

THE RISE OF COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

An Inside Higher Ed webinar

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Presenters

- Scott Jaschik, editor, *Inside Higher Ed*,
scott.jaschik@insidehighered.com
- Doug Lederman, editor, *Inside Higher Ed*,
doug.lederman@insidehighered.com



What Is Competency-Based Education?

- Questioning the traditional method of awarding credits and degrees.
- Importance of “seat time” and critique of reliance on the concept.
- Competency-based approaches in traditional programs.
- Key differences in full competency-based approach.



What Competency Isn't Necessarily

- Some competency-based education is online and some is provided by for-profit colleges and universities.
- Competency does not equal either online or for-profit.
- Why the confusion matters.

Pioneers



Going Mainstream



UTx
The University of Texas System

Competency-Based Education

Creating next-generation, career-aligned degrees and certificates

Competency-based education is a revolutionary approach to teaching and learning that identifies explicit learning objectives and creates learning pathways that allow flexibility in the way that credit can be earned or awarded. Unlike a traditional approach to education that emphasizes seat time, competency-based education allows students to progress as they demonstrate mastery of academic content and skills, regardless of time, place or pace of learning.

Going Into New Fields



Now a Majority of Colleges

In 2016 *Inside Higher Ed* survey of provosts, 54% said that their institutions awarded some credit based on competency, up from 44% a year ago.



Public-Private Split

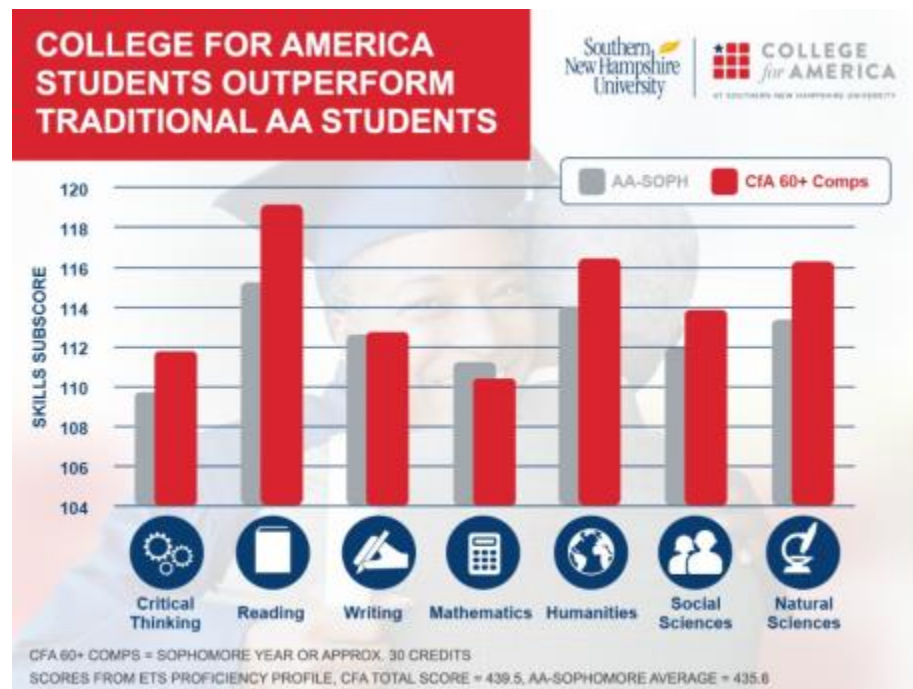
- 69% of public institutions are awarding some CBE credit, but only 38% of private institutions.
- Of institutions not currently offering CBE, 35% of provosts at public institutions say they likely will do so in future, but only 6% of provosts at private institutions say that.
- Why public-private gap exists.
- Why the gap matters.

Lipscomb as a Model for Privates?



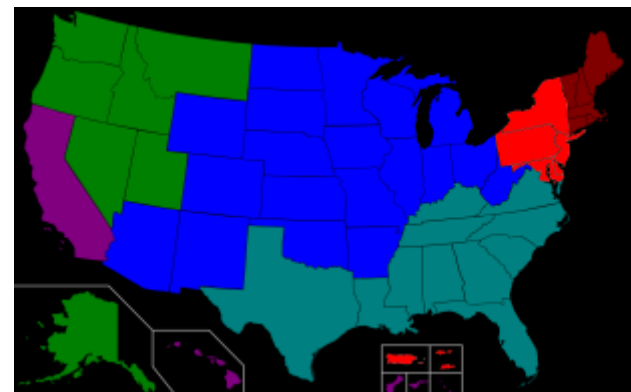
Key Issue: General Education

- Why many professors are skeptical.
- Why an early study suggests meaningful general education is possible under CBE.



Key Issue: Regulation

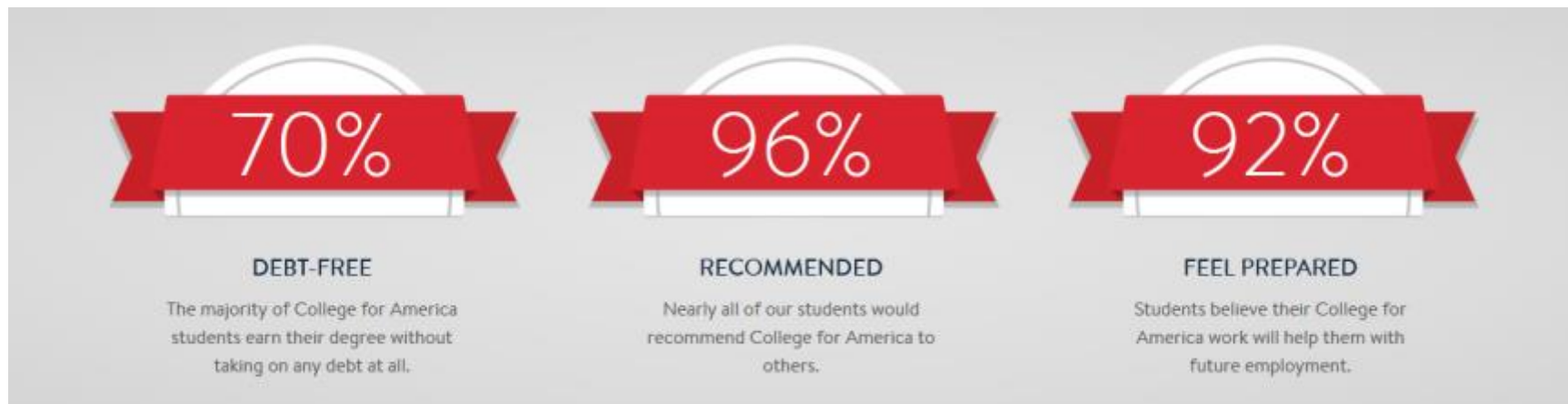
- Politicians say they love CBE.
- Regulators send mixed messages.
- Significance of inspector general's audit.
- Accreditation paths.



Key Issue: The Faculty Role

- Challenges and changes to traditional faculty role (irrespective of CBE).
- The impact of CBE.

Key Issue: Student Measures of Success



A 2014 Gallup-Purdue Index, which compared 4,000 WGU graduate responses against national data, found that WGU grads are more engaged at work and reported better overall well-being than the national average. According to the study:

- The employment rate for WGU alumni who have graduated within the last five years—79 percent—easily outdistances the national average of 66 percent.
- WGU graduates are more likely to be engaged employees—15 percent higher than the national average.

Q&A

- Your questions.
- Your ideas for future coverage.

With Thanks

