

TRANSITION TO CREDIT AND PROGRAM ALIGNMENT INITIATIVES

May 18, 2022



UTAH
SYSTEM OF
HIGHER
EDUCATION

TRANSITION TO CREDIT

HISTORY

Historically, technical colleges were statutorily required to offer instruction in clock-hours, rather than credit-hours.

The language requiring this educational currency was removed from statute during the 2020 session when the higher education system merge took place.

These changes allowed the Utah Board of Higher Education to consider whether a transition to credit might benefit institutions and students.

UBHE CREDIT TASK FORCE

Purpose

Explore the potential for transitioning technical education from clock-hours to credit-hours.

Objectives

- Provide for a common currency among the 16 USHE institutions
- Remove attendance requirements currently imposed on clock-hour institutions by the U.S. Department of Education impacting the ability of institutions to equitably deliver hybrid and distance education instruction
- Ensure such a transition will not compromise flexible enrollment and student progression practices currently provided through competency-based education

CLOCK-HOUR CHALLENGES

U.S. Department of Education rules for financial aid for clock-hour institutions focus on **attendance** and **synchronous** instruction. These rules:

- Hinder broad development and delivery of instruction in hybrid and distance education formats
- Present barriers to student access and completion:
 - Impact our ability to deliver flexible instruction that allows students to complete independent learning activities from a convenient location on their own schedule
 - Requires students to come to the college unnecessarily
 - Impacts our ability to serve students in large geographic service regions

CREDIT BENEFITS

- Easily understood by students and partners
- Creates a common currency within the system of higher education
- Eliminates hour-to-hour differences in courses and programs, which naturally improves alignment
- Alignment improves portability of course work and expansion of transfer opportunities, reducing duplication of coursework and student cost and time to completion
- Allows institutions to offer asynchronous instruction
- Removes attendance requirements, where appropriate

UBHE CREDIT TASK FORCE

Compliance

Council on Occupational Education

U.S. Department of Education

Regulated Programs

UBHE Strategic Plan

Proceed with the transition of clock-hour institutions to credit-hours

TIMELINE

FY23 Technical college implementation begins

FY24 SLCC Technical College implementation begins

PROGRAM ALIGNMENT

UBHE STRATEGIC PLAN

“Facilitate coordination among programs to align structure and facilitate student completion and transfer.”



PROGRAM ALIGNMENT

- Convene a faculty committee for each instructional area
- Criteria
 - Align at least 70% of the total program length
 - Customize up to 30% of the total program length to address any unique regional needs
 - Evaluate exceptional circumstances
- Timeline
 - FY22 Regulated programs, program information for non-regulated programs
 - FY23 Non-regulated programs
 - FY24 Implementation complete