

5.1.8. OFTC Articulation and Transfer Procedure

Definitions

1. Advanced Standing: allows a student to receive course credit based on previous experience, formal or informal, and results in credit towards a program of study.
2. Articulation: granting credit to a student for educational experiences or courses undertaken at another institution.
3. Prior Learning Assessment: a process for evaluating knowledge and skills in order to award college credit for learning from on-the-job learning, corporate training, independent study, military service, or volunteer service that is consistent with TCSG's mission and ensures that course work and learning outcomes are at the collegiate level and comparable to the institution's degree academic programs.

General Provisions:

1. Residence Requirements for Degree/Diploma: each technical college shall require that a minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of the course work of a particular program of study be completed at the technical college granting the award.
2. Colleges will use a prior learning assessment for awarding of credit for non-credit work-related experiences and/or training.
3. Transferability of Credit - Technical colleges must honor local secondary and post-secondary articulation agreements statewide when students move from one area of the state to another. Each technical college can determine its preferred method of competency validation.
4. Though credit reward is not required for learning support; college should make every attempt to ensure students do not repeat learning support courses already successfully completed at another technical college.
5. Designation of Credit: technical colleges within the system should indicate exemption credit awarded by use of the letters "EX" on transcript/permanent records. Transfer credit awarded should be indicated on transcript/ permanent records by the use of the letters "TR," "TRA," "TRB," or "TRC." The third letter indicates the grade earned in the course; however, this grade will not be counted in the cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA). Articulated credit awarded should be indicated on transcript/permanent records by use of the letters "AC." Students may receive credit for course work at Oconee Fall Line Technical College (OFTC) through Institutional Exemption Exams, Standardized Exam Credit, Professional Certifications and Licensures, Military Training, and Non-Transferable Credit.

Transfer Credit

OFTC recognizes previous postsecondary coursework by accepting credits earned from other regionally or nationally accredited institutions that are applicable to the student's program of study. A student who presents credit for evaluation and transfer must be aware that the awarding of credit does not guarantee that institutions subsequently attended by the student will accept those credits.

Credit for courses at an institution accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and TCSG and whose entrance requirements and curriculum are equivalent to or greater than OFTC will be considered for award of transfer of credit. Credits from colleges and universities are transferred within the SOC network. Credit may be granted for formal military schools, training and correspondence courses in accordance with the American Council on Education. SOC credit will not be reflected on the transcript until the applicant is admitted into the program of study.

OFTC distinguishes between the acceptance of credit and the applicability toward program requirements. Applicability of credit toward a credential refers to the prerogative of the academic divisions to count specific credit toward the fulfillment of graduation requirements.

The Registrar, in conjunction with the program faculty members, Deans of Academic Affairs or Vice President of Academic Affairs, determines the transferability of courses taken at other postsecondary institutions by considering the educational quality of the learning experience for which the student seeks transfer credit; the comparability of the nature, content, and level of the learning experiences to the courses offered at OFTC; and the appropriateness and applicability of the learning experiences to the programs offered at OFTC and how recently they occurred.

The college established the following procedures to guide the Registrar in awarding transfer of credit:

- In order for the Registrar to evaluate credit, students must submit official transcripts from all colleges. All official transcripts must include final grades.
- Courses must have the same number of credit hours (or greater) as the course at Oconee Fall Line Technical College.
- Students may receive transfer credit for courses for which they earned a C or better. The Registrar will not award transfer credit for courses with grades below a C, including D, F, I, IP, S, U, EX, AC, W, WF and WP.

Due to the rapid changes in technology and technical information, program specific technical courses will be considered for transfer of credit only if the coursework has been completed within the last 60 months. A student desiring consideration of credit for technical courses or experiences that are more than 60 months old can request transfer credit by exemption testing.

Transfer credit will be considered without restriction of completion dates for courses in academic disciplines - language arts and communication, social/behavioral sciences, natural sciences/mathematics and humanities/fine arts.

Allied Health programs may have more stringent transfer credit procedures. OFTC will accept the following courses within a three-year period of time: DMSO, IMSA, MAST, NAST, PHAR, PHLT, PNSG, RADT, and RESP. OFTC will accept the following courses within a five-year period of time, ALHS, BIOL, CHEM, and PHYS. If the student has been continuously enrolled at OFTC, the three-year and five-year periods will not apply.

The Registrar will not award transfer credit for learning support coursework taken at other colleges. Students transferring from another college or university are not required to retake learning support courses they have successfully completed, unless they undergo placement testing at OFTC which indicates they need to take learning support courses.

The Registrar transfers all coursework under the semester system. If students are coming in from institutions on the quarter system, the Registrar will convert the quarter hours to semester hours.

The transfer credit is recorded as TR, TRA, TRB, TRC or TRM on the OFTC transcript and is not included in the calculation of the semester, cumulative, or graduation grade point averages. For competitive admissions programs, grades for credit earned as transfer credit will be evaluated for GPA and calculated in the GPA under consideration for program admission.

The Registrar sends written notification regarding the award of transfer of credit. Students may also access their records online through the college website (Banner Web) to verify the transfer credit awarded by the Registrar. If coursework is earned at a nationally accredited college, OFTC reserves the right to evaluate instructor credentials applicable to the requested transfer coursework.

A student who has attended a previous college and is eligible for transfer of credit for English and math is not required to take the placement exam.

For competitive admissions programs, grades for credit earned as transfer credit will be evaluated for GPA and calculated into the GPA under consideration for program admission.

Students wishing to transfer from OFTC to another college must contact that college directly to determine transfer of credit.

International Credit

Course credit may be awarded for courses completed with a "C" or better, or its equivalent, from an international college, university, or other postsecondary institution that is authorized and/or accredited by applicable government and/or accreditation agencies in its own country. Credit will be awarded for courses, subject to the receiving institution assuring that state standards and applicable accreditation criteria are met.

International Credit Evaluation

OFTC may choose to receive accurate evaluations of international credentials for comparability to US credits from private credential evaluation services. Refer to the US Network for Education Information (USNEI), a US Department of Education (ED) administered website and public-private partnership that provides a list of possible credential evaluation services.

International Articulation

TCSG may establish an Articulation Agreement or Joint Diploma/Degree Plan with an international college, university, or other postsecondary institution that is authorized and/or accredited by applicable government and/or accreditation agencies in its own country. Courses from an international institution must be evaluated to show that state standards and applicable accreditation criteria are met.

Secondary School Articulation

OFTC may establish articulation agreements with interested area high schools to ensure that students receive course credit when established competencies have been achieved. Any articulation agreement must be a formal written agreement between interested area high schools and the technical college.

OFTC shall bank credit after a secondary student successfully passes the exemption exam required to articulate subject credit. This credit shall be applied to the student's record once he/she matriculates to the technical college. The secondary student must matriculate within 2 years after high school graduation, unless dictated by programs standards. No fee shall be charged to students taking an exam to evaluate articulated credit from high school. Each technical college is responsible for the academic quality of any course work or credit recorded on the technical college's transcript.

Institutional Exemption Exam

OFTC provides students an opportunity to receive credit for courses by successfully exempting courses. The student must demonstrate thorough mastery of written and/or performance tests that have been developed locally to adequately demonstrate achievement of the necessary competency level.

A student may receive credit for courses by passing an exemption examination only if the student has never attempted the course or made a grade of "D" or "F" in an equivalent course at Oconee Fall Line Technical College or another postsecondary institution. The Vice President of Academic Affairs may waive this due to extenuating circumstances. Students wishing to pursue credit by examination must meet the following requirements:

- Be admitted to Oconee Fall Line Technical College.
- Complete the Application for Credit by Exemption Examination form in the Admissions Office.

- Pay a fee of \$50 per course prior to taking the exam(s). Present photo ID to the test administrator.
- Earn a score of at least an "80".

A student cannot exempt more than 50% of program requirements. A grade of "EXE" will be entered on the permanent record if the exemption exam is successfully completed. The hours for the exempted grades will not be computed in the grade point average which may affect financial aid status and/or eligibility for the President's or Dean's List. Exemption exams may NOT be taken more than once. If a student takes an exemption exam and does not make the required score, the student is required to take the course to receive course credit. A student competing for admission to a competitive program may only exempt two courses.

Standardized Exam Credit

Oconee Fall Line Technical College will award credit based on nationally normed exams including:

- CLEP - Credit will be awarded for successful completion of any appropriate CLEP (College Level Examination Program) subject area examinations. Credit will be awarded based on score recommendations of the Council on College Level Services.
- International Baccalaureate Credit- Credit will be awarded to students who have taken appropriate courses (determined equivalent to courses offered at a Technical college) in high school and achieve a score of 3 or more on the International Baccalaureate Examination. The IB Examinations are offered by the International Baccalaureate Examination Board.
- Advanced Placement Examinations - Credit will be awarded to students who have taken appropriate courses (determined equivalent to courses offered at a Technical College) in high school and achieved a score of 3 or more on the Advanced Placement Examination. The Advanced Placement Examinations are offered by the College Entrance Examination Board.
- DANTES DSST (DANTES Subjects Standardized Test)- Credit will be awarded to students who score 400 or higher.

Credit earned through a nationally-standardized exam will be entered on a student's record as TR.

Military Training Credit

OFTC is committed to ensuring military service members and veterans receive credit for college-level knowledge gained through service to our country. Technical colleges may award credit for training received in the Armed Forces. The training should be certified by the Guide to the Evaluation of Education Experiences in the Armed Services, published by the American Council on Education, or by the official catalog of the Community College of the Air Force or some similar document. Credit should be given when training experience meets the required competencies of courses offered at the institutions.

Military Medical Personnel who have met all the "Military Medical Personnel to Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) Transition Program Guidelines" set forth by the Georgia Board of Nursing (GBON) referencing O.C.G.A. § 43-26-36, may be granted a Practical Nursing Technical Certificate.

- In order to eligible a student must have a provisional license issued by the Georgia Board of Nursing.
- Course transfer credit may be awarded for military training after appropriate college review.
- This program must be completed in 12 months in order to be eligible for a full license to obtain approval by the GBON to be granted a full license as an LPN in Georgia.
- At least 25% of the credit must be taught at the college awarding the certificate.

PLA processing fees will be waived for evaluation of military training experiences for college credit.

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

OFTC may award college credit for on the job learning, corporate training, independent study, military service, industry certification/credential, or volunteer service that is consistent with TCSG's mission and ensures that course work and learning outcomes are at the collegiate level and comparable to the institution's own academic programs. The college must engage in a process for evaluating the knowledge and skills acquired in order to award college credit. Each college assumes responsibility for the academic quality of any course work or credit recorded on the institution's transcript.

Non-Transferable Credit

OFTC recognizes credit from other institutions if the institution has met the accrediting standards of the appropriate institutional accrediting association. OFTC adheres to TCSG policy 5.1.8 for accepting transfer credit from postsecondary institutions accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The policy is available on the TCSG and OFTC websites. A list of recognized accrediting agencies is available on the OFTC PLA webpage on the Regionally and Nationally Recognized Accreditation Agencies Tables. Coursework completed at postsecondary institutions accredited by agencies not recognized by TCSG under policy 5.1.8 may be eligible for course exemption credit.

Residency Requirement

OFTC will award degrees, diplomas, and certificates only to those students who have earned at least 25% of the work through instruction offered at OFTC. Due to the rapid changes in technology and technical information, program specific technical courses will be considered valid if coursework has been completed at OFTC within the last 10 years. A student desiring consideration of credit for technical courses or experiences that are more than 10 years old can request transfer credit by exemption testing.

Students in certain allied health programs which require licensure or certification examinations must complete at least 50% of the credit hours of the required curriculum for graduation in residency at OFTC.

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