***Proposal to create Policy on International Examinations, to replace the German Abitur Exam Policy***

*Submitted by: Nicole Kontak, Transfer Credit & Articulation in collaboration with UA Global*

*Date: 9/12/2019*

**Summary**

* This proposed policy would replace the currently approved policy for the German Abitur Examination as a Credit-by-Exam Option (not currently in the catalog):

**Approval to accept the German Abitur Examinations as a Credit-by-Exam Option**

**Effective Term:** Summer/Fall 2019 for incoming freshmen, following evaluation of the subject exams, determination of minimum scores for credit, and assignment of UA course equivalencies

**Approved Catalog Policy for the German *Abitur Examinations*:**

*The University of Arizona accepts German Abitur examinations (as well as* [*International Baccalaureate*](https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/international-baccalaureate-ib-program)*,* [*Cambridge International*](https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/cambridge-international-examination-cie-program)*, and* [*Advanced Placement*](https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/advanced-placement-ap-program) *exam scores) as a basis for awarding credit toward a degree. Credit is determined from the Abitur credit table that applies to the date when the student takes the exam. Credits earned based on the student’s exam performance may be counted toward the major or minor fields of study or General Education requirements. See the Abitur credit table below, and contact your* [*college or program academic advisor*](http://advising.arizona.edu/advisors/college) *to determine how the course credit will apply toward your specific academic program.*

**Proposed Effective Date**

* To be included in the UA Catalog after appropriate approvals for students completing exams during the 18-19 year and beyond (students incoming to the UA beginning Fall 2019). This proposed effective date is to honor the previously approved German Abitur Exam policy. The general policy will be in the UA Catalog; however, students will not receive credit until exams are evaluated for potential equivalencies and minimum credit scores.

**Justification/Rationale**

* This proposed policy is to replace the current approved policy for the following reasons:
	+ To have an international exam credit policy that is inclusive of other international exams and not only the German Abitur.
	+ The proposed replacement policy outlines minimum scores (so students do not bother collecting exam content that would not be considered), parameters, instructions for students, and criteria for evaluation. A maximum unit amount has been established (resembling other institutions’ policies).
	+ An important part of the replacement policy includes students potentially having to work with a foreign credential service in order to receive credit. This is due to the difficulty that has emerged in trying to obtain enough content for faculty evaluation for the German Abitur exams.
	+ The replacement policy language is written to allow consideration for other international exams as content is received and evaluated by faculty.
* The replacement policy is also based on peer institutions who have adopted similar policies inclusive of other international exams (that include the German Abitur):
	+ University of South Florida: <http://ugs.usf.edu/credit-by-exam/>, University of Southern California (AU Peer) <https://arr.usc.edu/services/articulation/examcredit.html>, University of Vermont (identified in the German Abitur proposal) <https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/UVM-Policies/policies/transcredit.pdf>, University of Michigan (AU Peer and identified in the German Abitur proposal) <https://admissions.umich.edu/international-advanced-standing-credit-guidelines>, Brown University <https://www.brown.edu/academics/college/degree/policies/advanced-placement/international-exam>, University of Virginia (identified in the German Abitur proposal) <https://college.as.virginia.edu/iclec>,
	+ The international exams included in this proposal are most likely to be reviewed by the UA for credit (based on incoming students, Global partnerships, etc.). However, as the policy replacement draft states, “More international exams and associated information may be added to this list as exam content is obtained and evaluated by faculty in appropriate disciplines.”

**Management of Policy**

The management of this policy will be similar to domestic exam processes:

1. The Transfer Credit & Articulation office will work with students and route exam materials to appropriate faculty for evaluation using the online workflow tool.
2. Transfer Credit & Articulation will send results to Curricular Affairs for entry into the catalog each year (along with domestic exam results) and build equivalency rules for approved exams in UAccess with determined cutoff scores.
3. International Admissions will process transcripts with international exam credit based on faculty decisions that will be displayed in the catalog.
4. Transfer Credit & Articulation will send updated exam content for re-evaluation at a frequency determined by the faculty evaluator.

***Proposed Policy Replacement:***

**International Examinations**

The international examinations listed below are eligible for review as a basis for awarding credit towards a degree. Credit is given based on the catalog year when exam(s) are completed. Scores necessary to achieve credit have been established and are listed under each exam. Credit earned through one exam may not be duplicated by another exam or course. In no case may the sum of credits earned through the below international examinations exceed 30 units toward an undergraduate degree. Credits earned based on the student’s exam performance may be counted toward the major or minor fields of study or General Education requirements. Contact your college or program academic advisor to determine how the course credit will apply toward your specific academic program.

An official record of all international exam results along with an English translation is required. Exam content is required for credit evaluations. Exams are reviewed for the following criteria: studies validated by a national or state examination, evidence of in-depth study in a specific number of subjects, and 13 years of education represented in total. Students may be required to work with a foreign/international credential evaluation service provider to receive credit. Scores listed below indicate the minimum scores eligible for consideration; higher scores may be required to earn credit for specific courses based on departmental approval.

**German Abitur**

Credit may be awarded for scores of 7 or above (grades 1, 2, or 3) on each of the Abitur (Leistungskurse Profungsfacher) exams and Abiturprufungen (final examination) portion of the Abitur exam in transferable subjects. Credits will not be awarded for oral exams.

**French Baccalauréat (Baccalaureate)**

Credit may be awarded for appropriate academic subjects with acceptable exam scores of 10 or above on the baccalaureate when the coefficient is at least 4. The French Bac “total score” is not used to determine credit eligibility. Credit is solely based on examination subject scores.

**European Baccalaureate**

The officially certified transcript European Baccalaureate exam results must show scores for each exam subject. Credit may be awarded for individual subject exam scores of 7 or better.

**Italian Maturita**

For the Maturita Tecnica, Classica, Scientifica, and/or Linguistica, credits may be awarded for scores of 6 or above in transferable subjects.

Students looking for A Level Exams: see [Cambridge International Examination (CIE) Program](https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/cambridge-international-examination-cie-program)

Students looking for International Baccalaureate exams: see [International Baccalaureate (IB) Program](https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/international-baccalaureate-ib-program)