Policy and Procedures for Expedited Independent Learning Pursuits
(Expedited ILPs)

DEFINITIONS

I. **Independent Learning Pursuit (ILP).** An *Independent Learning Pursuit* (ILP) is any non-regionally-accredited learning experience by which the learner developed Baccalaureate-level competence. Examples include a non-regionally-accredited course, program of study, module of study, self-study, proficiency certification, or other structured learning experience.

II. **Full ILP.** A *Full ILP* is a non-regionally-accredited, Baccalaureate-level learning experience for which demonstration of competence requires submission of a student completed assessment form plus sufficient further evidence, which may include, for example, an expository essay, a creative work of art, a performance (live or recorded), a license, or some combination thereof.

II. **Expedited ILP.** An *Expedited ILP* is a non-regionally-accredited, Baccalaureate-level learning experience that the School for New Learning’s Assessment Center and Teaching, Learning and Assessment (TLA) committee has determined to be eligible for expedited assessment, such that the documents required consist of a student completed, abbreviated form and an authorized credentialing body’s certification of the student’s satisfactory completion, proficiency, and/or earned credit equivalency.

II. **Expedited ILP Category.** An *Expedited ILP Category* is a classification of ILP that TLA has made based on its review and approval of the learning experience’s external assessment by a reputable authority, such as national accreditation agency, credit recommendation service, professional society, license examination authority, sponsoring college or university, or inter-institutional articulation authority. These examples are suggestive, not exhaustive.

POLICY

An ILP is eligible to be assessed as fulfilling an undergraduate SNL competence on an *Expedited* basis if the Assessment Center has determined that the learning experience has been adequately assessed by a reputable external authority as meeting the following criteria:

1. The level of the ILP is baccalaureate level
2. The ILP promoted student learning toward stated learning outcomes
3. The ILP engaged the student in a structured curriculum, and the curriculum possessed academic rigor and currency
4. The learning content of the ILP possesses consistency and durability
5. The ILP engaged the student in a length of study comparable to the expectations for earning 2 semester credits, e.g., 30 hours of “seat” time
6. The ILP involved assessment of student learning, such as course assignments, papers, or examinations

The reputability of the external assessment authority shall be determined based on criteria such as: the quality of the authority’s administrative and/or faculty expertise; ratings from professional and/or academic peer review; and the rigor and currency of the authority’s assessment practices.

Once the Assessment Center approves the ILP as expeditable, the ILP will be sent to a Second Reader. If the Second Reader approves the ILP to competence, the Assessment Center will send the ILP to TLA, who will determine whether an Expedited ILP category corresponding to the external assessment authority should be created. The establishment of an Expedited ILP category serves to facilitate future submissions of ILPs whose assessments were similarly carried out by the same external assessment authority.

If an ILP does not fall within an established Expedited ILP category, and the Assessment Center determines that the ILP’s external assessment fails to meet the criteria listed above and thus negates the creation of a new Expedited ILP category, then the ILP must be reviewed on a Full basis, i.e., using the full ILP submission form and providing additional evidence such as an essay to demonstrate the student’s competence.

PROCEDURES

I. Determine eligibility

To determine whether an ILP may be expedited, the ILP must be shown to fall within a TLA-approved Expedited ILP category, i.e., through official documentation of the ILP’s assessment/authorization by one of the TLA-approved credit recommendation, certification, professional accreditation, or articulation agreement authorities. A current listing of TLA-approved Expedited ILP categories is available in the document, “Expedited ILP Instructions.”

II. Submit Expedited ILP

After the TLA-approved Expedited ILP category has been verified, the ILP may be submitted as an Expedited ILP following the instructions on the form, “Expedited ILP Submission Form.”

III. Assess and Approve Expedited ILP Submission
Assessment and approval of an Expedited ILP follows the same procedure as that of a full ILP. In addition to meeting the Competence Criteria and “SNL Assessment Standards” (found on the “Independent Learning Pursuit (ILP) Submission Form”), the Expedited ILP Submission must include documented evidence of the ILP’s status within the relevant TLA-approved Expedited ILP category plus documented evidence of the student’s enrollment, completion, and/or assessment of satisfactory achievement.

IV. Approve, Reject, and Revise/Resubmit Expedited ILP Submission

Approval, rejection and revision/resubmission of the Expedited ILP submission follow the same procedures as that of a Full ILP submission.

V. Disqualify an Ineligible Expedited ILP Submission

In a case where the Assessment Center determines that an Expedited ILP submission is in fact ineligible for being assessed on an expedited basis, the Assessment Center should return the submission and request resubmission as a Full ILP.

VI. Request TLA Review of Expedited Eligibility

If the TLA-approved Expedited ILP category does not exist for an ILP that carries an external assessment by a reputable authority, then a request can be made to the Assessment Center to review the ILP for its eligibility for being expedited using the form, Expedited ILP Eligibility Review Form. Supporting documentation, as specified on the form, should be included with the request.

Based on its review using the criteria stated in this policy, the Assessment Center will submit the Review Form to TLA, who will determine whether a new Expedited ILP category should be created, making the ILP expeditable. If TLA approves the addition to the Expedited category, then the ILP should be submitted to the Assessment Center using the Expedited ILP Submission Form.

If TLA rejects the ILP as being expeditable, i.e., that a new Expedited ILP should not be created, then the ILP must be submitted as a full ILP.

VII. Recommendation of Expedited Eligibility Based on Full ILP Assessment

If the second reader of a Full ILP finds that the ILP is a good basis for establishing a new Expedited ILP Category, then this recommendation should be made to TLA. Based on the recommendation and further review, TLA should make a determination on whether a new Expedited ILP Category should be created.
If TLA determines that a new Expedited ILP Category should be created, then the Assessment Center will update the Expedited ILP forms include the new category so that future submissions may be made on an expedited basis.

If TLA determines that a new Expedited ILP Category should not be created, then this decision should be documented for future reference.