

**UNACCREDITED AND NEWLY ACCREDITED COLLEGES,
AND NON-TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS**

**I. ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER CREDIT AND DEGREES FROM
UNACCREDITED AND NEWLY ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS**

A. Credit awarded before institutional accrediting organization approval of a school

Credits posted to a record prior to the institution's formal accreditation are considered to be non-transferable. Only after completion of 30 credits at Seattle University might a maximum of 15 such credits be allowed in transfer. These must be graded "C" or better, must apply directly to the student's degree objective and will be considered to fall within the first 90 credits (freshman/sophomore level.) Upon recommendation of the student's major department, some unaccredited courses may be considered for acceptance by "Petition for Exception to Policy."

B. Degree awarded before accreditation of a school

A student whose degree was posted prior to the issuing school's formal accreditation is considered to be a graduate of an unaccredited institution and would normally not be admissible to graduate school nor granted post-baccalaureate standing.

C. Newly accredited institutions

Credits awarded after accreditation was granted are acceptable on transfer to Seattle University if the courses fall within the guidelines for transfer work, including "Prior Experiential Learning" restrictions (See section II).

Applications for a second bachelor degree or a graduate degree may be accepted if the student is otherwise admissible, so long as 75% of the credit within the degree was granted by a school which was accredited at the time the credit was awarded. If such a degree is comprised of credit from more than one institution, transcripts from all colleges will be required in order to review grades and specific course work. If less than 75% of a student's coursework has been completed since the school's accreditation, the degree will be viewed in the same light as one from an unaccredited institution, i.e. not sufficient for admission to graduate school nor accepted for second degree status.

D. Institutions which have lost accreditation will be viewed as unaccredited as of the date the accrediting body formally withdraws that accreditation.

E. The direct transfer associate degree agreements with Washington community colleges assume that credit transferred by the community college and used toward the transferable associate degree will have been from an institution accredited at the time courses were taken.

- F. Applicants to graduate programs will be considered individually by the deans of the programs using the above guidelines.

II. NON-TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS WHICH INCLUDE CREDIT FOR PRIOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Some institutions include a significant number of credits for prior experiential learning (hereafter PEL) on their transcripts.

- A. PEL credit is not considered transferable; rather than a record of work completed, it is considered to be documentation to substantiate the awarding of a degree.
- B. When PEL has been incorporated into a degree granted prior to the issuing school's accreditation, the student would normally not be accepted for a second degree and would not be admissible to graduate school.
- C. If more than 15% of credit included in any degree from any school is PEL, the degree will be viewed in the same light as one from an unaccredited institution, i.e. not sufficient for admission to graduate school nor sufficient for post-baccalaureate standing.

III. INSTITUTIONS WITH OUT-OF-AREA BRANCHES

Since February, 1992 when an accredited school has established one or more degree-granting branches away from its own accrediting body, it will be assumed that the accreditation of the parent institution automatically extends to the distant branch school.

Prior to February 1992, when an accredited school had established one or more degree-granting branches away from its own accrediting body, it was not assumed that the accreditation of the parent institution automatically extended to the distant branch school.

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