



## **CER-101: Certification Equivalencies – 30 January 2022**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to define the nature of INCOSE Certification equivalencies and the requirements governing the execution of equivalencies. Equivalencies are activities that meet or exceed one or more requirements of the INCOSE certification levels and are granted upon agreement to administrative terms.

### **Applicability**

Equivalency may be granted toward INCOSE's ASEP and CSEP certification levels or toward one or more requirements of a certification or renewal. Equivalency may not be granted toward ESEP.

Equivalency will not be given to programs that are primarily offered as for-profit entities, such as professional training providers. It is reserved for credit-granting academic programs, professional societies, and government agencies.

Programs perceived by the Certification Advisory Group (CAG) to represent competition with INCOSE's Certification Program will not be approved for equivalency.

Retroactive equivalency (for individuals who achieved their equivalent degree or certification prior to the recognition of that program as equivalent) are not given.

### **Definitions**

Academic Equivalency – A relationship between credit-earning university coursework and the INCOSE Certification knowledge requirement, such that a student who earns sufficient scores in courses approved by INCOSE, and meets administrative requirements, will be allowed to bypass the INCOSE knowledge exam in seeking ASEP or CSEP certification.

### **Policy Content**

The primary objectives of INCOSE Certification equivalencies are:

- To recognize paths to granting or renewing INCOSE Certification other than the primary paths through INCOSE Central;
- To encourage use of the INCOSE Systems Engineering Handbook in the university classroom;
- To promote INCOSE as the premier professional society for systems engineering; and



- To enable obtainment of INCOSE Certification through demonstration of knowledge and experience in languages other than English.

### *Academic Equivalencies*

Academic equivalencies are recognized relationships with specific university coursework, and candidates who use academic equivalencies only bypass the knowledge exam. INCOSE Certification equivalencies are not intended to remove the requirement for INCOSE individual membership or application fees. Where equivalencies are offered, the following administrative requirements still apply:

- Candidates through equivalencies must meet the same individual membership requirements as candidates through standard paths for INCOSE certifications.
- SEPs granted through equivalencies must meet the same renewal requirements as SEPs through standard paths, unless otherwise specified.
- Candidates and SEPs must pay full application and renewal fees, unless otherwise specified.

Universities applying for and maintaining academic equivalencies also have administrative requirements:

- University is a paying member of the INCOSE Academic Council or local INCOSE chapter equivalent, as described in CHP-101.
- INCOSE SE Handbook is required material in courses.
- Program has a current INCOSE CSEP or ESEP affiliated.
- Students get high marks (definition varies by program and approved by the CAG at time of equivalency) in all required courses.
- Applies to students who start the required courses after the equivalency is granted to those courses.

The primary technical requirement for academic equivalencies is a mapping of how the proposed equivalent coursework assesses against the published learning objectives from the INCOSE knowledge exam. This mapping and supporting materials are reviewed by trained volunteer reviewers from the Certification Program. Academic Equivalency agreements are three years long, with renewal available, unless otherwise agreed to between INCOSE and University.



### *General Equivalency Policies*

INCOSE Certification equivalencies may be granted toward any combination of the following Certification requirements, through documentation of an alternate assessment method or assessing body:

- Knowledge of the INCOSE Systems Engineering Handbook, according to the published INCOSE certification learning objectives;
- Qualifying, technical education;
- Systems Engineering experience of sufficient breadth and depth;
- Systems Engineering experience confirmation, provided by someone familiar with the candidate's work;
- Continuing education and professional development as required for certification renewal.

The review of a program's successful achievement of any equivalency is performed by trained reviewers, appointed by the CAG. The CAG has approval authority over equivalencies. Equivalency agreements are negotiated by the Certification PM and signed by the INCOSE President.

### **Responsible Position**

Associate Director for Certification

### **Related Policies**

CER-100: Certification Program

CHP-101: Additional Services for Chapter Affiliation Sponsors

**SUPERSEDES: CER-101, dated 16 October 2020**

**APPROVED BY: INCOSE Board of Directors, Q1 Hybrid, Torrance CA, 30 January 2022**

**MAINTAINED BY: (RACI Responsible R): Associate Director for Certification**

**POLICY OWNER: (RACI Accountable A): Services Director**