



The State University
of New York

Office of the Chancellor

H. Carl McCall SUNY Building
353 Broadway, Albany, New York 12246

SUNY Global Center, 116 E 55th St,
New York, NY 10022

www.suny.edu

MEMORANDUM

June 2, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor

**SUBJECT: State University of New York Award of Academic Credit
by Evaluation**

Action Requested

This resolution establishes an updated Award of Academic Credit by Evaluation Policy to provide consistent systemwide standards for awarding and applying academic credit for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations that promote student transfer across campuses.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the State University of New York is committed to supporting student success, access, and timely degree completion, including for students who transfer between campuses; and

Whereas by Resolution 2012-89, on December 17, 2012, the SUNY Board of Trustees adopted the policy on Seamless Transfer Requirements to serve as principles to guide undergraduate curricula to assure seamless transfer within the State University; and

Whereas by Resolution 2023-08, on February 7, 2023, the SUNY Board of Trustees adopted a revised Award of Academic Credit

by Examination Policy to assist campuses in amending or developing local policy and practice; and

Whereas on December 17, 2024, the SUNY Board of Trustees endorsed and approved the policies and recommendations of the SUNY Transfer Task Force; and

Whereas the award of academic credit for prior learning demonstrated through standardized published examinations, including Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB), is an essential component of demonstrating student academic achievement, promoting student mobility, and reducing time to degree; and

Whereas variation in institutional practices regarding AP and IB examination credit introduces inconsistencies and barriers for students across the SUNY system; and

Whereas in October 2025, the Office of Student Success in collaboration with the Office of Academic Affairs convened a representative working group consisting of faculty and staff participants from a cross-section of SUNY campuses representing multiple sectors and geographic regions, as well as shared governance bodies, to develop recommendations for an updated policy on AP and IB examination credit; and

Whereas in March 2026, the working group recommendations were shared with the SUNY Trustees for discussion and input; and

Whereas in March 2026, the working group recommendations were distributed as a discussion draft for system-wide comment to campuses and shared governance bodies, and feedback was subsequently received and analyzed in consultation with the working group, which served as the foundation for the final policy language provided herein and the forthcoming guidance; now, therefore be it

Resolved that the updated Award of Academic Credit by Evaluation Policy, regarding Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) credit, as set forth in the attachment to this resolution, be, and hereby is, approved; and be it further

Resolved that the Chancellor or designee be, and hereby is, authorized to take all necessary and appropriate steps to implement such policy, and be it further

Resolved that beginning in fall 2026, each campus is hereby authorized and directed to engage faculty through shared governance bodies in reviewing and, as needed, revising or establishing campus policies consistent with the Award of Academic Credit by Evaluation Policy (Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Credit), which shall be adopted by June 30, 2027; and that, in cases where full implementation in systems and in practice will extend beyond Fall 2027, a campus shall establish in collaboration with the Office of Transfer and Articulation and Student Success and submit for approval alternative implementation plans and timelines; and be it further

Resolved that the Office of Academic Affairs in collaboration with the Office of Student Success will distribute guidance to support implementation and promote systemwide consistency in credit for prior learning practices for AP and IB credit.

Attachment

Addendum to the Credit for Prior Learning Policies

Award of Academic Credit by Evaluation Policy (Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Credit)

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish system-wide standards for the award of academic credit for Advanced Placement (AP) examinations and International Baccalaureate (IB) Higher Level (HL) examinations across all colleges and universities of the State University of New York (SUNY).

The policy is intended to promote consistency, transparency, and equitable treatment of students who have successfully completed commonly pursued standardized examinations, while preserving institutional flexibility to uphold curricular standards and preserving institutional authority over academic standards and curriculum.

The policy was developed through a representative, systemwide process. The policy development working group included participants from a cross-section of SUNY campuses representing multiple sectors and geographic regions, as well as shared governance bodies. Draft policy language was presented at plenary sessions of the respective governance bodies and was broadly disseminated across SUNY. An open comment period was provided to solicit input from all SUNY faculty, staff, and students.

II. Authority

This policy is issued pursuant to, and consistent with, the SUNY Board of Trustees Policy on the Award of Academic Credit by Evaluation and Credit for Prior Learning (CPL), which is administered by the SUNY Office of Academic Affairs, who are responsible for the development, oversight, and systemwide implementation of the policy framework. The policy authorizes institutions to award academic credit for demonstrated college level learning through standardized examinations and other validated assessments. It is further supported by Board of Trustees policies governing undergraduate education, student mobility, and Seamless Transfer, and is informed by applicable accreditation standards and national best practices.

III. Scope

This policy applies to all SUNY State-operated and community college campuses.

This policy applies to undergraduate students matriculating at SUNY campuses who successfully completed examinations from recognized Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB), prior to matriculation.

This policy does not preclude campuses from granting credit for other forms of prior learning, which may be governed by separate institutional policies.

IV. Policy Statement

SUNY campuses shall award and apply credit for standardized examinations using clearly defined, consistently applied academic standards. Such determinations shall support student progress and ensure equitable treatment across institutions, while maintaining academic integrity and program requirements.

V. Core Principles

A. Equitable Recognition of Prior Learning

Standardized examination performance shall be evaluated in a manner that ensures equitable recognition of demonstrated learning across SUNY campuses.

B. Academic Integrity and Faculty Oversight

Consistent with this policy, campus faculty retain primary authority, through established shared governance bodies, to determine course equivalencies, credit applicability, requirement fulfillment, and appropriate academic standards associated with examination-based credit.

C. Clarity, Transparency, Consistency and Documentation

All policies governing credit by examination shall be clearly articulated, publicly available, and consistently applied.

D. Support for Student Progress

Credit awarded under this policy shall be applied in a manner that supports timely degree completion and minimizes unnecessary loss of credit.

VI. Standards for Credit Award

A. Minimum Score Thresholds

1. Campuses shall award undergraduate credit for Advanced Placement (AP) examinations with a minimum score of 3, except as otherwise expressly provided in this policy.
2. Campuses shall award undergraduate credit for International Baccalaureate (IB) Higher Level (HL) examinations with a minimum score of 4, except as otherwise expressly provided in this policy.

B. Faculty Determination of Credit

1. Campus faculty shall retain authority, through established shared governance bodies, to determine course equivalencies and requirement fulfillment standards for examination scores.
2. Campuses may establish higher score thresholds for specific courses, disciplines, or programmatic requirements, where deemed academically appropriate.

VII. Application of Credit

A. Course Equivalency and Degree Requirements

1. Credit awarded through standardized examinations may be applied toward:
 - a. specific course equivalencies;
 - b. general education requirements;
 - c. major or program requirements;
 - d. elective credit.
2. Determinations of applicability shall be based on alignment with course content, learning outcomes, and academic expectations.

B. Elective Credit

Where examination scores meet the minimum thresholds but do not align sufficiently with a specific course or requirement, campuses shall, wherever practicable, award elective credit to recognize the academic achievement reflected in such scores.

VIII. Limitations and Constraints

A. Overall or Program-Specific Exam Limits

SUNY institutions may establish limits on the number of overall exams accepted for credit and/or limits on the amount of credit that may be awarded, provided that such limits are clearly communicated and applied uniformly to all students on the campus.

B. Non-Applicable or Duplicative Credit or Requirements

Campuses shall not be required to award credit or requirement fulfillment via examinations, where such credit cannot be applied to the student's degree program or where its application would not support progress toward degree completion. This includes but is not limited to cases where:

- an equivalency cannot be applied to any course requirement, degree requirement, general elective, or disciplinary-area elective without resulting in excess credit;
- the examination content duplicates previously earned credit or provides fulfillment of a previously fulfilled requirement;
- the application of such credit would result in exceeding institutional residency (courses-in-residence) requirements;
- the application of such credit would result in exceeding overall or program-specific exam limits;
- the application of such credit would cause the student to exceed applicable eligibility limits or financial aid thresholds in accord with state and federal rules and regulations.

C. Credits-in-Residence (Institutional Residency) Requirements

1. Campuses may continue to maintain credits-in-residence requirements for degree completion.
2. Such requirements may limit the total number of examination credits applied toward a degree.

D. Financial Aid and Eligibility

1. Award and application of examination credit shall be consistent with federal and state financial aid regulations.

2. Campuses may consider financial aid eligibility and program requirements when determining applicability or the limiting of applied credit.

E. Prioritization of Credit and Requirement Fulfillment

When a student's total credit by examination exceeds institutional limits, eligible credit shall be applied in a manner that most effectively satisfies requirements and supports timely degree completion.

IX. Academic Exceptions

A. Lower Score Acceptance

1. Campuses may, at their discretion, award credit for AP scores below 3 or IB HL scores below 4, where supported by academic standards and campus policies.
2. Campuses may, at their discretion, award credit for any IB Standard Level (SL) examination, as determined to be appropriate through faculty review.

B. Programmatic Variation

Academic programs may establish higher score thresholds or additional requirements for the application of examination credit within specific majors or disciplines, provided such standards are clearly defined, consistently applied, and publicly communicated.

X. Alignment with SUNY Transfer Paths

If an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) examination is accepted by a receiving campus as equivalent to a Core Course included in a SUNY Transfer Path, the examination shall also satisfy the corresponding SUNY Transfer Path requirement.

XI. Governance and Institutional Responsibilities

A. Shared Governance and Engagement

SUNY campuses shall engage faculty through established shared governance structures in the development, review, and implementation of local policies and procedures required to comply with this policy, particularly where such policies

affect academic standards, curriculum, and the evaluation of examinations.

B. Policy Adoption and Publication

Each campus shall adopt and publish institutional policies aligned with this framework in official policy repositories and academic catalogs or bulletins.

C. Equivalency Tables

1. Campuses shall maintain and publicly post current equivalency tables for AP and IB examinations, including:
 - minimum score thresholds;
 - course equivalencies;
 - credit amounts; and
 - applicable requirements.
2. Published policies shall clearly indicate:
 - which examinations are accepted;
 - score thresholds for credit;
 - how credit may be applied; and
 - any limitations or restrictions.

XIII. Appeals

1. Each campus shall maintain a process by which students may appeal determinations related to the award of credit in accord with the established appeals processes set forth in the SUNY Seamless Transfer policies.
2. Campuses shall ensure that appeal processes are clearly communicated, accessible, and aligned with institutional academic policies.

XIV. Guidance and Review

1. SUNY System Administration shall disseminate guidance to support the implementation of this policy, including interpretive direction, model templates, and recommended practices. Such guidance is intended to promote consistent, transparent, and equitable application across campuses.

2. This policy shall be reviewed on a regular cycle by appropriate advisory bodies to ensure alignment with SUNY strategic priorities, accreditation expectations, and evolving best practices.

XV. Policy Establishment

Beginning fall 2026, campuses are expected, through established shared governance bodies, to review and, as appropriate, reaffirm, revise, or establish policies to align with the requirements outlined above. All such policies must be adopted by June 30, 2027.