

## Intent

This policy outlines Academic Credit accepted by the National Registry for continuing education requirements.

## Scope

This policy applies to individuals who submit Academic Credit as a form of accepted education for National Registry or State-Licensed Only (SLO) recertification, state licensed entry, or reentry pathways.

## Definitions

**Academic Credit:** credit from a regionally or nationally recognized institute of higher education, a locally accepted community, technical or junior college, or state-recognized program of instruction where college or formal credits are issued.

**Transcript:** a record from the program, college or university that can be validated and contains a list of courses, dates of completion, course name/topic, and grade or proof of successful completion

## Policy

Academic credit may be applied as a form of accepted education to meet entry requirements for national certification through the state-licensed pathway, the reentry pathway, or for purpose of recertification. Academic Credit which meets approval criteria can be applied at a 1 to 10 ratio in which every 1 Academic Credit awarded equals 10 continuing education credits (U.S. Department of Education, 2008). Academic Credit completed during the current certification cycle and prior to the current expiration date may be considered.

### *Requirements for Use of Academic Course Credits:*

Credit from Academic Courses must meet the following criteria:

- Be directly related to the knowledge, skill, or abilities in providing clinical patient care in the field of emergency medical services.
- Be completed with college or university credit or official course completion credit awarded.
- Proof of college or university credit must be in the form of an official Transcript or a certificate of course completion from the community, technical or junior college or university.
  - For EMS Programs only: If a course completion certificate or official Transcript is not available, a signed letter on letterhead issued by an EMS Program Director containing an itemized list of courses/topics, credits awarded, dates attended, name of program, name of instructor may be accepted for partial EMS program completed at or above the

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individual's level of certification or certification they are seeking if the course is pending completion.

- Completed at an accredited United States college, university, or vo-tech school.

### *Application of Academic course credits*

Portions of or completed EMS Educational Programs (EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic) within the current certification cycle which have awarded credit with proof of education or certificates of completion may be used in the National Component where applicable. The EMS program education applied in the National Component of the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP) must be at or above the current certification scope of practice or the level in which the individual applied.

No other college or university credit may be applied to the National Component. College courses applied to the local component must be directly related to EMS clinical patient care. The Individual Component may have college or Academic Credit which applies to any EMS topic.

### **Rationale**

The National Registry recognizes that Academic Credit and college courses can be relevant to emergency medical services in a clinical aspect and encourages higher level or progressive continuing education. Proper documentation, successful completion of the course, and establishing parameters for assignment in the application ensures consistency along with ensuring national EMS certification topic requirements are met. National Registry accreditation requires information to be published regarding education and training if used as pre-requisites for eligibility for certification or recertification.

### **Related Policies and Procedures**

Accepted Education & Documentation Policy

Recertification Audits

Certification Scheme – NREMR

Certification Scheme – NREMT

Certification Scheme – NRAEMT

Certification Scheme – NRP

### **References**

International Organization for Standardization (ISO). (2015). *Conformity Assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons* (ISO/IEC 17024:2012(E)).

U.S. Department of Education. (2008). *Structure of U.S. Education System: Continuing Education Units (CEU)*. Retrieved from <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ous/international/usnei/us/ceu.doc>

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## Document History

2021-04-07	Created
2021-06-09	Approved by National Registry Board of Directors for Public Comment
2021-09-21	Ratified by National Registry Board of Directors in Special Meeting
2021-09-21	Approved by the National Registry Executive Director
2021-12-01	Recertification Policies – Ratified Sept 2021 BOD Project Charter initiated and supported as a strategic initiative due to evaluation of public comment response and organizational determination to delay the policy implementation date from 4/1/2022 to 4/1/2023.