

BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER  
HANDBOOK REVISION: ACT Proficiency Examination Program

**BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

Currently Title 4, Chapters 14 and 16 authorize NSHE institution to utilize the ACT Proficiency Examination Program or ACT PEP as part of an institution's authority to issue credit by examination.

The ACT PEP is no longer an exam issued by the ACT organization. Formerly called the ACT Proficiency Examination Program (ACT PEP), Excelsior College now administers these examinations. Excelsior College Examinations (formerly ACT/PEP) are used to meet specific college degree requirements of the Excelsior College degrees and are accepted for college credit by other colleges and universities as well.

**SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

Correct Board policy by changing references from the ACT PEP exam to the Excelsior College Examination (see attached policy proposal).

**IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

It has recently come to the attention of the System Office that the ACT PEP examination is no longer administered by ACT, but by Excelsior College.

This is a technical change to correct the name of the examination only – no arguments against this technical correction have been brought forward at this time.

**ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:**

Broaden the policy to authorize NSHE institutions to utilize appropriate examinations for earning academic credits as necessary, deleting references to specific examinations. This would eliminate the need to update references to specific examinations as they change over time.

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 14, SECTION 19**  
**ACT PEP**

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 19. Credit by Examination

1. The maximum number of credits that may be earned by examination to apply toward a degree may not exceed one half of the minimum number of credits required for that degree.
2. Credit may be granted for the satisfactory completion of College Board Advanced Placement Examination (*CBAPE*)

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5. Other national testing organizations may be considered for the awarding of credit subject to institutional policy.
6. Special Department Examinations: An admitted student in good standing may earn credits by special department examination subject to institutional policy.
7. The posting of satisfactorily completed credit by examinations to the student's permanent academic record shall clearly identify that the credit was earned by examination, name of the testing program, date of the examination, number of credits, and a grade of S (*satisfactory*) or P (*pass*).
8. Credit earned by examination does not apply toward satisfying the minimum on-campus resident credit requirement of the institution from which graduation is sought and does not constitute an interruption of the resident credit requirement.  
(B/R 11/84)



