

FSI Helps Students Gain College Credit Recommendations

A Foreign Service Institute program gives Department of State and other U.S. government employees the opportunity to obtain recommendations that can lead to their receiving academic credit for certain FSI training courses. Since 2007, FSI has participated in the American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service. Colleges and universities use ACE CREDIT to gain reliable course-equivalency information to facilitate decisions on whether to award academic credit for formal training taken in the workplace. ACE CREDIT only makes credit recommendations, which colleges then use, modify or reject.

ACE CREDIT has reviewed 18 FSI courses and language proficiency tests in Arabic, Russian and Spanish, awarding college credit recommendations at the undergraduate or graduate level. The courses include Federal Information Risk Assessment, Europe Area Studies and Crisis Leadership. Others will be added to this list as funding for future reviews becomes available.

ACE establishes the effective date of the recommendation on a course-by-course basis. ACE CREDIT recommendation can be considered only for FSI courses, exams and language-proficiency tests completed after the date they were reviewed and approved by ACE.

To benefit FSI students, the institute participates in the ACE Transcript Service. The service offers a lifelong academic record for students who have successfully completed courses reviewed by ACE CREDIT and enables adult learners to present a nationally recognized transcript to the college or university of their choice for the potential award of academic credit.

Rodney Burney, a Foreign Service information management technology specialist stationed in Vienna, Austria, is pursuing a degree in Information Assurance via distance learning at the University of Maryland University College - Europe. He completed the FIRA course last July, and

UMUC verified FSI's participation in the ACE CREDIT program and granted him two credit hours of elective credits.

"I took FIRA to gain a greater understanding of the various federal regulations regarding information assurance," Burney said. "It was a pleasant surprise to learn I could also earn college credit. The course material closely fit my degree plan and, thanks to FSI's participation, I progressed both professionally and academically. I hope the ACE CREDIT program at FSI grows to include more courses."

For internal training requests, FSI's online Training Application provides FSI students with the option of declaring their intent to request an ACE CREDIT recommendation when applying for an ACE-reviewed course. Students must declare their intent at least two weeks prior to the course's start-date so that the course manager is prepared to assist them through this process, which may include successfully completing additional coursework or achieving a specified final exam/test score. Students from other U.S. government agencies may also pursue an ACE CREDIT recommendation for FSI courses by contacting FSI's Office of the Registrar at (703) 302-7144 for guidance.

FSI's Accreditation/Certification Web site, <http://fsi.state.gov/admin/reg/default>

[asp?Heading=Accreditation/Certification](#), provides updates and a list of courses, exams and language proficiency tests designated for ACE CREDIT recommendation. Students may obtain additional course information or verify the possibility of pursuing an ACE CREDIT recommendation prior to enrollment by contacting the course manager of the FSI school offering the course.

More information on ACE CREDIT is at <http://www.acenet.edu/acecredit>, and ACE's National Guide, at <http://www2.acenet.edu/credit/?fuseaction=browse.getOrganizationDetail&FICE=1005379>, provides a comprehensive, list of approved courses and information about each FSI course. The number of semester hours available for ACE CREDIT recommendation for Arabic, Spanish and Russian language-proficiency tests depends on the language and the students' proficiency exam score.

Frequent users of the FasTrac Distance Learning Program should know that certain SkillSoft courses are recommended for ACE CREDIT. At the FasTrac Web site, <http://fsi.state.gov/fastrac>, students can select the link to Obtaining College Credit, <http://fsi.state.gov/rd.asp?ID=229>, for the most up-to-date list of courses and instructions for obtaining credit recommendations.

Questions about ACE CREDIT can be answered by the Office of the Registrar at (703) 302-7144 or via e-mail at FSIRegistrar@state.gov or by contacting Arline Hetland, ACE CREDIT Program manager at (703) 302-3012 or via e-mail at HetlandAR@state.gov. ■