

College Curricula Available Through AgLearn!!

Recently, a number of SkillSoft curricula available in AgLearn, have been reviewed by the American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (CREDIT). A team of content specialists selected from college and university faculty reported that the SkillSoft courses submitted for review are comparable to college level courses and may be used as transfer credit at many colleges and universities throughout the country.

What does this mean for you?

AgLearn is implementing the means for USDA Employees to participate in the ACE Certification Program. Through this program, USDA employees will be able to select and complete specially configured SkillSoft courseware through AgLearn and obtain ACE credits which can be applied towards professional certifications or college credits.

What are the associated costs?

By participating in the ACE program, AgLearn can offer college course curriculum and certification exams that can be proctored here at USDA **at no additional cost to the employee.**

What types of curricula are available?

The AgLearn curricula listed here have been approved for college credit recommendations by ACE CREDIT. If accepted for transfer by a cooperating college or university, the credits may be applied toward a degree in various programs as appropriate.

Sample Curricula available for College Credit:

Accounting for Non-Accounting Majors (11)	Microsoft Visual Basic .NET Application Development (39)
Business Finance (8)	Microsoft Windows 2000 Active Directory Design (4)
Six Sigma and Lean Manufacturing (14)	Microsoft Windows 2000 Network Infrastructure Implementation (5)
Business Writing Essentials (8)	Microsoft Windows 2000 Active Directory Infrastructure Implementation (5)
HRCI/PHR Certification (17)	Microsoft Windows 2000 Installation and Administration (15)
HRCI/SPHR Certification (8)	Microsoft Windows Server 2003: Designing an Active Directory and Network Infrastructure (7)
IT Infrastructure Library (ITIL) (10)	Microsoft Windows Server 2003: Designing, Implementing, and Administering Network Security (12)
Knowledge Management Fundamentals (6)	Microsoft Windows Server 2003: Implementing, Managing and Maintaining a Network Infrastructure (8)
Managing Contractors and Temporary Employees (6)	Microsoft Windows Server 2003: Managing and Maintaining the Server Environment (7)
PMP and CAPM Certification (27 each)	Microsoft Windows Server 2003: Planning and Maintaining a Network Infrastructure (7)
Project Management for IT Professionals (6)	Microsoft Windows Server 2003: Planning, Implementing and Maintaining the Active Directory Infrastructure (7)
Six Sigma Black Belt (51)	
Strategic Project Management for IT Projects (7)	
ANSI C Programming (10)	
CompTIA A+ Certification (25)	
CompTIA Network+ Certification (11)	
CompTIA Security+ Certification (6)	
Information System Security (CISSP) (11)	
Microsoft C#.NET Application Development (45)	
Microsoft Certified Desktop Support Technician (MCDST) (11)	

How do I apply?

[Agency Name here] is currently looking for employees to pilot the program. If you are currently working towards a certification or degree that requires course study in the areas listed, contact your college or university and confirm that the ACE course credits can be applied towards your degree or certification. Then contact [Agency coordinator name here] and submit your name as a candidate for the ACE pilot.

How does it all work?

Your agency coordinator will introduce you to your curriculum proctor. Your proctor will work with you to make sure the selected curriculum has been assigned to you. Curriculum courses can then be launched in AgLearn. Once each course is launched, you will have 30 days to complete the course. Once all courses are completed, you will contact your proctor to schedule an exam. For many of the curricula, the curriculum exam can be administered in a USDA facility close to your office and it will be conducted and overseen by your proctor. Exam results will be forwarded to ACE and ACE will notify you when your transcripts are ready to print. It will then be your responsibility to present the transcript to your educational institution for credit.

College credit with no costs to me?

USDA agencies have already subscribed to these courses through our enterprise agreement with SkillSoft, so there will be no fees associated with the selection of courses. Some course exams, however, may need to be taken at offsite facilities and there may be a small fee associated with those exams. Some educational institutions may also charge a small transfer fee when applying the ACE credits to your degree program. Please check with your university and with your agency proctor about any possible fees assessed for your chosen curriculum.

If you have any additional questions about the ACE program, please contact [Agency coordinator] at [Agency coordinator email address].