

Higher Education Qualification Pathway and Credit Policy

Approved by: Executive Director, Course Development and Quality

Approval date: 16 March 2026

Effective date: 26 March 2026

Next review due: 26 March 2029

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, TAFE NSW acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Section 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This policy governs the processes in relation to student applications for credit, advanced standing, recognition of prior learning against TAFE NSW Higher Education subjects, whether based on formal studies, professional work or life experience, and accords with the requirements of the Higher Education Standards Framework 2021 (the Threshold Standards) and the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Pathways Policy.
- 1.2 TAFE NSW Higher Education is committed to qualifications pathways and recognition of prior learning processes that are efficient, equitable, reliable and transparent.

Section 2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to all students enrolled in TAFE NSW Higher Education courses seeking credit, and all TAFE NSW Higher Education staff involved in determining and awarding credit.

Section 3. Policy requirements

- 3.1 TAFE NSW Higher Education is committed to granting credit for prior learning to ensure students:
 - a. commence study at a level that appropriately recognises their prior learning experiences; and
 - b. are not required to repeat equivalent learning successfully undertaken in another context.
- 3.2 The granting of credit is based on the following broad principles.
 - a. The granting of credit is consistent with a student's chance of success in a TAFE NSW Higher Education course of study.
 - b. Credit may be granted where the content and/or learning outcomes of the previous learning is equivalent to the content and/or learning outcomes of the corresponding TAFE NSW Higher Education subject for which credit is sought.

- c. The granting of credit enhances articulation with other higher education and vocational training providers.
- d. The granting of credit facilitates transfer between TAFE NSW Higher Education courses of study.
- e. The granting of credit preserves the integrity of the TAFE NSW Higher Education qualification.
- f. Processes for the granting of credit are efficient, equitable, reliable and transparent.

3.3 This policy will be reviewed every three years to ensure it remains fit for purpose and satisfies legislative and compliance obligations.

3.4 This policy does not replace or modify any other responsibilities which may arise under other higher education provider policies or under statute or any other law.

Section 4. Responsibilities

Position	Responsibility
Dean of Higher Education	The Dean of Higher Education has overall responsibility for the effective administration and implementation of this policy.
Course Coordinators	Course Coordinators have local responsibility for the effective administration and implementation of this policy.

Section 5. Governance information

Governance	Details
Legislation, regulations, and standards	This policy is governed by the Higher Education Standards Framework 2021 (Threshold Standards) .
Related procedures	This policy governs the following procedures: • Higher Education Qualifications Pathways and Credit Procedure
Related policies	This policy is to be read together with: • Higher Education Student Selection and Admissions Policy • Higher Education Tuition Fees, Payments, HELP, Refunds and Review Policy
Accountable Officer	Executive Director, Course Development and Quality
Responsible Officer	Senior Manager Higher Education
Content Manager number	PROJ26/33
Next review date	26 March 2029

Section 6. Definitions

Word	Definition

Section 7. Document history

No.	Effective	Approved by	Amendment
1	28 September 2010	TAFE NSW Higher Education Governing Council	Initial approval of policy statement.
2	5 December 2019	TAFE NSW Higher Education Academic Council	Revised policy statement and amended procedure approved.
3	5 November 2020	Head of Higher Education Standards	Policy statement updated into new Written Directions format. Minor content changes to reflect current versions of related procedures.
4	7 December 2023	Chief Product & Quality Officer	Reviewed and updated policy.
5	26 March 2026	Executive Director, Course Development and Quality	Policy review- alignment with revised TAFE operating model and conversion to latest policy template.