Outline of ACBS
I. Outline of ACBS

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1. What is ACBS?

An open higher education system which officially recognizes various learning experiences acquired both inside and outside of the school system as academic credits and confers an associate degree or a bachelor’s degree.

- **1995**: The Presidential Commission on Education Reform suggested the ACBS.
- **1997**: 「The Act on Recognition of Credits, etc」 was enacted and promulgated.
- **1998**: ACBS initiated.
- **2000**: The 1st commencement was held. 111 earned bachelor’s degrees, and 539 earned associate degrees.
- **2008**: NILE was newly launched with the amendment of 「The Lifelong Education Act」. The Center for Academic Credit Bank System was incorporated into NILE.
2. Concept & Necessity of ACBS

Credit recognition

Diploma
(Bachelor’s Degree, Associate Degree)
By Minister of Edu. Or President of School

Learning experience in school
Learning experience out of school

Learning + Certificate, prior learning

Accreditation

Certificate
Transfer, Higher learning
Employment etc
2. Concept & Necessity of ACBS

Learning experience in school
Learning+Certificate, prior learning

Learning experience out of school

Credit recognition
Accreditation

Diploma
(Bachelor’s Degree, Associate Degree)
By Minister of Edu. Or President of School

Certificate
Transfer, Higher learning
Employment etc
3. Sources of Credits

- Completion of accredited courses
- Acquisition of qualification
- Passing Bachelor’s Degree Examination for Self-Education or Taking courses of exam exemption
- Possession of an National Intangible Cultural Properties or Taking cultural transmission courses
- Taking part-time registered courses at colleges
- Acquirements of credits at credit-recognized schools
Anyone who holds professional certificates and intends to acquire formal credits for them.

Anyone who holds degree(s) and intends to acquire second or subsequent higher education degrees.

Anyone who intends to acquire qualifications for a specific field such as social welfare work or early childhood caregiving.
5. Degree Acquisition Process

1. Selecting a degree type and a major
2. Obtaining credits
3. Applying for credit recognition
4. Applying for a degree
5. Awarding a degree

- Registration to NILE
- Accumulation of learning experiences and credits
- Application for recognition of obtained credits to NILE
- Reviewing all documents and verification of degree requirements
- Degree acquisition
## 6. Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Bachelor’s degree</th>
<th>Associate degree</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 year</td>
<td>3 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>① Total credits</td>
<td>140 credits</td>
<td>80 credits</td>
<td>120 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>② Major credits</td>
<td>60 credits</td>
<td>45 credits</td>
<td>54 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>③ Liberal arts credits</td>
<td>30 credits</td>
<td>15 credits</td>
<td>21 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>④ A minimum of 18 credits must be from accredited or part-time enrollment courses.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⑤ Credits from compulsory major courses must be completed according to the specific requirements of the major.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Conferred by the Minister of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⑥ Credits from colleges</td>
<td>84 credits</td>
<td>48 credits</td>
<td>65 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⑦ Requirements of each university must be satisfied.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Major Status of ACBS compared to Early Stage

**Number of Learners**
- About 2,512 times
- 671 ('98)
- 1,685,220 ('19)

**Number of Degrees Earned**
- About 23,927 times
- 34 ('99)
- 813,521 ('20.2)

**Number of Courses**
- About 91 times
- 274 ('98)
- 24,855 ('20.8)

**Number of Educational Institutions**
- About 7 times
- 61 ('98)
- 429 ('20.8)
Assessment and Certification of Courses of Study & MOOC
Assessment and Certification System

Subject Institutions:
- College institutes for lifelong learning
- Work-training institutions
- Lifelong-learning institutions
- Colleges providing K-MOOC
- Private educational institutes
- Distance-learning institutions
- Special-needs / technical schools
- Government-affiliated institutions, Others

Assessment Methods:
- Attendance-based courses
- Distant-learning courses
- K-MOOC Courses for Learning
- Work-Training Courses
- Military Training Courses

ACBS Courses Assessment & Certification
Applicant Qualifications and Assessment Targets

**Applicant Qualifications**

- Educational training institutions that have past history of operating courses in applied academic area

**Assessment Targets**

- Courses installed / operated by the institution
- Course content must accord with the syllabus detailed in the *National Course Standards*

*National Course Standards*

ACBS course standards declared by the Minister of Education, to provide assessment and accreditation criteria to learners and educational training institutions

*Number of degrees (2020): [Bachelor’s Degree] 116, [Associate Degree] 111
Process for Assessment and Certification

National Institute for Lifelong Education

Outline elemental plans
Outline action plan, advertise application
Receive applications
Course investigation
Credit Recognition Deliberation Committee
Finalize decision, notify results
Receive objections, re-assessment

Assessment Process

Ministry of Education

Credit Recognition Deliberation Committee
Assessment Areas and Assessment Validity

“The course is assessed in two areas: Basic Operations and Education.”

Basic Operations
- Human resources
- Learning environment & facilities
- Institution management

Education
- Past course operations
- Aptness of educators
- Compatibility of class content and format
- Learning assessment methods

[Period of Assessment Validity]
- Attendance-based courses: 4 years
- Distant-learning courses: 3 years
Assessment and Certification Status - Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Collegiate</th>
<th>Work-training</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Distance-learning</th>
<th>Lifelong learning</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>15,493</td>
<td>5,840</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>1,583</td>
<td>1,149</td>
<td>3,154</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>11,853</td>
<td>4,655</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>3,898</td>
<td>1,136</td>
<td>945</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>12,981</td>
<td>4,747</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>4,287</td>
<td>1,412</td>
<td>1,021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

※ Others: Government institutions, Special needs / Technical schools, K-MOOC operating institutions, Institutions managing intangible cultural assets
Assessment and Certification Program - Overview

K-MOOC enrollment for the general public

Course completion recognized with credits
  - Greater access to higher education
  - Establishing lifelong learning

Before

Students’ credits recognized, according to regulations of the college institution

After

Students’ credits recognized, according to regulations of the college institution

Non-students’ credits recognized with the ACBS

ACBS
Assessment and Certification Program – Process

"With the amendment of the "The Act on Recognition of Credits, etc." , institutions developing / operating K-MOOC courses were included in the program (2019.01)"

- **STEP.1**: K-MOOC courses recognized by the Minister of Education
- **STEP.2**: K-MOOC courses operated (separate platform)
- **STEP.3**: ACBS K-MOOC courses assessed / certified
- **Final**: Credits recognized with completion of K-MOOC ACBS courses
Connecting the ACBS to K-MOOC - Efforts

1. Amendment of Associated Laws and Regulations (2018.11)
   - Partial amendment/promulgation of credit-recognition laws
   - Partial amendment/promulgation of certified course-operation regulations

   - Partial amendment/promulgation of credit-recognition task guidelines
   - Partial amendment/promulgation of certified course-operation guidelines

3. Launching the Assessment and Certification Program
   - Assessment and certification of ACBS K-MOOC courses (19~20)
Current Developments

**Funding**
An institution which course is selected as K-MOOC ACBS will receive financial support for course operations.

**Assessment Benefits**
An institution operating K-MOOC ACBS courses will be given extra points in assessment when an additional course is selected for K-MOOC.

**2019**
- 11 (courses)
- 6 (institutions)
- 1,259 (learners)

**2020**
- 27 (courses)
- 11 (institutions)
- 5,226 (learners)