

**Colonnade Committee
Proposal to Revise an Academic Policy
(Action Item)**

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Identification of proposed policy revision: Considering military deployments to fulfill the Colonnade category “International Experience” providing students meet eligibility requirements.

1. **Statement of existing policy:** none.

2. **Statement of proposed policy:**

Undergraduate, degree-seeking military member and Veteran students who have served in a foreign country, outside of the United States for at least 90 days (consecutive or non-consecutive) may be eligible to use that experience to fulfill the Colonnade Connections – International Experience category. To submit a request for category fulfillment, students should complete the “Military Deployment for International Experience” form and submit it to the Office of the Registrar. The Committee on Credits and Graduation will review the form, and the Office of the Registrar will communicate with the student regarding the approval or denial of the request. Students do not receive credit hours nor residency for the deployment; however, the international experience category will be met on the student’s degree audit.

3. **Rationale for proposed policy revision:**

WKU has earned a Gold Military Friendly ([WKU Earns 2023-2024 Military Friendly® School Designation | Western Kentucky University](#)) designation for the past two years. While we offer a plethora of programming and accept military credit, much of that credit varies per student and does not apply toward general education requirements. This policy gives military students and veterans the opportunity to fulfill at least one Connections requirement with military credit.

WKU already awards placeholder credit to transfer students who are identified as “core, category, or fully certified.” The CPE policy and University policy is documented in the undergraduate catalog ([Transfer of Credits < Western Kentucky University \(wku.edu\)](#)). Students who receive placeholder credit nor students who transfer with direct equivalencies are part of the WKU Colonnade assessment process, because these students did not take WKU courses.

To ensure the deployment fulfills the learning outcomes of the international experience category, students will be required to submit a screening form that assesses outcomes and

provide documentation of their deployment. The screening form will require students to explain how they demonstrate the following during their deployment(s):

- articulate the relationship between ideas, experiences, and place,
- develop tools to engage with diverse people in the local cultures,
- explore other people's values and clarify their own

4. Impact of proposed policy revision on existing academic or non-academic policies:

4.1 Impact on policies: None.

4.2 Impact on populations that may be affected: Military students and Veterans may receive international experience credit based on the committee's review. Since there are very few courses approved for IE credit and military students often do not study abroad because of commitments, this has limited impact.

5. Proposed term for implementation: Fall 2024

6. Dates of prior committee approvals:

Colonnade Committee: Chair, Dr. Stacey Forsythe - 1/9/2024

University Senate: Chair, Dr. Susan Eagle - 2/23/2024

Provost: Dr. Robert Fischer - 2/27/2024