

IHL Board of Trustees
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- 2) All non-IHL core curriculum courses in the Associate of Arts degree program may be assigned to fulfill the pre-major or elective requirements, dependent upon the non-IHL core curriculum courses taken within the Associate of Arts degree program and the declared major at the IHL institution.

B. Transferable Courses

When students transfer to an IHL institution from a Mississippi community/junior college, IHL institutions will use the Articulation Agreement between the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and the Mississippi State Board for Community and Junior Colleges to articulate the transfer of courses.

(BT Minutes, 3/2010; 4/2013)

521 ADULT DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAM

A. General Policy

The Complete 2 Compete (C2C) Initiative statewide program was developed to encourage Mississippi adults who have completed some college, but earned no degree, to return to college and finish what they started. The Adult Degree Completion Program provides adult learners with a flexible path to a bachelor's degree and is one option for returning students to obtain degree completion through the C2C Initiative. The Adult Degree Completion Program is intended to serve adult learners who have earned at least 90 credit hours but have not completed a baccalaureate degree and have not attended a postsecondary institution in the past twenty-four months based on last date of attendance. The curriculum may be individualized for each adult learner based on coursework completed and career goals.

1) Adult Degree Completion Program

Each IHL institution may offer the Adult Degree Completion Program as an emphasis under an existing baccalaureate program or as a new baccalaureate program. An IHL institution may choose to list discipline-specific concentrations for the programs under the Adult Degree Completion Program on the adult learner's final transcript.

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A student may not be enrolled in the Adult Degree Completion Program and another baccalaureate degree program simultaneously. Admission to the Adult Degree Completion Program does not provide for admission to other baccalaureate degree programs at the IHL institutions; however, an institution may choose to allow a transfer path from the Adult Degree Completion Program to another baccalaureate degree program within their institution.

2) Admission to Adult Degree Completion Program

A student is eligible for admission to the Adult Degree Completion Program if he/she has earned at least 90 credit hours but has not completed a baccalaureate degree, and has not attended a postsecondary institution in the past twenty-four months based on last date of attendance.

All earned credit for college-level academic credit-bearing work earned before admission into the C2C Initiative may be accepted to satisfy the Adult Degree Completion Program degree requirements. Transfer coursework for which a student earned a grade of “D” may be accepted to satisfy the Adult Degree Completion Program degree requirements. All failing grades (e.g., “F” grades) received before admission to the Adult Degree Completion Program may be disregarded but should count in credit hours attempted to determine financial aid eligibility. Additional requirements may be established by the admitting institution.

3) Institutional Policies

- a. Adult learners returning to postsecondary education through the C2C Initiative may choose the Adult Degree Completion Program and only the requirements set forth in this policy may apply. For the Adult Degree Completion Program, additional degree requirements, catalog year requirements, and academic residency requirements may be waived by an institution.
- b. An adult returning to postsecondary education through the C2C Initiative may choose a baccalaureate degree program other than the Adult Degree Completion Program, and institutional policies and degree requirements will apply. Institutional readmission policies will apply to adult learners who choose a baccalaureate program other than the Adult Degree Completion Program.

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4) Minimum Adult Degree Completion Program Requirements

- a. The minimum number of hours required in the Adult Degree Completion Program is 120 credit hours. Credits earned through prior learning assessment, competency-based education, or regionally-accredited Career Technical programs may be included as part of the 120 hours.
- b. A program grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 must be earned. This may be the only GPA requirement that an adult learner in the Adult Degree Completion Program must satisfy to meet graduation requirements from an IHL institution. Only the credit hours required for the degree will be used to calculate the program GPA.
- c. Of the 120 credit hours required for the Adult Degree Completion Program, minimum requirements are as follows:

General Education Core Curriculum <i>(IHL Policy 512 Core Curriculum)</i>	30 credit hours
Credit in residence at the awarding institution	30 credit hours
Upper-Division Credit	30 credit hours

5) Financial Holds

Adult learners with previous financial holds returning through the C2C Initiative must establish a repayment plan with the admitting institution prior to enrolling and registering for classes.

6) Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees for enrollment in courses will be assessed according to the established tuition and fee schedule at each IHL institution.

7) Delivery Format

The format (e.g., online, accelerated, hybrid, face-to-face) of the courses offered in the Adult Degree Completion Program may be determined by the admitting institution.

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8) Repeated Courses

Grades of “F” earned while enrolled in the Adult Degree Completion Program may be repeated to earn a grade that satisfies the Adult Degree Completion Program degree requirements. The highest grade may stand as the official grade, and in that case, only the highest grade earned may be calculated in the Adult Degree Completion Program GPA.

9) Prior Learning Assessment and Competency-Based Education

The Adult Degree Completion Program may integrate prior learning assessment (PLA) and competency-based education (CBE) into university coursework. PLA and CBE credits may apply toward the Adult Degree Completion Program degree requirements.

- a. PLA credit may include individualized student portfolios, evaluation of corporate and military training, program evaluations, challenge exams, and standardized exams. Credit earned through PLA may count as lower-division or upper-division credit. Credit earned through PLA shall not count toward the 25 percent residency requirement for the degree-awarding institution. The types of PLA accepted may be determined by the IHL institution.
- b. CBE credit may include demonstrated mastery of competencies embedded into a conventional curriculum comprised of courses (course/credit-based approach) and evaluation of student achievement solely on the demonstration of competencies (direct assessment). In the Adult Degree Completion Program, an institution may accept up to 25 percent of the degree requirements as CBE. This requirement may be waived for institutions that have gained SACSCOC approval to offer an entire program as direct assessment or a hybrid direct assessment competency-based educational program where at least 50 percent of the competency-based program is direct assessment. Credit earned through CBE may count as lower-division or upper-division credit. Credit earned through CBE may count toward the 25 percent residency requirement for the degree-awarding institution. The types of CBE accepted may be determined by the IHL institution.

(BT Minutes, 8/2017)