



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

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To: Chief Academic Officers of Virginia Public Higher Education Institutions

From: Joseph G. DeFilippo, Director of Academic Affairs

Subject: Implementation of Code of Virginia § 23-9.2:3.8 as amended by the 2011 General Assembly

As you know, the 2011 General Assembly amended Code of Virginia § 23-9.2:3.8 (appended to this memo) to include “Cambridge Advanced” exams as needing to be treated comparably to AP exams with regard to the awarding of academic credit. I am writing to follow up on this change and to provide guidance on the requirements for institutions to demonstrate compliance with the statute as amended.

Please note: the guidance provided in this memo applies only to the change made by the 2011 General Assembly to § 23-9.2:3.8—i.e., the *addition* of the Cambridge Advanced exam. There is no need to re-examine your institution’s IB policy under the statute (unless you have yet to do so).

§ 23-9.2:3.8 requires institutional governing boards to implement policies that “grant undergraduate course credit to entering freshman students who have successfully taken one or more International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), or *Cambridge Advanced (A/AS)* examinations” (emphasis added to indicate the change). With regard to the addition of the Cambridge exams, institutional policies shall satisfy the following requirements:

- Each institution shall outline conditions necessary to grant IB, AP, or A/AS credit, including minimum required scores on examinations for courses.
- Policies for granting credit for standard and higher level IB or A/AS examinations shall be comparable to those for AP examinations.
- Governing boards shall report adopted policies to the State Council of Higher Education and publicize such policies on the institution’s website.

Please institute a process this academic year to review existing policies, identify any revisions necessary to comply with the above requirements, and secure governing board approval of the final policy or policies. To satisfy the reporting requirement of the legislation, institutions should submit to SCHEV documentation that includes the following components:

A. The policy or policies that have been developed to satisfy amended provisions of the legislation.

B. Attestation that the policy or policies

(i) have been approved by the governing board in satisfaction of the legislation, and

(ii) are available on the institution's website.

Please plan to bring your institutional policy to your governing board for approval—which is required by law—in time to satisfy the reporting requirement **by June 1, 2012**. This timeline affords each institution the entire 2011-12 academic year to achieve compliance with § 23-9.2:3.8. It is my intention to report to the General Assembly the status of institutional compliance by July 1, 2012.

Governing board-approved policies should be submitted to Dr. Carmen Johansen as below. Any questions may be directed to her.

Thanks, as always, for your attention.

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§ [23-9.2:3.8](#). Course credit; International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and Cambridge Advanced examinations.

A. The governing boards of each public institution of higher education shall implement policies to grant undergraduate course credit to entering freshman students who have successfully taken one or more International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, or Cambridge Advanced (A/AS) examinations. The policies shall:

1. Outline the conditions necessary for the institution to grant course credit, including the minimum required scores on examinations for courses in the International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, or Cambridge Advanced (A/AS) programs; and

2. Identify the specific course credit or other academic requirements of the institution that the student satisfies by successfully completing the International Baccalaureate diploma program.

B. Each public institution of higher education's policies for course credit for standard and higher level International Baccalaureate or Cambridge Advanced (A/AS) examinations shall be comparable to its policies for granting course credit for Advanced Placement examinations.

C. The governing boards of each public institution of higher education shall report to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia the policies adopted and implemented pursuant to this section, and shall make the policies available to the public on the institution's website.

(2010, c. [598](#); 2011, cc. [157](#), [462](#), [545](#).)