

Statement regarding the award of graduate credit for the Ohio Educational Technology Conference (OETC) or other conference and workshop experiences

Background: It has come to the attention of the Ohio Department of Higher Education that some colleges and universities are offering graduate level credit for conference attendance and limited writing assignments associated with those conferences. In some cases, the credit clearly is not merited at the graduate level. In other cases, the credit does not align with the requirements for the Chancellor-approved graduate degree program.

Ohio Department of Higher Education Statement: Colleges and universities under the authority of the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education are expected to adhere to the guidelines and procedures for academic programming located at: https://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/Academic-Program-Review-Guidelines_FINAL_042915.pdf. At the time of Chancellor program approval, the coursework, credit assigned to that coursework, and the credentials of faculty teaching that coursework are reviewed. Coursework and curricula are reviewed for appropriate rigor and content. All faculty credentials and experience are reviewed to ensure alignment to the requirements for teaching the coursework. At the time of program approval for a new degree program, activity associated with conferences and the faculty associated with the teaching must be submitted along with the program review materials. In addition, those materials must include a clear statement regarding how the credit aligns with the degree requirements.

Small changes to programming, such as the addition of credit for a conference, are not always reviewed between reauthorizations (for private and proprietary institutions) or after initial approval (for public institutions). The Ohio Department of Higher Education expects that any changes to Chancellor-approved programming will contain the rigor and content appropriate to the degree level and in alignment with the degree requirements. In addition, all faculty associated with the programming should have the relevant credentials. Generally, the Ohio Department of Higher Education **does not support** awarding graduate credit for attendance at a conference with limited additional work, as this does not meet the rigor appropriate to graduate level work.

Because the Ohio Department of Higher Education is a sponsor of the annual Ohio Educational Technology Conference (OETC), graduate level credit for conference attendance is prohibited by the Ohio Department of Higher Education without prior review and Chancellor approval that the credit meets appropriate levels of rigor, adheres to the ODHE guidelines, and applies to the graduate program appropriately. Credit for other conference or workshop experiences also must be similarly reviewed.

While such activity may not be approved for college graduate level credit, the activity may meet standards for Professional Development Units (PDUs) or Continuing Education Units (CEUs). The Ohio Department of Higher Education does not regulate PDUs or CEUs. Colleges and universities must gain approval from the appropriate entities to award PDUs or CEUs.