Policy Title: Awarding Graduate Credit from Prior Learning Sources
Policy Number: 1xxx
Functional Area: Academic & Faculty Affairs

Date Submitted: TBD
Proposed Action: Approve New Policy
Brief Description: This policy describes the acceptance and application of credit from prior learning towards graduate degree programs. In addition to this policy, the rules of the school or college that awards the degree also apply.

Desired Effective Date: TBD
Reviewing Office: Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Responsible Officer: Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning
Policy Contact: Terry Potter
Last Reviewed/Updated: N/A – New Policy
Applies to: University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
University of Colorado Denver
University of Colorado South Denver Location

Reason for Policy: Campus administrative policy 7006 describes how the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus (“the university”) accepts and applies transfer credits from other institutions and for prior learning experiences such as those that military veterans undergo, towards its undergraduate degree programs. The University’s undergraduate programs also awards credit for courses taken through the International Baccalaureate Diploma, or that meet the requirements of the gtPathways (administered by the Colorado Department of Higher Education) and approved articulation agreements. This proposed policy describes the acceptance and application of credit from prior learning experiences towards graduate degree programs. In addition to this policy, the rules of the school or college that awards the degree also apply.

The regional institutional accreditors, including the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), has a strong focus on how an institution evaluates and applies credit for prior learning. The HLC requires that the university has a policy that outlines how the university applies credit for prior learning. For undergraduate programs this can include coursework taken at 2 year colleges or dual credit (high school) programs as
well as credentials earned through advance placement coursework. More recently, policies outlining how “life experiences” outside the classroom also provide learning experiences that should and can be applied for college level credit. While the CCHE and the university policies have been very useful for undergraduate programs, the university doesn’t have anything regarding graduate programs.

Several years ago, the Provost, the AVC for Academic Planning and the university liaison at HLC, settled on a cap of 25% of the credits needed for a CU Denver or CU Anschutz graduate degree could come from prior learning experiences. This 25% does NOT include transfer credit for coursework at other institutions of higher learning in the U.S. or international institutions if an appropriate audit was conducted. An example of where this occurs is in the School of Education and Human Development that awards credit towards some of the M.A. degrees for individuals who have at least a defined amount of experience as a classroom teacher. While the Provost Office has adhered to this “25% rule” for several years, it has not been documented in a policy.

I. REASON FOR PROPOSED ACTION

Per Campus Policy 3000, Establishing Campus Administrative Policies, all new or updated policies must be approved by the Chancellor(s).

II. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN THE POLICY REVIEW

Provost (TBD)
Legal (TBD)
Deans (TBD)
Graduate School (TBD)
Faculty Assembly CU Denver (TBD)
Faculty Assembly CU Anschutz (TBD)
Registrar (C. John, TBD)
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Operations (N. Viveiros, TBD)
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning (T. Potter, ongoing involvement)
Academic Planning Coordinator (M. Heredia, ongoing involvement)

III. LEGAL REVIEW

A. Do you think legal review would be required for these proposed changes?

Yes

1. If no, please explain. N/A
2. If yes, what is your plan to get the legal review? Ask Legal EA to assign an attorney to review.
3. Date legal review completed: TBD
4. Person completing legal review: TBD

IV. FISCAL REVIEW: Are there any financial (human resources, technology, operations, training, etc.) or other resource impacts of implementing this policy (e.g., cost savings, start-up costs, additional time for faculty or staff, new systems, or software)? No