Fast-Tracking College to Degree Completion

On MOOCs, CBE, and Badges
Appearing Today

- **Sebastian Thrun**, founder of Udacity and MOOC pioneer
  - Sebastian’s Artificial Intelligence course is a justly famous MOOC
  - Major MOOC providers include Udacity, Coursera, and EdX
Appearing Today

- Ruth Olmsted, Credit by Exam developer, Excelsior College

Major CBE providers include CLEP, DSST, ECE, and UEexcel
Appearing Today

- Sunny Lee, Project Lead for Mozilla Badges, Mozilla Foundation

Badges are the hot new way to show what you’ve learned
CBE for Degree Completion

- What is CBE?
- Why is it credit-worthy?
- How does it relate to degree completion?
- What’s the connection with MOOCs?
- Where does CBE fit with Badges?
“What you know is more important than where or how you learned it”

- Credit by exam (CBE) measures what you know, independent of any particular learning experience
  - Convenient and cost-effective
  - Independent study resources include MOOCs and other OER
Colleges Can Use CBE to:

- Relieve overcrowding, closed sections, stalled progress, and stop-outs
- Help students progress to majors and capstone experiences faster and cheaper
- Assist students who have failed a required course
## Build a Generic Degree Using CBE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excelsior College Requirement</th>
<th>Applicable Exam/Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written English Requirement (3cr)</td>
<td>UExcel ENG 100: College Writing (3 cr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities Distribution (6cr)</td>
<td>ECEMUS X101: Intro to Music (3cr)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ECEPHI X101: Intro to Philosophy (3cr)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences/History Distribution (12cr)</td>
<td>UExcel PSYX101: Psychology (3cr)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UExcel POLX170: Political Science (3cr)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ECO 260: Intro to Microeconomics (3cr)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ECO 262: Intro to Macroeconomics (3cr)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math/Natural Sciences Distribution (10cr)</td>
<td>UExcel MATX210: Statistics (3cr)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UExcel MATX194: Calculus (4cr)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ECE GEOx101: Earth Science (3 cr)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Arts and Sciences (3cr)</td>
<td>ECEPHI X310: Ethics: Theory and Practice (3cr)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Arts and Sciences Completed – 34cr</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Component</td>
<td>ACC 211: Financial Accounting (3cr)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ACC 212: Managerial Accounting (3cr)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BUS 230: Business Law (3cr)</td>
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<td>BUS 220: Workplace Communication with Computers (3cr)</td>
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<td>BUS 240: Principles of Management (3cr)</td>
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<td>BUS 250: Principles of Marketing (3cr)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BUS 295: Integrated Business and Management Assessment (3cr - EOnline course)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Business Component Completed – 21cr</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Credit Component</td>
<td>INL 102: Information Literacy (1cr - EOnline course)</td>
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<td><strong>6 credits minimum</strong> of electives from the following examinations:</td>
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<tr>
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<td>UExcel SOC 165: Introduction to Sociology (3cr)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ECEBUSX315: Organizational Behavior (3cr)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FCPRBUSX360: Labor Relations (3cr)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ECEBUSX410: Human Resource Management (3cr)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Additional Credit Component – 7cr</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Degree Credits Required – 60cr</td>
<td>Total Degree Credits Completed – 62cr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Common Features of Credit by Exam Programs

- Recognition by ACE CREDIT or National CCRS
- Compliance with Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing
- Computer delivery
- Low cost relative to course tuition
- Diversity of offerings

*Note: Diversity of offerings may vary.
Include CBE in your Degree Completion Strategy

- What are your “trusted sources” for transfer credit?

- Is your transfer policy clear and transparent?
  - The goal should be to make it easier for your students to complete, without sacrificing the integrity of your institution.

Why not let students use the whole CBE catalogue of offerings, at least for Gen Ed?
What is Academic Credit, Anyway?

- Assurance that someone knows something appropriate for a particular academic program
  - The someone, the something, and the appropriateness must be verified

- Both courses and CBE do this quite well.
MOOCs and CBE Are Symbiotic

- MOOCs are in the news right now; they’re popular and controversial
  - Imagine taking a free college-level course from a super-star professor, along with thousands of your closest friends! What’s not to like?

- By validating MOOC learning with CBE, colleges can help both current students and prospects they’d like to capture, and be confident they’re giving credit where credit is due.
MOOCs and CBE Are Symbiotic

In a MOOC:
- Learners are excited and motivated
- Learners can remain anonymous or they can help each other
- Flexibility and interactivity rule: access is open, free, and timeless
- Multiple self-testing opportunities exist
- Badges and certificates give personal satisfaction

Credit systems could result in more cheating (gaming the system) and stratification of testers vs. dabblers.

In CBE:
- Learner identity is validated
- Test security meets national standards
- Assessment of content mastery is comprehensive
- No need for the MOOC administrators or the institution to provide multiple proctored sessions or create institutional test-out exams

For under $100 and 2 hours of your time, you get an independent evaluation of what you’ve learned.
Statistics: Scary but Popular

Most MOOC providers have at least one Statistics course.

Free statistics resources range from lessons on individual topics from Khan Academy through fun/basic/partial-coverage “Statistics Lite” MOOCs to full-blown free courses (instructor led or not) that can be fully integrated with the blueprint for an exam.

Open resources can help students taking a regular Statistics course – so everybody wins.
Statistics: Open to CBE

Udacity
- Intro. to Statistics: Making Decisions Based on Data
- Statistics from San Jose State University

Coursera
- Statistics: Making Sense of Data from U Toronto
- Statistics One from Princeton

Saylor
- MA121 Introduction to Statistics

CBE Statistics exams:
- UExcel MAT 210 Statistics
- DSST Principles of Statistics

ECE/UExcel formally recommends free resources that closely match the exam blueprint and highlights others that are good for specific topics or for enrichment.
Recording CBE Credits

Colleges receive CBE credit recommendations on:

- Score reports from the testing agency
- ACE transcripts
- Another college’s transcript as already evaluated credit

Excelsior College One Transcript

- Consolidation service for students who are not seeking an Excelsior degree
  - CBE
  - ACE and NCCRS-evaluated business/industry or government training
  - ACE-evaluated military training
  - Traditional college courses from multiple transcripts

This works for academic credits much as Mozilla Open Badges will for evidence of MOOC participation.