



National Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction *The Bulletin*

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“Translating noncollegiate learning into college credit recommendations while increasing access to higher education for working adults”

Reach Out to Adult Learners

Post your Logo and Profile on the National PONSI Website <http://www.nationalponsi.org>.

Easy and Cost-Effective



Quick Link to Table of Contents of our Online Directory of Evaluated Learning Experiences



Online Directory is a reliable guide to granting credit for noncollegiate learning

National PONSI's involvement with its member organizations does not end with posting exhibits to its online Directory, *CCR Online*. We devote at least as much time to maintaining the credit recommendations as we do in establishing them. To this end, we engage in two quality assurance procedures that ensure the validity and reliability of the credit recommendations.

First, we send questionnaires once a year to each organization to ascertain whether any learning experience has changed significantly over the past year. If organizations report such changes, another evaluation is required to continue a credit recommendation.

This annual review assures college officials, who rely on the accuracy of the exhibits in our Directory, that they are indeed representative of course objectives and content over time. This process is analogous to academic department chairpersons asking their professors to submit syllabi to ensure that all courses correspond to the descriptions originally approved by the institution's curriculum development committee.

Second, in keeping with the practices of higher education accreditation agencies, credit recommendations are valid for five years, provided there are no reports of substantive changes, as explained above. After five years, we schedule another evaluation session to confirm the continued validity of the credit recommendations. We invite members of the initial evaluation team to serve, which helps ensure continuity and expedites the evaluation process. Our success in achieving this goal attests to the satisfaction our evaluators derive in participating in the evaluation process (see related articles on p.2).

A large proportion of member organizations resubmit learning experiences for revalidation, which reflects that they, too, recognize this process as an essential component of a credible system of noncollegiate learning assessment.

Who we are: Located in Albany, New York and created in 1973 as a program of the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York, the National Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction (**National PONSI**) evaluates courses and examination programs offered by noncollegiate organizations nationwide, as well as internationally, and makes recommendations on their comparability to college-level instruction.

On the Road Again...

Credit Union National Association (CUNA), based in



Washington, DC and Madison, Wisconsin, is the premier national trade association serving America's credit unions. Volunteers, elected by their credit union peers, govern this not-for-profit trade group. In partnership with state credit union leagues, CUNA provides many services to its members, including representation, information, public relations, continuing professional education ([many programs have been recommended for college credit by National PONSI](#)), and business development, among other services that credit unions need to compete in the modern financial market.

CUNA first heard of National PONSI in 1998 through the New York State Credit Union League, Inc., following a successful evaluation of this affiliate's courses, all of which had been developed by CUNA. Noting that a much wider audience existed with the many other state credit unions under its umbrella, CUNA took over full interaction with National PONSI in late 1998. The credit recommendations were then extended to approved locations across the U.S. CUNA monitors the educational activities of the member unions and administers proctored examinations for those employees wishing to qualify for the credit recommendations. CUNA underwent revalidation of the credit recommendations in 2003 and recently resubmitted courses for its 2008 revalidation.

Joining National PONSI in the review of these courses, once again, was Professor Binnie Antolowitz, Department of Business at Columbia-Greene Community College, completing one of her final academic activities as she enters retirement. Professor Antolowitz joined the team for the evaluation of the NYS Credit Union League in 1998 and has returned for each subsequent review as a trusted and admired colleague.



Prof. Binnie Antolowitz

The Sage Group

Responding to an expansion of interest in [college credit recommendations](#) from its clients, The Sage Group, located in Brentwood, Tennessee, recently submitted additional courses for review. The Sage Group has been offering extraordinary workforce training for more than 16 years to Fortune 500 companies all across America.

Overcoming the emotional barriers to learning that many adults experience when returning to the classroom, The Sage Group uses an empathic learning method to ease the transition with on-site

classes that are interesting, involving, and thoughtfully designed for the adult learner.

In 2002, the Association of Joint Labor/Management selected one of The Sage Group's students as a "Lifelong Learning" recipient. Only six employees nationally who participated in training sponsored by joint management/labor educational programs received this honor.

More recently, an excited and thankful student wrote to a Sage Group instructor proclaiming that the courses he took through The Sage Group enabled him to vie for the highly competitive Communications Technician job at Comcast. He wrote, "Sage's classes apparently held credence with Comcast, who saw that I was serious about wanting to be a technician and hired me. That is why I thank you for all the times you helped me get into those classes!" With college credit recommendations for his course work already in hand, this type of motivated individual will likely turn his attention soon to using these credit recommendations toward a college degree.

Perhaps this is one reason why Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering Technology, Ralph Folger, of Hudson Valley Community College, keeps returning to serve as an evaluator at National PONSI review sessions. With a curious mind, he is always interested in what others are doing in the field and when it comes to being a guardian of the academic gate, he feels he can provide the guidance that will steer noncollegiate organizations in the right direction. Professor Folger will travel with us again in August to The Sage Group's headquarters in Tennessee for another evaluation session. We value his good counsel.



Professor Emeritus Ralph Folger

Become a Cooperating College

If you are a college official, are you interested in motivated and serious adult students like those mentioned in the article above? Let them know by becoming a cooperating college. You will join a list of more than 1,500 institutions from across the U.S. that are willing to consider awarding credit, on a case-by-case basis, for National PONSI college credit recommendations. There is no charge for the listing.

Our thanks to the most recent institution to notify us:

**Grand Rapids Community College
Grand Rapids, MI**

[Add Your Contact Information to the List](#)



These Colleges and Universities have Profiles on our Website that Highlight the Special Degree Options and Services They Offer to Working Adults and Nontraditional Students. [Add Yours.](#)

[Arkansas State University](#)
State University, AR

[Bethel University](#)
St. Paul, MN

[Biola University](#)
La Mirada, CA

[Briarcliffe College](#)
Bethpage, NY

[California Coast University](#)
Santa Ana, CA

[Central Michigan University](#)
Mt. Pleasant, MI

[Charter Oak State College](#)
New Britain, CT

[Chestnut Hill College](#)
Philadelphia, PA

[Chicago State University](#)
Chicago, IL

[Cleveland Institute of Electronics](#)
Cleveland, OH

[Columbia Southern University](#)
Orange Beach, AL

[Delaware County Community College](#)
Media, PA

[Dowling College](#)
Oakdale, NY

[Empire State College
\(State University of New York\)](#)
Saratoga Springs, NY

[Excelsior College](#)
Albany, NY

[Golden Gate University](#)
San Francisco, CA

[Immaculata University](#)
Immaculata, PA

[Indiana University](#)
Bloomington, IN

[LaRoche College](#)
Pittsburgh, PA

[Manhattan College](#)
Riverdale, NY

[Marian College of Fond Du Lac](#)
Fond Du Lac, WI

[Marist College](#)
Poughkeepsie, NY

[Mercy College](#)
Dobbs Ferry, NY

[Molloy College](#)
Rockville Centre, NY

[Monmouth University](#)
West Long Branch, NJ

[Montana State University-Billings](#)
Billings, MT

[The New School for General Studies](#)
New York, NY

[Northeastern University School of Professional
and Continuing Studies](#)
Boston, MA

[Nova Southeastern University](#)
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

[Nyack College](#)
Nyack, NY

[Oakland City University](#)
Oakland City, IN

[Saint Joseph's College of Maine](#)
Standish, ME

[Siena College](#)
Loudonville, NY

[Thomas Edison State College](#)
Trenton, NJ

[University of Baltimore](#)
Baltimore, MD

[University of New Orleans](#)
New Orleans, LA

[Upper Iowa University](#)
Fayette, IA

[Viterbo University](#)
La Crosse, WI

[Western International University](#)
Phoenix, AZ

[Western New England College](#)
Springfield, MA

[World College](#)
Virginia Beach, VA



National PONSI helps bridge the gap between industry and academia through its active involvement with both.

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Contact us anytime with your questions and comments.