

## **FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY REGENTS BACHELOR OF ARTS (RBA) COLLEGE-EQUIVALENT CREDIT/PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT**

A unique feature of the RBA program is the College-Equivalent Credit/Prior Learning Assessment option, which allows enrolled students the possibility to receive credit for documented and demonstrated college-level knowledge and skills that have been learned in environments and agencies outside the traditional higher education classroom.

College credit will be awarded only for *learning*, not for experience.

Allowing students to apply prior knowledge toward their current curricular requirements will ensure that they are not retaking courses for which they already have competency.

All requests for credit based on learning other than college course work must be applicable to meeting RBA degree requirements.

Academic credit will only be awarded to students who are admitted to and currently enrolled in the RBA Degree Program. Students, however, cannot be awarded college-equivalent credit during their first or final semesters in the RBA program.

### ➤ **Standardized Credit Awards**

Professional, state, or national licenses or certifications can be reviewed to determine if students would be eligible to receive credit based on previously evaluated and approved credit recommendations.

There is no fee required for review of related documentation within this category. Copies of licenses (front and back) and certificates must be submitted to the RBA Program Coordinator to begin the review process.

Credit awarded via standardized credit will be posted on the student's academic history upon verification of credit award.

*Please note:* Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are not awarded any college-level credit.

### ➤ **Portfolio Review for College-Level Learning**

Knowledge and skills gained through work, training, or life experiences may translate to college credit if students can document and demonstrate knowledge of learning outcomes and objectives equivalent to our courses.

Students must be able to demonstrate at least 70% knowledge of learning outcomes or objectives of a related college course, which most often includes

theoretical or conceptual knowledge as well as application of subject-specific principles.

All requests for credit based via portfolio review must be applicable to meeting RBA degree requirements.

To develop a portfolio for review, the first step would be to identify the college course or courses for which college-level learning can be documented and demonstrated and to obtain the course syllabi and learning outcomes and objectives to help structure the portfolio development.

Portfolio work must be tied to specific courses currently taught at Fairmont State University or at another institution in the West Virginia State System of Higher Education. Portfolio evaluations will be completed by the faculty members who teach the courses for which credit is sought.

*Please note:* Not all existing courses are eligible for credit petition via portfolio development. The ability to petition a course for credit is at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course.

The portfolios should be submitted prior to semester midterm to ensure that sufficient time is available for the evaluation.

The fee for portfolio evaluation is \$300 (per portfolio) regardless of whether or not credit is awarded. If credit is awarded, then an additional \$10 per credit hour processing fee is required to transcript the credit.

### ➤ **Additional Methods of Earning College-Level Credit**

College credit can also be earned in the following ways:

- Prior Military Training Credit
- Advanced Placement (AP) Exams
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Exams
- DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST)
- Institutional Course Challenge Examination Credit
- Excelsior College Examination (ECE) Program
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Program

*Please note:* Credit earned via standardized credit awards, portfolio review, or other assessment methods does not count toward meeting the state or institutional residency requirements for the RBA program.