New York University
Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee

Amendment to the Advisory on the Awarding of Advanced Standing for Country-Specific Standardized Tests

Spring 2013

I. Background

In April 2012, the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee (UAAC) issued an “Advisory on the Awarding of Advanced Standing for Country-Specific Standardized Tests.” The goal of this advisory was to establish, for the first time, a University-wide policy on the awarding of credit for examinations other than the Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB). To that end, the UAAC identified six international examinations (the CXC Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Exam, the French Baccalauréat, the German Abitur, the Italian Esame di Stato/Maturità, the Swiss Matura, and the British GCE A-Levels) for which advanced standing should be awarded (in those NYU schools that award advanced standing for standardized tests). It also made recommendations about what the minimum score on each exam should be and how many points should be awarded for each eligible exam. This advisory was subsequently approved by the Undergraduate Deans, as well as by the Provost, at which point the new policy went into effect.

II. Addition of the Cambridge Pre-U to the list of approved country-specific exams

In April 2013, the UAAC approved a proposal made by the College of Arts and Science to add the Cambridge Pre-U exams to this list of six country-specific exams approved for advanced standing. Similar to the A-Levels, but with a greater focus on analytical and critical thinking, the Cambridge Pre-U exams have been offered since 2008, primarily in the UK but also abroad. The Committee endorsed the CAS proposal that students receive 8 points of credit for each Cambridge Pre-U exam score above “M2.” (This is roughly equivalent to a “B” on the A-Level exams, to a 6 on the IB exams, and a 4 on the AP exams, which are the minimum scores that students must receive on those exams in order to receive credit toward their degree, in those NYU schools that award advanced standing for standardized tests.)

III. Future changes to this policy

In its spring 2012 advisory, the Committee recommended that the University’s policy on the awarding of advanced standing for country-specific standardized tests be “reviewed periodically by this or another all-University faculty committee.” Since the UAAC is a policy committee and is not typically involved in operational details, it was agreed that all future proposals for incremental changes to the policy should be vetted by the Undergraduate Curriculum Advisory Committee (UCAC).