

**RULES GOVERNING THE UNIFORM COURSE CREDIT FOR INSTITUTIONS
OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

In compliance with Act 413 of 2023, the rules for the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

The following resolution is offered for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education rules be approved for public comment release.

**DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING UNIFORM COURSE
CREDIT FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Effective Date:

1.00 Definitions

- 1.01 "Advanced Placement examination" means an examination administered through the Advanced Placement Program for which a student seeks to receive college credit;
- 1.02 "Alignment" means equivalent expectations, for which a student seeks to receive college credit;
- 1.02 "CLEP examination" means an examination administered through the College-Level Examination Program for which a student seeks to receive college credit; and
- 1.03 "International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme" means the curriculum and examinations leading to an International Baccalaureate Diploma awarded by the International Baccalaureate.
- 1.04 "Learning outcomes" mean measurable skills, abilities, knowledge, or values that students should be able to demonstrate as a result of successful course completion, for which a student seeks to receive college credit;
- 1.05 "Rigor" means an appropriate level of sophistication, difficulty, and challenge for which a student seeks to receive college credit;

2.00 Faculty Committee Duties & Responsibilities:

- 2.01 To determine whether a student has met the minimum criteria for award of course credit, the Division of Higher Education, in consultation with faculty committees, will determine post-secondary credit to ensure proper alignment and application of uniform credit awards across all Arkansas public institutions.
- 2.01.1 Post-secondary credit will be awarded upon achieving the required score on:
- 2.01.1.1 The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Assessment;
- 2.01.1.2 Advanced Placement examination; or
- 2.01.1.3 One (1) or more CLEP examinations.

2.01.2 As determined by the division, post-secondary credit will also be awarded upon successful completion of, but not limited to:

2.01.2.1 The Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education; or

2.01.2.2 Industry based credentials.

2.01.3 The number of faculty committees will be determined by the division, based on the disciplines being considered for uniform credit, and comprised of no less than seven (7) faculty from two-year and four-year institutions, system and non-system institutions, and representative of different state regions, each appointed by the Commissioner of Higher Education.

2.01.4 Faculty committees shall be responsible for:

2.01.4.1.1 The alignment of subject or discipline specific examinations with general education core courses from the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS); and

2.01.4.1.2 Ensuring appropriate rigor for credit awards by determining performance expectations based on assessment scores.

2.01.5 Faculty committees may:

2.01.5.1 Issue recommendations to align subject or discipline specific examinations for courses outside of the general education core courses and the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS).

3.00 Award of Uniform Course Credit:

3.01 For students to receive an award of course credit, upon receiving the required assessment score on the Advanced Placement Examination, International Baccalaureate Programme, or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), the knowledge and skills assessed must align with the ACTS student learning outcomes.

3.02 In determining whether there is proper alignment, faculty committees will consider, without limitation, the following:

3.02.1 Learning outcomes; and

3.02.2 Rigor;

- 3.03 All institutions will have an opportunity to comment on the equivalency prior to the division adding the course equivalency to the Articulation Tables.
- 3.03.1 It is presumed that all courses are aligned unless the committee determines otherwise.
- 3.04 If the committee determines there are zero alignment issues found, then uniform credit for the course will be awarded.
- 3.05 Institutions may choose to award additional credit for those students who score higher than the minimum credit awards identified by the faculty committees.
- 3.05.1 Institutions receiving transfer credit given from another institution beyond the minimum requirement are encouraged to honor additional credit given by the sending institution.
- 3.06 All Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or CLEP examination to course equivalencies will be publicly available online in the Division of Higher Education Credit for Prior Learning Articulation Tables annually.

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

As Engrossed: H2/27/23

A Bill

SENATE BILL 294

5 By: Senators B. Davis, Hester, Irvin, J. Dismang, J. English, G. Stubblefield, Flippo, B. Johnson, D.
6 Wallace, Hill, M. Johnson, K. Hammer, D. Sullivan, Gilmore, M. McKee, C. Penzo, J. Boyd, J. Petty, J.
7 Bryant, Crowell, Stone, Dees, J. Payton, J. Dotson, A. Clark
8 By: Representatives Brooks, M. Shepherd, McCollum, B. McKenzie, Pilkington, S. Meeks, Wardlaw,
9 Eubanks, Cozart, Womack, C. Fite, Lundstrum, Bentley, Gonzales, Beck, K. Brown, Richmond, Fortner,
10 Cavanaugh, Maddox, Barker, Rye, Hollowell, Watson, Lynch, Wing, Crawford, L. Johnson, C. Cooper,
11 Breaux, Evans, McGrew, Ray, Beaty Jr., McClure, Milligan, Haak, John Carr, Underwood, Furman, G.
12 Hodges, J. Moore, Achor, Burkes, Hawk, McAlindon, M. Brown, Rose, Puryear, Gramlich, Painter,
13 Duffield, Unger, R. Scott Richardson, Andrews
14

For An Act To Be Entitled

15 AN ACT TO CREATE THE LEARNS ACT; TO AMEND VARIOUS
16 PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY RELATE TO
17 EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH GRADE TWELVE (12) EDUCATION
18 IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;
19 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
20
21
22

Subtitle

23 TO CREATE THE LEARNS ACT; TO AMEND
24 VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
25 AS THEY RELATE TO EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH
26 GRADE TWELVE EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF
27 ARKANSAS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
28
29
30

31 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

32
33 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

34 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "LEARNS Act".
35

36 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-10-128(d)(1), concerning school resource



1 ~~subsections (a) and (b) of this section on a biennial basis, with the first~~
2 ~~report due on March 1, 2020.~~

3
4 SECTION 53. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 50, Subchapter 1, is
5 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6 6-50-105. Workforce reporting and information – Requirements.

7 (a) No later than January 31, 2024, the Department of Education, in
8 partnership with the Department of Commerce and the Division of Workforce
9 Services, shall develop, publish, and maintain a strategic workforce
10 dashboard and related resources that will provide, at a minimum, information
11 to job seekers on:

- 12 (1) State and regional labor market conditions;
13 (2) Supply and demand of workers;
14 (3) Workforce program outcomes; and
15 (4) Projected employment growth and declines.

16 (b)(1) No later than January 2025, the Department of Education, in
17 partnership with the Department of Commerce and the Division of Workforce
18 Services, shall develop a single mobile-phone-friendly application for the
19 state that enables every job seeker to view the following without limitation:

- 20 (A) Available jobs in the job seeker's region;
21 (B) Training required for all available jobs; and
22 (C) Where job seekers can obtain required training or

23 certifications that job seekers may not yet have.

24 (2) The application under this subsection may also include the
25 information reported under § 6-60-105.

26
27 SECTION 54. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, Subchapter 1, is
28 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

29 6-60-119. High school course credit.

30 (a) As used in this section:

- 31 (1) "Advanced Placement examination" means an examination
32 administered through the Advanced Placement Program;
33 (2) "CLEP examination" means an examination administered through
34 the College-Level Examination Program; and
35 (3) "International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme" means the
36 curriculum and examinations leading to an International Baccalaureate Diploma

1 awarded by the International Baccalaureate.

2 (b) The Division of Higher Education:

3 (1) Shall establish uniform postsecondary criteria for awarding
4 credit to students who have successfully completed the International
5 Baccalaureate Diploma Programme or achieved required scores on one (1) or
6 more CLEP examinations; and

7 (2) May establish uniform postsecondary criteria for awarding
8 credit to students who attain other nationally recognized college-level
9 credentials, including without limitation those attained through:

10 (A) The Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of
11 Education; and

12 (B) Industry-based credentials.

13
14 SECTION 55. Arkansas Code § 6-61-217 is amended to read as follows:

15 6-61-217. Minimum core courses for college and career prep.

16 (a) In order to promote a coordinated system of higher education in
17 Arkansas and to ~~assure~~ ensure an orderly and effective development of each
18 state-supported institution of higher education, the Arkansas Higher
19 Education Coordinating Board, after consultation with the State Board of
20 Education, shall identify a minimum core of high school courses recommended
21 for preparation for college.

22 (b) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in consultation
23 with the State Board of Education, shall deem a career-ready pathway to a
24 diploma to be equivalent to a standard high school diploma.

25 ~~(b)(c)~~ (c) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
26 communicate this information at least annually to public school
27 superintendents, who shall make copies available each year to public school
28 students enrolled in grades seven through twelve (7-12).

29 ~~(e)(d)~~ (d) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board may revise the
30 list of high school courses from time to time, as needed.

31
32 SECTION 56. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1606 is amended to read as follows:

33 6-81-1606. Duration – Amount.

34 (a)(1) The State Teacher Education Program shall be used to provide a
35 loan repayment for federal student loans in the amount of+

36 ~~(1) Three thousand dollars (\$3,000)~~ six thousand dollars