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## Graduate Courses

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### What can I do about “third party vendors” providing graduate courses?

We have seen a recent trend developing where certain colleges and universities are affiliating with companies who provide courses, for example over a weekend, through correspondence or self-paced and then the college gives the employee graduate credit. Employees are taking more and more of these courses to facilitate column movement on the salary schedule and are also seeking tuition reimbursement as well. The courses lack the kind of rigor that the school entities are looking for.

Unfortunately, a complete prohibition of these courses or limitations on the number of these credits that can be taken for column movement and/or tuition reimbursement can be accomplished but only after bargaining with the union. This topic should be a priority for those school entities commencing negotiations now.

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