

# An Research on the Model Design of the Academic Education's Credit Transfer in the Open University

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**Abstract:** Based on the analyses of the credit bank both at home and abroad, explore the effective way to construct the credit transfer model, find out the main problems in the process of transferring, design a much better model, formulate a new standard for credit transfer and carry out the research on the model design of the academic education's credit transfer in the open university.

**Keywords:** Credit transfer; The open university; Model design; Research

## 1. Introduction

Credit bank is based on the ideas of the lifelong education, the construction of the learning society, borrowing the basic functions such as storage, exchange and so on from the bank, and completes the credit transfer for all kinds of education training and learning outcomes through the accumulation and certification. On the basis of developing credit bank, construct the model design of the Academic Education's Credit Transfer in the open university, promote the development of the academic education and the vocational skill-training and lay a solid foundation for the construction of the lifelong learning society.

## 2. Research Status in China and Foreign Countries

### 2.1 The Status of Domestic Researches

In 2004, the ministry of education issued "a number of opinions on the progressive promotion of credit system in vocational schools", and offered to "explore and establish the vocational school credit accumulation and transformation information system". The outline of the national medium—and long-term plan for the reform and development of education (2010-2020) clearly requires the establishment of the "credit banking" system and the establishment of a certification system for learning outcomes. In 2012, the national open university became the first state-level credit bank to be piloted.<sup>[1]</sup> The credit bank construction has accumulated a lot in theoretically and

practically, but in the process of preparation inevitably faced with some contradictions, such as the immature credit authentication mechanism, the difficult management and the high cost.

### 2.2 Studies Abroad

Credit banks are developing rapidly around the world, such as Australia's qualification framework, Britain's qualification and credit framework, Canadian credit transfer system, American credit cohesion and transfer policy, etc. The European credit transfer system (ECTS), which is developed and implemented the European Commission, is an exchange of the credit system between the universities. The unified credit standards are used in the same level of colleges and universities, and the perfect system of credit transfer system are established. South Korea, which implemented credit banks firstly, makes some rules on how to obtain credits: first, there are limits on quantity; second, there are qualitative requirements; third, there are restrictions on institutions. The credit bank has not only met the needs of the national higher education, but also promoted the overall education quality of the social citizens greatly.

### 2.3 Enlightenment

The use of the credit bank certification to accumulate, evaluate and transform the various learning achievements is the development tendency of the world education. Based on the international successful experience, avoiding the shortcomings, enhancing the credit bank, attracting more universities and learners, and improving the training quality, is the problem which needs to be solved urgently.<sup>[2]</sup>

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### 3. Researches on the Model of the Open University Credit Mutual Recognition

With the rapid development of the open university, the modern information technology and new ways of knowledge transmission change people's learning style constantly. The people who participate in the degree education are more and more eager for new knowledge, more independent, and asking for more personalized and convenient study service.

#### 3.1. Various Ways of Obtaining Credit

The use of online TV, network education, with video, words, animation and other media, meets different learning needs. The study time accumulation and the course examination are the two sources of credit acquisition. In the various learning websites, the system automatically records the courses and credits obtained by the learners. When the course online study time meets the class hour requirement, the course credit will be obtained. You can also change course credits by completing the learning test. The learners can also attend the examination in the study center and they will obtain course credits if they pass the exams.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### 3.2 The Recognition of the Credits Equivalent

For different sources of credit, different learning training needs to be classified and tested, and the credits can be converted according to the corresponding credit equivalent. In the process of recognizing the credits equivalent, first is to determine the standard of the course credits, transforming the general course credits into the standard ones. Then the credits can be accounted in the credit banks and become the effective ones. Through the credits accumulation, the corresponding certificate could be obtained.

#### 3.3 Construction of the Credit Integrity System

The credit integrity includes both learners' personal learning integrity and the integrity of the learning institutions. On one hand, the credit integrity both supervises and records the learners' learning authenticity, including the integrity of the examination, the homework and the attendance. On the other hand, supervises the authenticity of the credit sources, including the determination of the learning process, the authenticity of the credit certification, which requests the supervision and guarantee mechanism.

#### 3.4 The Construction of the Credit Storage, Exchange and Consumption System

By the various forms of gaining credits, learners accumulate and store the credits in their individual credit ac-

counts. Through the credit consumption system, learners can not only change their credits into the open university education courses ones, but also make full use of them for reward or shopping, etc. Once the credits are consumed, the corresponding credits will be frozen in the credit bank or the learning system.<sup>[4]</sup>

### 4. The Significance of The Credit Mutual Recognition Model Construction

The credit bank could realize the mutual recognition and conversion of the learning outcomes between academic education and non-academic ones.

#### 4.1 Realizes Learners' Personalized Learning

Through the open university credit bank, all the learning results can be stored, certified, exchanged, and encourage learners to learn by themselves.

#### 4.2 Realizes Learning Convenience

Modern information technology provides learners with a convenient way to study whenever and wherever. By establishing a lifelong learning network and mobile client, we can realize the resource sharing and break the time-space restriction to facilitate learning.

#### 4.3 Realize the Convenient Management of the Learning Outcomes

Through the credit banks, the certificates of qualifications, skills, qualifications and training will be accumulated, exchanged and consummated, achieving the diversified and convenient management.<sup>[5]</sup>

### 5. The Design and Construction of the Open University Degree Education Credit Mutual Recognition Model

Credit bank building is complex and huge system engineering. The credit bank certification sub-centers will mainly finish the following four types tasks: one is to establish bank accounts for the learners, accumulate their learning outcomes and transform their achievements; second is to serve the non-academic education students, such as the members of the teacher training and other forms; third is to complete the credit bank services for learning organizations, industries and communities; fourth is to complete the credit banking system construction and establish the learning achievement certification sub-center.

#### 5.1 Institutional Construction

First of all, promote the open university credit bank construction through legislation, guarantee social members'

lifelong education rights. Second is to improve the open university learning outcome measures for the administration, curriculum standard, promote the credit bank implementation.

### 5.2 The Construction of the Organization

Credit banks need a clear, well-defined and systematic organization. It mainly includes: 1) Management committee: the credit bank provides macro guidance for its construction and operation, being responsible for the credit banking system' formulation and decision-making. 2) The experts committee: be responsible for setting up the credit bank standards and guiding its implementation. 3) The credit bank management center: be responsible for the management and approval of credit banking sub-center, also for the development and maintenance of credit management system. 4) The credit banking sub-center. Be responsible for the daily management of credit bank, including the learners' enrollment, credit conversion application, etc.

### 5.3 The Establishment of the Credit Mutual Recognition Standards

In order to further standardize the order of teaching and management, guarantee the effective operation of the credit bank, in combination with the open university degree education practice, the core is the standard curriculum, the standardization of the curriculum goal and the curriculum quality within a certain range, completing credit bank's corresponding credit transformation.<sup>[6]</sup>

## 6. The Main Problems of the Mutual Credit Recognition Model

The open university degree education, attempts to establish a variety of learning outcomes certification, assessment and conversion models. Under the condition of lifelong learning, try to build a system for all kinds of learning certification, assessment and conversion; finally successfully build up the open university degree education credits mutual recognition model.

### 6.1 Lack of the Organizational Guarantee

Building business credit recognition model is complex, the lack of a sound credit bank organization and a good plan for the policies and regulations of the credit bank credits.

### 6.2 Lack of Unified Standards for Credit Mutual Recognition

Because the different education institutions have various courses, curriculum requirements, teaching objectives, the lack of the uniform standards for credit mutual recog-

inition is unavoidable. To establish a unified standard for the credit mutual recognition, the education training of different forms should be included in the standard system of credit bank, and the credit mutual recognition will be realized under different education forms.

### 6.3 Credit mutual Recognition and Exchange Difficulties

Differences exist between the education institutions even the ones at the same level, although these differences can be solved through proper credits equivalent transformation. However, changes will affect the institutions' interests. Therefore, in the process of the credit mutual recognition and the credit exchange, there are some difficulties for the credit bank to carry out the resistance.<sup>[7]</sup>

### 6.4 Its Low Social Recognition

Presently, credit banks can't provide enough benefits for learners, and fail to pay "interest" as banks do. The purpose of the credit banks is to provide learners with credit bank services realize its accumulation, exchange functions. While some learners might attach much attention to exchanging more learning certificate and ignoring the enhancement of their knowledge and abilities.

Based on the researches on the credit banks and the construction of the credit bank management, the practical exploration will be constantly promoted. At the same time, the design and research of the credit mutual recognition model will be improved.

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