizations: November 6, 2014

This is a one-day workshop covering all aspects of the ACE CREDIT® Review Process. Participants will learn how the ACE CREDIT® review helps align professional training and education with college credit recommendations and can enhance their organization's goals. Presenters include ACE staff, faculty reviewers, and participating organizations.

This workshop is also available as a webcast.



Webinars

Review on Demand: Virtual Reviews: September 24, 2014, 1:00 p.m. EST

This information session will provide an overview of the Review on Demand process. It will address questions such as:

- How does my organization qualify for Review on Demand?
- What are the technical requirements for participation?
- Can I schedule reviews to meet my course delivery schedules?
- How long do I have to complete my reviews?

To register for this free webinar, contact creditinfo@acenet.edu.

Sustaining Faculty Engagement in Credit for Prior Learning Programs:

September 30, 2014 1:00–2:00 p.m. EST

Credit for prior learning is a key component to raising adult learners' attainment rates. Critical to creating and sustaining excellent programs that provide credit for prior learning options is the faculty. Faculty members have been at the helm of substantial innovation in teaching, learning, and assessment, including current initiatives in credit for prior learning and competency based education. Join a panel of representatives from institutions that are providing effective, faculty-led models for professional development and collaboration.

But What Will the Accreditors Say? Aligning Credit for Prior Learning Processes with Regional Accreditation Standards: October 30, 2014 1:00–2:00 p.m. EST

This webinar will help you determine how you can effectively work with credit for prior learning while maintaining accreditation standards.

The recent growth of credit for prior learning options at U.S. colleges and universities creates opportunities to document credit that occurs outside the traditional college classroom. This webinar invites representatives from U.S. regional accrediting bodies to address accreditation concerns that may arise from nontraditional methods for documenting mastery. So let's not guess what the accreditors will say—let's just ask them!

For more information on these events contact creditinfo@acenet.edu.

ACE STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

The ACE Student of the Year Award is presented annually by ACE to an adult learner who has benefited from the use of ACE credit recommendations to earn a college degree or advance a career. The award honors the outstanding endeavors of an adult learner who has benefited academically and professionally from the use of ACE credit recommendations for corporate or military training.

This year's ACE Student of the Year will receive a \$500 scholarship from ACE to continue his or her education. Award winners demonstrate:

- Continued success in academic, professional, personal, and community endeavors
- Extraordinary achievement in their community or workplace while successfully balancing the demands of family, career, and education
- Inspiration of others to set high lifelong learning goals

For more information, please **contact us** about ACE Student of the Year Award.

What's New at CREDIT

At ACE, we value client feedback. And when you speak up, we listen. See some of the exciting innovations happening here at CREDIT® based on your feedback.

Review on Demand

ACE has developed a new virtual review format that puts you in control of when your courses are reviewed: Review on Demand. As the name suggests, this type of virtual review allows for the flexibility of having your courses reviewed when you want. Review on Demand is ideal for organizations with large numbers of courses, such as training providers, and allows you to schedule the review of your courses to coincide with course release dates, cohorts, and team availability. If your organization has multiple reviews per year, Review on Demand may offer significant savings in review costs.

Join us on August 20 at 1:00 p.m. EST as we take an inside look at Review on Demand. This information session will be presented via webinar and will explore:

- Review on Demand criteria
- Technical requirements
- Pricing and scheduling

You will have an opportunity to hear from participating organizations that have piloted this review.

Join us and find out how Review on Demand can work for your organization. We look forward to your participation on August 20, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. EST.

Updated Course Evaluation Handbook

We are pleased to announce updates to the *Course Evaluation Handbook*. You will notice a more streamlined publication with a focus on documents and information that apply only to you, the organization. We have also rearranged the topics to present them in a more systematic way, and have reduced the appendices. We hope you find this resource helpful as you prepare for your upcoming review. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, suggestions, or feedback.

For a copy of the *Course Evaluation Handbook*, please email credit_reviews@acenet.edu.

In our next issue of *CREDIT® Check*, we will introduce a new publication designed for new CREDIT® participants, *A Guide to Initiating an ACE CREDIT® Review*.

CONNECT WITH ACE CREDIT®!



Engage with ACE CREDIT® on LinkedIn!

We are pleased to introduce ACE's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT®) LinkedIn Showcase page.

The ACE CREDIT LinkedIn page will provide information about program updates and events. The page also will share information about resources, including the ACE CREDIT course review, transcript services, the college and university network, and the National Guide to College Credit for Workforce Training.

We look forward to connecting with you!

Follow ACE CREDIT® on LinkedIn

In the Next Issue

- Staff Spotlight: College Credit Recommendation Service
- What is the difference between learning objectives and learning outcomes?
- Celebrating 40 years of service: A history lesson on ACE CREDIT®
- New publication: *Guide to Initiating an ACE CREDIT® Review*

We welcome your feedback on this newsletter. Please contact us at creditinfo@acenet.edu.