



Noncredit Programs

Oregon University System (OUS) Guidelines for Review of Noncredit Programs under Oregon Administrative Rules 583-040-0005 through -0025

These guidelines apply to OUS noncredit programs that fall within the purview of the Office of Degree Authorization (ODA) of the Oregon Student Assistance Commission:

1. Noncredit programs that must be reviewed meet these criteria:

a. The program is an organized teaching and learning activity with open enrollment,

and

b. A certificate (other than a certificate of attendance) is awarded upon successful completion. The certificate indicates:

- substantial academic or vocational learning short of a degree, **or**
- preparation related to new or modified occupational licensure, **or**
- has value as a public credential.

2. Noncredit programs that are excluded from ODA review must meet one or more of these criteria:

a. No certificate, or only a certificate of attendance, is awarded.

b. The program is advertised solely for intellectual value, recreational value, or as continuing education providing review or additional knowledge that is relevant to a student's current occupation.

c. The program has a restricted enrollment (e.g., a company contracts for a specific program to be taught to its employees).

d. Program delivery is asynchronous (e.g., students separately and privately receive instruction via the Internet).

e. The program provides continuing education mandated for licensed professionals (e.g., law school offerings).

f. The program provides professional upgrading for previously qualified workers

(e.g., professional development for teachers).

- g.** The program is currently being offered for credit.
- h.** Noncredit programs which are currently offered are grandfathered in.
- i.** Extension programs that are offered in accordance with federal mandate.

Notes:

¹ The process for review of applicable noncredit programs will be merged with the notification process already in place for proposed degree programs.

² Unlike the process in place for degree programs, neither the OUS Academic Council nor the Board of Higher Education will review proposed noncredit programs.