To: Faculty Senate
From: Mary Wack, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
Date: March 17, 2017
Subject: Updates to Academic Regulation 15, Credit by Examinations
Proposed Academic Regulation 17, Prior Learning Credit

As you may be aware, the issue of credit by exam is of great interest to Washington legislators, who have been active in crafting legislation on this topic. They have also enacted legislation requiring institutions to have a policy regarding credit awarded for prior learning. The revision to AR 15 and the proposed AR 17 address recent legislative changes. The two substantive changes to 15 involve a new requirement that credit be given for AP scores of 3 and above, and fuller explanation of how the IB diploma is awarded credit. The IB score has been adjusted from 4 to 5 to reflect the statewide coordination of IB scores among the public baccalaureates.

AR 17 puts a policy in place before we move down the road to implementation. This type of prior learning assessment is sometimes called “portfolio evaluation” whereby a portfolio documents achievement equivalent to the learning outcomes for a course or courses. The primary group this policy addresses are adult students who may have considerable informal as well as formal education when they return to complete a degree. The Transfer Clearinghouse has been working to build capacity to facilitate a system at WSU for this type of evaluation, which is of interest to the other campuses as well as to Global Campus. Petitions sometimes emerge even in Pullman for this type of credit.

Thank you for your consideration.

15. CREDIT BY EXAMINATIONS. Subject to standards established in consultation with academic departments concerned, credit may be granted to entering or enrolled undergraduate or professional students via various means including external examinations, institutional examinations, approved military service, and prior learning.

Prior learning is defined as the knowledge and skills gained through work and life experience; through military training and experience; and through formal and informal education and training from in-state and out-of-state institutions, including foreign institutions. Prior learning assessment is the process used to evaluate such experience for academic credit.

WSU does not accept credit by examination as transcripted by other institutions. Students must provide official score reports to WSU. Acceptable scores for receiving credit are published online at https://transfercredit.wsu.edu/types-of-credit/credit-by-exam/.
Credits by examination shall yield no grade points. Such credits may partially fulfill University Common Requirements (UCOREs) for graduation. External examinations will include but not be limited to: Advanced Placement (AP) Program examinations of the College Entrance Examinations Board; general and subject College Level Examination Program (CLEP); the International Baccalaureate (IB) Examinations; and Cambridge International Examinations. Duplicate credit for the same subject taken on different exams like Cambridge A-level, AP, or IB will not be granted. Advanced credit policies are reviewed on a regular basis and are subject to change.

Students may request to take a course at WSU for which they have been awarded AP, IB, CLEP, or Cambridge International credit. Prompted by the request, the AP, IB, CLEP, or Cambridge International credit is removed from the overall credits awarded by WSU. Only the subsequent enrollment in the WSU course will contribute to the total hours earned and grade point average; the AP, IB, CLEP, or Cambridge International credit cannot be reconsidered for credit for the same course. Students submit the request to ask for the WSU course to be allowed and for the AP, IB, CLEP, or Cambridge International credit to be omitted to the Registrar's Office.

(a) Advanced Placement Program. Credit for AP examinations will be granted in an amount equal to the lower-division course or courses in the particular discipline tested at the lower-division for scores of 3 and above, as determined in consultation with the specific academic department.

NO CHANGES TO SECTIONS (b) through (e)

(f) International Baccalaureate (IB) Examinations. Credit is awarded for higher-level examinations with a score of 5 [strike 4] or higher. See wsu.edu/advancedcredit. Upon completion of the IB diploma, 30 lower-division semester credit hours are awarded, in partial fulfillment of University Common Requirements (UCOREs). Washington State University recognizes the International Baccalaureate Diploma and awards up to 30 semester credits for its completion. With the receipt of a Diploma, credit will be awarded for three courses (approximately 10 credits) and distributed evenly among three UCORE areas (natural sciences, social sciences, arts, or humanities). Additional credit can be awarded in the areas of the students’ higher level subject exams with a score of 5 or better, for a maximum of 30 total credits. Please contact the Admissions Office for additional details.

(g) Cambridge International Examinations. Credit is awarded for A-level examinations. See wsu.edu/advanced credit.

(h) Military Service Credit. See Academic Regulation 16.

(i) Prior Learning Credit. See Academic Regulation 17.

**Proposed Academic Regulation 17**
17. CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING. Prior learning is defined as the knowledge and skills gained through informal education and training, work, and life experience. Prior learning assessment (PLA) is the process used to evaluate such experience for academic credit.

   a) Prior learning credit is awarded only at the undergraduate level and is limited to a maximum of 25% of the credits needed for a degree.

   b) Prior learning credit is awarded only for documented student achievement evaluated by faculty and equivalent to expected learning outcomes for courses within WSU’s regular curricular offerings.

   c) Credit that is granted for prior learning is identified on students’ transcripts and may not duplicate other credit awarded to the student in fulfillment of degree requirements.