



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Academic Affairs, Postsecondary Institution Licensing
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TRANSFER OF ACADEMIC CREDIT STUDENT ADVISORY

Be informed! There is no guarantee of academic credit acceptance, even at institutions with recognized accreditation.

The following information is about the transfer of academic credit to public, private non-profit, and private for-profit institutions. Students should know that institutions establish their own transfer policies and that transfer policies are not prescribed by oversight agencies. Courses students take at one institution will not automatically transfer to another institution. Moreover, receiving institutions decide whether to accept transfer credits and how these credits may or may not apply to a specific college major.

South Carolina's online Transfer and Articulation Center web portal, SC TRAC, (available at www.sctrac.org) provides comprehensive information about the transfer of college credits between and among South Carolina's public colleges and universities.

If you anticipate that in the future you may want to transfer coursework to count toward a program at another institution later, you should contact possible future institutions and ask the admission's, registrar's, or transfer office the following questions:

- ❖ From what kinds of institutions do you regularly accept credits? (type of accreditation, public, private, for- or non-profit)
- ❖ What kind of information is considered about acceptance of credits from other institutions? (accreditation, level content, quality, comparability, on-line)
- ❖ Have you accepted credits from (school name)?

According to a study of policies published in college catalogs, about 60 percent of public institutions require that credit be earned at institutions that hold regional accreditation and about 50 percent of private non-profit institutions require regional accreditation. However, ***none of the private for-profit institutions require regional accreditation.***

Institutions' Undergraduate Transfer Credit Policies - Accreditation Criteria

	Number of Institutions	Accepts Transfer Credit from Regionally Accredited Only	Accepts Transfer Credit-Any Accreditation	Info not available
Public Institutions	184	59%	38%	3%
Private Non-Profit	276	49%	49%	1%
Private For-Profit	13	0%	92%	8%
Total Surveyed	473	52%	46%	2%

The Role of Accreditation in Educational Quality Judgments Catalog Policies Research Project – Spring 2009, Rodney J. Showalter, Naomi M. Harralson, and Laura E. McCollum

Additional information is available at the following links:

- The U.S. Department of Education's [accreditation site](#) and [list of recognized accrediting agencies](#).
- The U.S. Department of Education's [database of accredited institutions](#) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation's [database of accredited institutions](#).
- Thinking of learning a new job skill or enrolling in a non-traditional degree program? Learn about strategies to help evaluate the quality of postsecondary educational programs and schools. [Is This A Good School?](#) Beware of misleading advertising about educational opportunities that sound too good to be true.