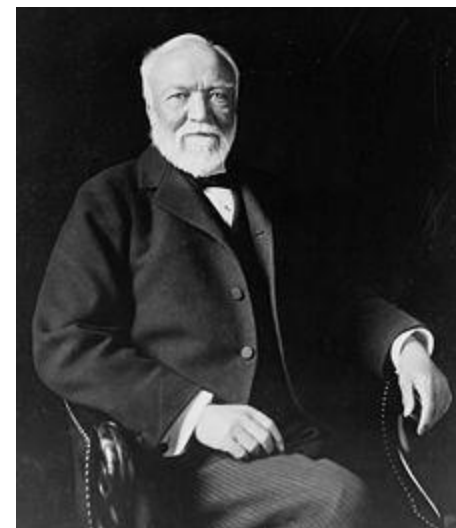


Cracking the Credit Hour



Birth of the Credit Hour

High School Reform
+
Faculty Pensions



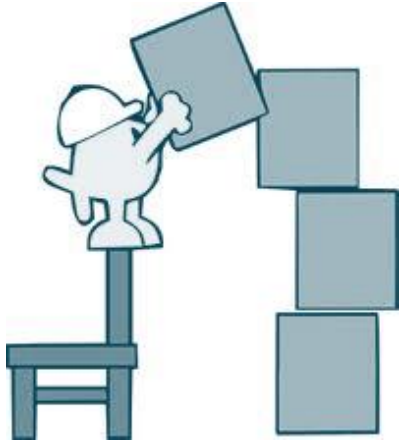
What does Carnegie think of its legacy?

1906 - *[T]he fundamental criterion was the amount of time spent on a subject, not the results attained; if, for instance a year's work in plane geometry would be covered by the way of two weekly hours, the subject should be counted as only 2/5 of a unit.*

1937 – *[T]he system of units and credits, which, useful as it was a third of a century ago, is not good enough for American education today. ... American higher education appears to be well on its way to another stage of development in which promotion, at least in college, will be based upon the attainments of minds thoroughly stored and competent*

2012 - *The Carnegie Foundation now believes it is time to consider how a revised unit, based on competency rather than time, could improve teaching and learning in high schools, colleges, and universities.*

The Good



Assembling
credentials



Scheduling,
recording
coursework, &
determining
faculty workload

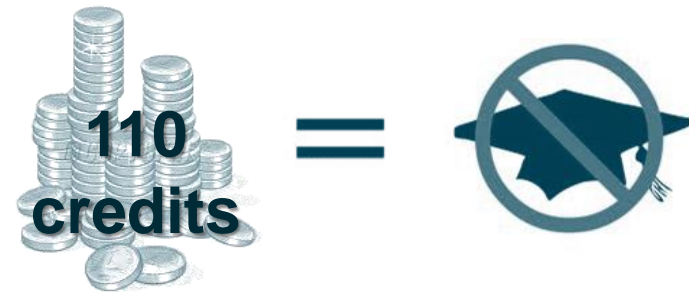
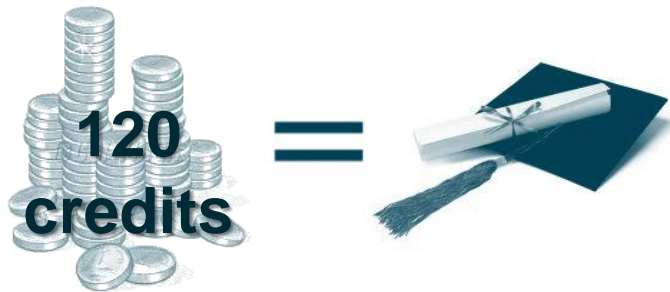
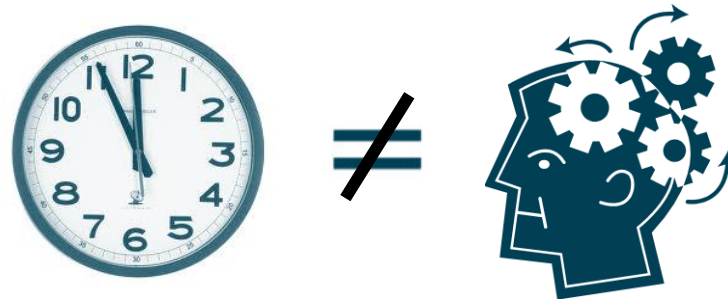


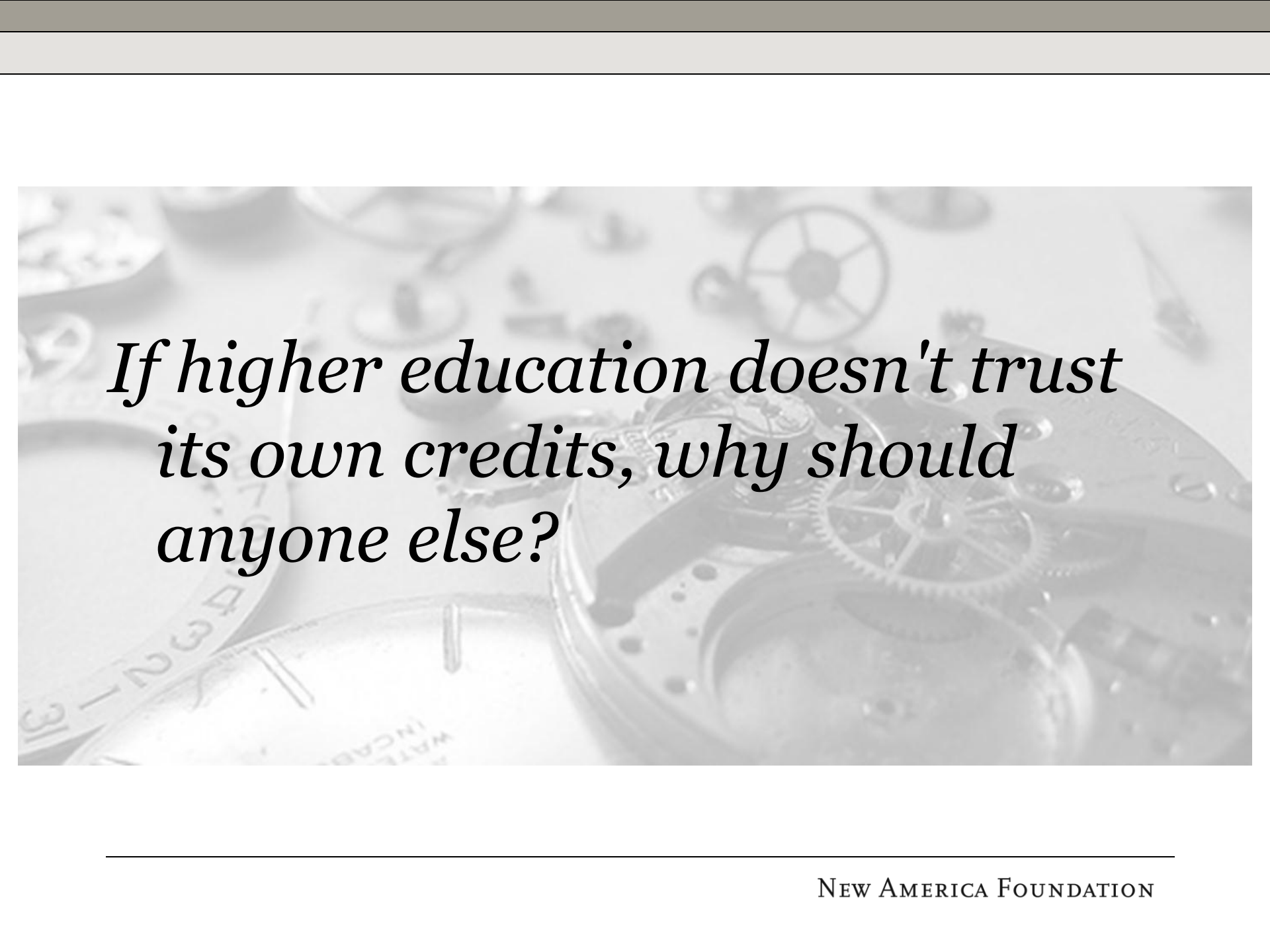
Determining
state and
federal
financial aid
funding



Complying
with
accrediting
agencies

The Bad





*If higher education doesn't trust
its own credits, why should
anyone else?*

What about grades?

GRADE INFLATION

1961

2008

A

A

*In 1961, 15 percent of all grades were A's.
That number rose to 43 percent by 2008.*

Other indicators of quality?

LITTLE LEARNING

69%

of college graduates could not perform basic tasks like comparing opposing editorials or comparing the cost per ounce of different foods.

UNHAPPY EMPLOYERS

Help
Wanted

One third of employers think college graduates are not prepared to succeed on the job.



Federal Register

Friday,
October 29, 2010

Part II

Department of Education

34 CFR Parts 600, 602, 603, et al.
Program Integrity Issues; Final Rule

§ 600.2 Definitions.

* * * * *

Credit hour: Except as provided in 34 CFR 668.8(k) and (l), a credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than—

(1) One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or

(2) At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

The Credit Hour Definition

An amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that is not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class work for each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester... or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time.

Emerging Efforts to Prioritize Learning

- Degree Qualifications Profile
- Tuning
- Move-at-your-own-pace competency models

*Federal government
can—and should—
catalyze innovation*

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