



TO: Council on Graduate Studies

FROM: Robert M. Augustine, Dean

RE: National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Credit on Eastern Transcripts Policy

DATE: February 2, 2011

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### **The 2004 NBPTS Policy**

In 2004, the Graduate School began receiving inquiries related to issuing a transcript from Eastern Illinois University for coursework completed elsewhere as part of a teacher's National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification. School leaders were urging teaching professionals to pursue this certification as part of a school's improvement plans; however, school districts would not recognize credit on an ACE transcript because it was not earned from an accredited institution.

To consider this request, Dr. Charles Rohn, Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies at that time, and I, held a series of discussions to determine a policy regarding credit earned elsewhere and posted to a transcript issued by the American Council on Education (ACE) as part of a professional's effort to earn National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification. The discussion was informed by Richard Krause, Assistant Director of the Center for Lifelong Learning of the American Council on Education and ACE Online Transcript System, and Preston Morgan State of Illinois Director of the American Council on Education. In 2004, these administrators could not direct us to any institution that was issuing transcripts for course work earned at other institutions, even though many schools were listed on their websites as having the potential to do this. In addition, these administrators could not direct us to any institution that had developed policies for posting ACE credit to transcripts. We agreed on the following practice: Graduate credit on a transcript from Eastern Illinois University will be issued only when the courses are offered by Eastern. The College then approved two courses for this purpose. These included EDU 5800 NBPTS/Professional Portfolio Development Seminar and EDU 5801 NBPTS/Professional Portfolio Development II for this purpose. These courses met the standards for graduate credit required by our academic councils and when completed appeared on Eastern transcripts.

### **The 2010 Update**

Requests have escalated during the past year and in the Fall of 2010; two EIU alumni informed the Graduate School that Northern Illinois University now offers an NIU transcript that provides credit for courses earned elsewhere and that appear on an ACE transcript. On December 9, 2010, I had a conversation with the Director of the NIU NBPTS ACE Credit/NIU Graduate Credit Process. The Director explained that students who complete NBCT 001 and 002 and achieve NBCT status may earn up to 9 graduate credits from NIU even though the course work was completed elsewhere. To do so, these students must be admitted to graduate study at NIU, enroll as non-degree students in the required number of NIU courses, pay the required NIU tuition, and provide an official ACE transcript to verify credit. The Director then conducts a review of the transcripts and approves the work for credit. The student is issued an NIU transcript with the appropriate credit for TLCT 586B. In this way, the student now has earned 9 graduate credits from an accredited institution and is eligible for pay scale consideration. The Director noted that NIU had implemented the program about 2005 which is why our inquiries in 2004 did not reveal universities using this practice. She was extremely supportive of the program and urged

Eastern to consider developing an equivalent process. You can find the program at this link:  
<http://www.cedu.niu.edu/tlrm/academic/NBPTS.pdf>.

### **2011 Discussion/Action**

In December of 2010 I shared the NIU Director's recommendation with Dean Diane Jackman and Associate Dean Doug Bower, our current College of Education & Professional Studies deans. Based on their review, the College continues to support the 2004 process; however, we believe that it should be stated as a policy. To meet that recommendation, I ask that you approve the following policy to be published in the *Graduate Catalog* appearing after the section titled "Previously Earned Credit."

### **Credit for Courses in Pursuit of National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Certification**

Graduate credit on a transcript from Eastern Illinois University in pursuit of NBPTS certification will be issued only under the following conditions: The student was enrolled in National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) courses approved for credit at Eastern Illinois University. Eastern offers EDU 5800 NBPTS/Professional Portfolio Development Seminar and EDU 5801 NBPTS/Professional Portfolio Development II for this purpose. These courses meet the standards for graduate credit required by our academic councils and appear on Eastern transcripts when completed.