

University of South Carolina Upstate

Request a New Undergraduate Academic Regulation or General Catalog Description

Catalog page number: 298-299

Catalog edition: 2025-2026

Implementation semester/year Spring 2025

Catalog Regulation or Description: Credit for Prior Learning

Proposed description:

Add the Seal of Biliteracy to the list of programs from which we will grant credit for prior learning.

Seal of Biliteracy: Students who have achieved the Seal of Biliteracy will receive world language credit appropriate to their level of fluency.

Bronze Seal of Biliteracy: 6 credits (World Language 101 and 102)

Silver Seal of Biliteracy: 9 credits ((World Language 101, 102, and 201)

Gold Seal of Biliteracy: 12 credits (World Language 101, 102, 201, and 202)

Students with the Seal of Biliteracy may also take challenge exams in French, German, Spanish, or American Sign Language for additional credit (maximum of 15 hours). Students who have earned the Seal of Biliteracy should send their scores through Parchment to the Registrar.

Explanation for proposal:

Many colleges and universities in South Carolina are awarding credit for the Seal of Biliteracy. Students who are bilingual in English plus one other language earn bronze, silver, or gold seals depending on their testing level, and this seal goes onto their high school diplomas. More information about the program can be found [here](#).

Students who earn the Seal of Biliteracy in high school could be directed to USC Upstate by their guidance counselors with information about our testing and credit policy and could attract more students to Upstate. The Seal of Biliteracy uses the same testing companies (and the same test)s that we use for languages we do not offer here at Upstate such as Ukrainian, Japanese, and Russian, and accepting their scores from high school would save students from having to pay for additional testing. Currently North Greenville, Coastal, and Winthrop have policies for accepting the Seal of Biliteracy, with a number of other colleges and universities coming on board this year. Last year over 1000 students across the state received some level of the Seal of Biliteracy.

This form is used for new regulations in general catalog policies, procedures, etc. that are not specific program or course changes.

Regulation or Catalog description _____ Credit for Prior Learning _____
(from previous page)

Notifications

_____ Recommended ___ Not recommended ___ Date _____
Signature of Academic Affairs Committee Chair

Description meets editorial guidelines for the catalog.

_____ Date _____
Signature of Registrar

Approvals

_____ Approved ___ Disapproved ___ Date _____
Signature of Faculty Chair

_____ Approved ___ Disapproved ___ Date _____
Signature of Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs