

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Transfer of Credit

Statutory Language:

Section 485(h)

(h) TRANSFER OF CREDIT POLICIES.—

(1) DISCLOSURE.—Each institution of higher education participating in any program under this title shall publicly disclose, in a readable and comprehensible manner, the transfer of credit policies established by the institution which shall include a statement of the institution's current transfer of credit policies that includes, at a minimum--

(A) any established criteria the institution uses regarding the transfer of credit earned at another institution of higher education; and

(B) a list of institutions of higher education with which the institution has established an articulation agreement.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to—

(A) authorize the Secretary or the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity to require particular policies, procedures, or practices by institutions of higher education with respect to transfer of credit;

(B) authorize an officer or employee of the Department to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum, program of instruction, administration, or personnel of any institution of higher education, or over any accrediting agency or association;

(C) limit the application of the General Education Provisions Act; or

(D) create any legally enforceable right on the part of a student to require an institution of higher education to accept a transfer of credit from another institution.

Section 496 . . .

(c) OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED.—No accrediting agency or association may be recognized by the Secretary as a reliable authority as to the quality of education or training offered by an institution seeking to participate in the programs authorized under this title, unless the agency or association— . . .

(9) confirms, as a part of the agency's or association's review for accreditation or reaccreditation, that the institution has transfer of credit policies—

(A) that are publicly disclosed; and

(B) that include a statement of the criteria established by the institution regarding the transfer of credit earned at another institution of higher education.

NAICU's Perspectives

- NAICU has been a strong advocate for the fundamental right of colleges to determine the conditions under which they award academic credit. We have firmly and consistently opposed any provision that would put the federal government in the position of setting standards. As such, NAICU is pleased that all mandates were removed and is supportive of the streamlined disclosure requirements included in the final bill.
- NAICU has long believed that the best solution to transfer-of-credit problems is the development of voluntary articulation agreements among institutions that insure that receiving institutions will have the information needed to make appropriate decisions about transfer requests. The federal government could play a constructive role in supporting such voluntary agreements, and the new law provides authority for such activity. We are also pleased that the new bill specifically exempts private colleges from a federal mandate for public colleges to participate in an articulation program developed by the Secretary of Education.
- NAICU also agrees that transfer credits should not be rejected solely on the basis of the type of accreditation of the sending institution. We endorsed the policy statement issued on November 2000 by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, which takes this position. Nevertheless, we do not believe that any mandates regarding credit transfer policies should be written into federal law.