



# Brandman U. Gets Green Light for Direct Assessment

By [Paul Fain](#)

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Brandman University this week [announced](#) that the U.S. Department of Education had approved its application to offer federal financial aid for an emerging form of competency-based education. The university is the fourth institution to get the nod from the department for "direct assessment" degrees, which are decoupled from the credit-hour standard. The feds have sent some mixed signals about this approach, most recently with a [critical audit](#) from the department's Office of Inspector General. But Brandman's successful application is more evidence that the Education Department largely backs direct assessment.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2014/10/16/brandman-u-gets-green-light-direct-assessment>