

9.4

At least 25 percent of the credit hours required for an undergraduate degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree. (*Institutional credits for an undergraduate degree*)

Rationale and Notes

This standard establishes the general principle addressing the integrity of a degree; that is, if an institution awards an academic degree, then it is responsible for delivering an appropriate portion of the academic experiences applicable to the degree. The standard also establishes the threshold for determining the acceptable portion of coursework that the institution ought to provide for the degree.

NOTES

*Credits “earned through instruction offered by the institution” would not include coursework transferred from other institutions, prior learning assessments, AP or CLEP credits (or credit by examination), or credits earned through a consortium that did not originate from the institution. Unless awarded upon entry into the program, this would include competency-based credits or credit equivalents for competencies or skills exhibited **after** the institution offered instruction on that skill or competency.*

Institutions adopting “reverse transfer” programs should be mindful that this standard applies to such cases. Furthermore, institutions should ensure that transferred coursework is appropriate to the degree being conferred. See Standard 10.8 (Policies for awarding credit) in this Manual.

Questions to Consider

- Does the institution have a policy stating the amount of credit that must be earned through instruction by the institution?
- How does the institution monitor the amount of credit earned at the institution with respect to the total number of credits required for the degree?
- How are the policies disseminated to affected faculty, advisors, and students?
- How does an institution identify on its transcript the name of the institution or source from which a course was taken or credit granted?
- How are competencies determined for students in competency-based programs? How does the institution ensure instruction is provided by the institution?
- How does an institution identify on its transcript coursework earned through collaborative arrangements?

Sample Documentation

- Degree completion policies.

- Sample evidence that verifies that at least 25 percent of the credits required for the degree have been earned at the institution (e.g., redacted degree audit, registrar’s check sheet, advisor’s check sheet).
- Explanation of process for monitoring the amount of credit earned at the institution.
- Policies, procedures, and any operational manuals regarding the awarding of credit.
- Details specific to the “Note” above.

Reference to SACSCOC Documents, If Applicable

SACSCOC policies: [Agreements Involving Joint and Dual Academic Awards](#)
[Direct Assessment Competency-Based Educational Programs](#)
[Quality and Integrity of Undergraduate Degrees](#)

Cross-References to Other Related Standards/Requirements, If Applicable

None noted.

9.5 **At least one third of the credit hours required for a graduate or a post-baccalaureate professional degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree.** (*Institutional credits for a graduate/professional degree*)

Rationale and Notes

An institution is responsible for the integrity of its graduate and post-baccalaureate professional degree programs. One means of ensuring this integrity is direct oversight of student work through its own courses. The standard also establishes the threshold for determining the acceptable portion of coursework that the institution should provide for the degree.

NOTE

Credits “earned through instruction offered by the institution” would not include coursework transferred from other institutions or credits earned through a consortium that did not originate from the institution. Unless awarded upon entry into the program, this would include competency-based credits or credit equivalents for competencies or skills exhibited after the institution offered instruction on that skill or competency.

Questions to Consider

- Does the institution have a policy stating the amount of graduate credit that must be earned through instruction by the institution?