



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

April 13, 2023

Transition to Credit Initiative Update

Background

The Board's Strategic Plan includes an initiative to transition the Utah System of Higher Education's (USHE) eight technical colleges and Salt Lake Technical College from clock-hours to semester credits. Once complete, all 16 higher education institutions will use the same currency.

The transition will address rules currently imposed on clock-hour institutions by the U.S. Department of Education. These rules restrict the delivery of instruction in a hybrid or distance education format, requiring that students complete all coursework in a synchronous-or live format. While the rules only apply to financial aid eligible students, faculty members are unable to enforce different course delivery and attendance standards for different populations of students.

Restrictive instructional delivery formats and inflexible attendance requirements present a barrier to student access and completion, two priorities defined in the Board's Strategic Plan. Transitioning to credit will remove the restrictions to enable institutions to deliver instruction in the best format using the most flexible scheduling method possible.

The Council on Occupational Education (COE) accredits Utah's technical colleges. COE has an application process and grants approval for an institution to transition from clock-hours to semester credits. COE requires Board approval of each program, an application, and a fee.

Implementation of credit will take place program-by-program and student-by-student during a two-year period, teaching-out the clock-hour format. This means current students will remain in the clock-hour program and new students will enroll in the credit-granting program. Tuition and fees will be approved for both credit and non-credit during the teach-out period.

While clock-hour to credit requests have been presented to the Board, some institutions will need to update the applications with program changes. Any changes will be presented to the Board and then the COE Clock-Hour to Credit applications will be sent in.

Technical education offered at Snow College and Utah State University already grant semester credits, so no changes are required.

To support the technical education institutions in their implementation of credit and to ensure those responsible for this work receive complete and consistent information, the Office of the Commissioner developed a Credit Implementation Guide. This centralized resource provides extensive guidance to institutions.

Commissioner’s Recommendation

This is an information item only; no action required.

Attachment

Initiative progress report



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Initiative Progress

Technical College	Schedule Transition	Board Approval	Tuition/Fee Approval	COE Submission	COE Approval	Implementation Begins
Bridgerland	✓	✓	✓			July 2023
Davis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	July 2023
Dixie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	July 2023
Mountainland	✓	✓	✓			July 2023
Ogden-Weber	✓	✓	✓	✓		July 2023
Salt Lake		✓	✓	NA	NA	July 2023
Southwest	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	January 2023
Tooele	✓	✓	✓	✓		July 2023
Uintah Basin	✓	✓	✓	✓		July 2023