

Ensuring College-Readiness and Applicability of Credits Earned During High School

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Graduation Guidelines & Colorado Commission on Higher Education Developmental Education Policy

<http://highered.colorado.gov/stats/track.asp?mtr=/Publications/Policies/Current/i-parte.pdf>

The college-ready mathematics cut scores in the CCHE Developmental Education Policy do not reflect the level of preparation needed to be successful in College Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus and Calculus. Whereas a 500 or more on the new SAT indicates readiness for “Quantitative Reasoning” or “Mathematics for the Liberal Arts” (the math courses required in most Arts & Humanities degrees) a score higher than 500 is needed to indicate readiness for the math required in most STEM, Business and Health Sciences degrees and these cut scores vary by institution. That is, a student who scores 500 or higher on the SAT math test is not considered “remedial” but that does not mean the student is ready for any college math course.

Mathematics college-level courses (also referred to as “math pathways”) usually vary by the type of degree program, as follows:

- **Career and Technical Education (CTE):** The college-level mathematics course is often contextualized in the vocation, such as “Technical Mathematics.” (These are usually certificates, A.A.S. and B.A.S. degrees.)
- **Arts & Humanities:** The college-level mathematics course is usually called something like “Math for the Liberal Arts” or “Quantitative Reasoning” for degrees in Arts & Humanities fields like Art, English, History and Philosophy. (These are usually B.A. and B.S. degrees.)
- **Social & Behavioral Sciences:** The college-level mathematics course is usually “Introduction to Statistics” for degrees in Social & Behavioral Science fields like Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Psychology and Sociology. (These are usually B.A. and B.S. degrees.)
- **STEM, Business & Health Sciences:** The college-level mathematics course is usually “Calculus I” for degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) degrees; many Business degrees; and certain Health Science degrees like audiology, nursing and public health. (These are usually B.A. and B.S. degrees.)

Dual/Concurrent Enrollment Considerations

Dual/Concurrent Enrollment courses taken for college credit should be chosen with careful consideration for these items:

- The course will be included on the student’s official college transcript. The grade the student earns in the course will be factored into the student’s official college GPA. If the student gets a low grade or fails the course, it will lead to a low GPA that could put the student on academic probation at the college and affect their chances of qualifying for some scholarships that require a certain college GPA.

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- Dual/concurrent enrollment courses and their resulting college credits are not guaranteed to meet college degree requirements. Whereas the course may have a guarantee of transfer, the courses are not guaranteed to apply to general education, major or elective degree requirements. (see the examples below)
- If students take many dual/concurrent enrollment courses, especially ones that don't meet degree requirements and delay their college graduation, they could run out of financial aid before completing their degree.

The difference between *transfer of credit* and *application of credit*

Whereas just about any course will transfer, that doesn't mean the credits will apply to degree requirements at the receiving institution.

Example A: A HS student who knows she's going to college takes a college algebra Concurrent Enrollment course hoping to knock out the college's Gen Ed math requirement. When she gets to college she's told that for her major in criminal justice she should have taken Intro to Statistics. While her credits for college algebra might count as elective credit, she has to "retake college math" because she needs Intro to Stats to meet the degree requirements for her major. Now it will take her longer to complete her degree when she was hoping to reduce that time to completion.

Example B: A HS student who loves history takes AP History and IB History (and passes the exams with a high enough cut score to be worth college credit) and she takes a Concurrent Enrollment history course. She now has 9 credits of college-level history. BUT, only 3 of those are guaranteed to apply to degree requirements because GT Pathways (the general education core of most AA/AS/BA/BS degrees) only requires 3 credits of history. The remaining 6 might get applied as elective credit, but it's not guaranteed. That is, the student may have thought she was getting 9 credits closer to attaining a college degree but only 3 of those credits are guaranteed to apply.

Other college-ready and course transfer resources on CDHE's website:

Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways General Education:

<http://higher.coloredo.gov/Academics/Transfers/gtPathways/curriculum.html>

- GT Pathways courses, in which the student earns a C- or higher, will always transfer and apply to GT Pathways (General Education) requirements in every Liberal Arts & Sciences associate and bachelor's degree at every public Colorado institution, except for some bachelor's degrees (like engineering, computer science and nursing) listed [here](#). You should always seek advising from the appropriate advisor at the college or university you plan to attend to ensure you are selecting the appropriate coursework for your degree and to ensure it will apply to those degree requirements.

Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements (aka Degrees with Designation)

<http://higher.coloredo.gov/Academics/Transfers/TransferDegrees.html>

- These agreements allow you to graduate from a community college with a 60-credit Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree enroll with junior status at a university and complete the bachelor's degree in no more than an additional 60 credits (for a total of 120 credits). Students must meet all admission and application requirements at the receiving 4-year institution. Admission to a receiving institution does not guarantee enrollment in a specific degree program. Some programs at receiving institutions have controlled entry due either to space limitations or academic requirements.

Getting College Credit for AP, IB and Challenge Exams

<http://higher.coloredo.gov/Academics/Transfers/GetCredit.html>

Concurrent Enrollment

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/concurrentenrollment>

<http://higher.coloredo.gov/academics/concurrent/>

