



Guidance for Michigan Community Colleges on Section 227 of PA 144 (2022)

Budget Language

Section 227 of [Public Act 144](#) includes boilerplate language that requires community colleges to comply with a number of new requirements to receive appropriations from the state. MCCA has worked with members of the Legislature to provide the following guidance. Section 227 Language from PA144 reads:

Sec. 227. (1) Each community college that receives an appropriation in section 201 shall demonstrate the acceptance of nationally recognized college level equivalent credit examination opportunities by developing and implementing policies and procedures for the awarding of academic credit through college level equivalent credit examinations.

(2) A community college shall not create policies or procedures that prevent students from earning college credits through college level equivalent credit examinations once enrolled in the community college.

(3) Each community college shall make its credit policies and opportunities for college level equivalent credit examinations publicly available on the community college's website.

(4) If a community college requires scores above those recommended by the American Council on Education to earn college credit through college level equivalent credit examinations, that community college shall submit to the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on community colleges, the house and senate fiscal agencies, and the state budget director a report on the data and justifications for that decision by February 1, 2023.

Sec. 227a. (1) Each community college that receives an appropriation in section 201 shall provide all enrolled students information on accelerated degree completion pathways and options within the first semester of enrollment, and shall publicly post this information on the community college's website by October 1, 2022.

(2) Each community college shall work to create accelerated degree completion pathways for enrolled students if such options do not already exist.

Recommendations

MCCA worked with Rep. Frederick to provide recommendations to Michigan community colleges.

Section 227(1): Demonstrating Acceptance of Credit

Section 227(1) requires that colleges demonstrate the acceptance of nationally recognized college level equivalent exams. The most common types of credit for prior learning are Advanced Placement, CLEP, International Baccalaureate, DANTES/ DSST, credit for military experience, industry credentials, credit by examination, and portfolio assessment. When demonstrating the acceptance, we recommend including, on a publicly available website, information about the following:

- Minimum required scores and credit earned (i.e. a score of 50 on the CLEP American Government exam will earn 3 credits for POLISCI 100).
- The recommended process to complete the exam or assessment such as links and instructions to a convenient testing center.
- The recommended process to submit required documentation to earn credit for the exam.

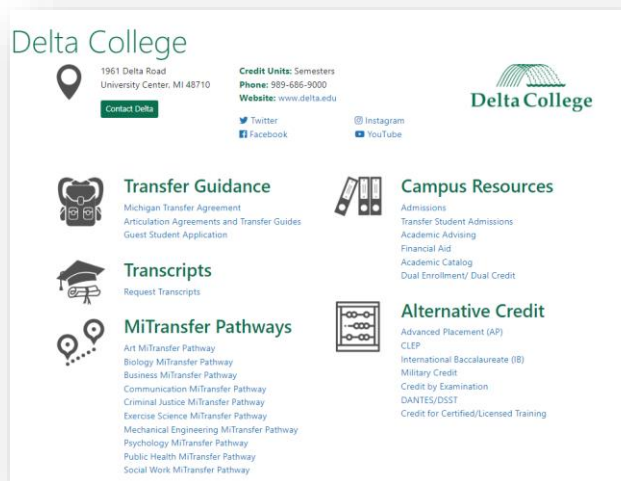
Section 227(2): Policies and Procedures

Section 227(2) prevents colleges from creating policies that prevent students from earning credit after they enroll. Colleges should allow students to earn credit while enrolled at the college.

Section 227(3): Publicly Available Site

Section 227(3) requires that community colleges make this information available on a publicly available community college website. Many colleges already provide this information for students on a publicly available site. When doing so, we recommend that colleges include this information with other transfer-credit information and design the recruitment, admissions, enrollment, and advising processes to explicitly request information from students about credit for prior learning. The Michigan Transfer Network at www.mitransfer.org aggregates links to Alternative Credit on the institutional profile pages. To find your college or examples from other community colleges, navigate to [Find Colleges & Universities](#) and select any institution. In the screenshot below, Delta College provided links to various CPL policies in the Alternative Credit section.

We recommend that colleges provide links to the Michigan Transfer Network. To add your links, secure users can review the Modifying Institutional Information instructions on the secure Dashboard to add additional links. Dead links are checked each week and institutions are contacted with links that are not working properly. Contact Erica Orians at eorians@mcca.org for additional instructions.



Section 227(4): ACE Credit Recommendations

The American Council on Education makes recommendations on minimum requires scores for many exams. A searchable database of credit recommendations is available on the ACE website at <https://www.acenet.edu/National-Guide/Pages/Granting-Credit.aspx?k=ap%20AND%20>. If the college's minimum scores are not aligned with ACE credit recommendations, you must notify the state by February 1, 2023. The list of contacts to notify will be available on the MCCA website at <https://www.mcca.org/legislative-briefs> once new legislators are sworn in in January 2023.

Sec. 227a. (1): Communicating Accelerated Degree Completion Pathways

By October 1, 2022, community colleges should communicate with students about the opportunities to complete accelerated degree completion pathways. Many colleges provide this information through the above-mentioned credit for prior learning options, enrolling full-time, enrolling in seven or eight-week courses, or enrolling in the summer to accelerate the completion of a degree. If the community college does not provide this information to students, we recommend that colleges follow evidence-based practices such as guided reforms aimed at documenting clear pathways for students, creating a full academic plan, and adopting onboarding practices that support degree completion.

Sec. 227a. (2): Creating Accelerated Degree Completion Pathways

Colleges that do not offer accelerated pathways are encouraged to explore and implement evidence-based practices.

Helpful Resources

Resources from Peer Colleges

The Michigan Transfer Network aggregates links from all participating colleges and universities in Michigan. Review information on each college at [Find Colleges & Universities](#) to review practices from peer colleges in Michigan.

Workshops and Training

The Michigan Center for Student Success launched the MiWorkforce Pathways initiative that supports a number of activities including support to expand the functionality of the Michigan Transfer Network to award academic credit for industry credentials. The Center hosted a series of workshops in 2022 focused on policies, business processes, and aligning credit. The [slides and recordings are available on the Strengthening Workforce Pathways website](#).

Military Credit Resources

The Center led several initiatives to award credit for military experience and training with a generous grant from the Kresge Foundation in 2015-2018. We created two guides and resources from that work, including [Building METC Degree Bridge Partnerships in Michigan](#) and [A Resource Guide on Translating Military Competencies into Academic Credit](#).

Transferability of Credit for Prior Learning

Many colleges are concerned that awarding credit for prior learning will negatively impact students when they transfer to a bachelor's degree-granting institution. This concern has merit since several universities explicitly reject credit for prior learning as transcribed by the community college. The recently signed MiWorkforce Pathways agreements require participating institutions to award credit for prior learning as transcribed by the community colleges. Colleges may use this term of the agreement in their articulation agreements with individual institutions. Alternatively, colleges may consider requesting documentation from university partners about the credit for prior learning transfer policy and explicitly including that information on the above-mentioned publicly available website. Please note that public universities are expected to meet the same requirements outlined in the Act.

Guided Pathways and Onboarding

The Community College Research Center (CCRC), a long-time partner of the Michigan Center for Student Success has published reports, presentations, and other resources on their research on evidence-based guided pathways practices. Information from CCRC is [available on their website](#). Please note that the Michigan Center for Student Success has [published several reports](#) about Michigan community college's guided pathways work.