



Kim Vickers
Executive Director

TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Technical Assistance Bulletin

To: All Texas Law Enforcement Agencies/Contract Training Providers/Licensees
From: Kenny Merchant/Director, Credentialing and Field Services
Regarding: **College Credit for Licensees**
Date: November 4, 2019

Commission licensees may receive credit for courses successfully completed at accredited colleges and universities. That credit is combined with credit hours received by taking regular law enforcement continuing education and can be used to shorten the length of time needed to earn Proficiency Certifications. Here are some important reminders when considering completing or submitting college credit hours:

1. College credit/degrees cannot replace the need to complete a basic licensing course, unless the degree is specifically completed at an Academic Alternative Program Provider listed on our website and approved by the Commission.
2. The Commission recognizes college credit only from colleges/universities accredited by one of 6 Regional Accrediting entities. Those entities are listed in both Rule and on the College Education Request Form (F7) on the website- <http://www.tcole.texas.gov/sites/default/files/FormsAppsPubs/IUF%2009.002%20College%20Education%20Request%207.3.2019.pdf>. If your college is not accredited by one of those agencies, it will not be considered. Note- for the most recent list of accrediting entities, please refer to the F7 Form, as it is easier to update than Rule. Individual law enforcement agencies are not prohibited from recognizing hours/degrees from unaccredited colleges for local purposes. Applicants must remember that their agency and the Commission may not accept the same college credit.
3. College hours are recognized at 20 to 1 for credit purposes, in other words, a 3 hour college course will count as 60 hours on your Personal Status Report (PSR). These hours, combined with your law enforcement continuing education hours, provide your total training hours.
4. Degrees/hours from outside of the United States, or any hours/degrees from an unaccredited college, must first be accepted by an accredited college/university for transfer before being credited by the Commission. Most accredited colleges have a process for recognizing transfer hours. The Commission does not do this for you; you must provide documentation of the transfer hours on your own. Once transferred, the hours may be submitted under the name of the accredited college.
5. When submitting hours from multiple colleges the applicant must remember not to duplicate hours. 60 hours completed at one college, then transferred to another college does not equal 120 hours completed.
6. Completed degrees should be submitted as such and not just as college hours. Completed degrees have added benefits in obtaining Proficiency Certificates.
7. Individuals may report their own college credit to the Commission via the F7 Form, but should remember that a fee is involved. An agency may submit the same college credit via the TCLEDDS database, free of charge.