



Concurrent Credit Best Practice Guidance for High Schools, Colleges, Students, and Parents

Arkansas rules and statutes related to concurrent credit are established and include:

- [Act 930 of 2017](#)
- [Act 1118 of 2017](#)
- [ADHE Concurrent Policy](#)
- [Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship](#)
- [DCTE Policies and Procedures](#)
- [DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit](#)

Providing high school students opportunities to earn college credit while still in high school may positively impact high school graduation rates, college enrollment rates, college grade point averages, degree completion, and student confidence levels. It can offset the cost of college and may better prepare students for future rigorous academic coursework (Burns et al., 2019, p. 28).

However, for students to realize these potential benefits, best practices for concurrent enrollment should be followed and additional considerations made.

- General education courses offered for concurrent credit must be in the [Arkansas Course Transfer System](#), thereby guaranteeing course transfer among higher education institutions (HEI) (colleges and universities).
- Align concurrent course selection to student college and career goals, including the degree plan the student intends to pursue. Concurrent credit or associate degrees earned are not guaranteed to apply toward or meet the general

education requirements of all degree plans. For example, the 60 credit hours completed as part of an Associate of Arts degree, although a transferable degree with transferable courses, may not fully apply toward the 120+ credit hours required for a STEM bachelor's degree program.

- Associate degrees may be [transferable or non-transferable](#). Completing an associate degree in high school through a two-year HEI is *not* guaranteed to transfer to a four-year HEI. Most coursework transfers from institution to another; however, it may transfer as electives and *not* count towards the student's chosen degree plan. Students are limited on state and federal aid based on the credit hours completed.
- Course transfer is only guaranteed when a student earns/receives an "A," "B," or "C" for the course.
- Career and technical education courses and applied science certificates and/or credentials may not transfer among institutions, for example, courses for welding and other skilled and technical coursework. .
- Student maturity level and readiness to begin advanced coursework with older college students upon high school graduation should be considered.
- Limit the number of partnerships with HEI and only engage in multiple MOU if a HEI can't provide a needed course. This limits transcript issues as well as funding complications related to ACT 1118 of 2017 and the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship.
- If multiple MOUs are necessary, ensure students are only enrolling in courses at one HEI during a semester, unless absolutely necessary otherwise, for example, to graduate.
- Concurrent courses require ADE DESE course approval for weighted credit to be granted. <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/learning-services/curriculum-support/course-approvals>.
- To satisfy the student graduation requirement established by the [Computer Science Education Advancement Act of 2021 - Act 414 of the 93rd General](#)

[Assembly \(Act 414\)](#), concurrent credit computer science courses must meet or exceed the curriculum standards and requirements of the established high school computer science courses. Clarification regarding concurrent credit for computer science can be found [HERE](#).

References

Burns, K., Ellegood, W. A., Bernard Bracy, J. M., Duncan, M., & Sweeney, D. C. (2019). Early College Credit Programs Positively Impact Student Success. *Journal of Advanced Academics*, 30(1), 27–49. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1932202X18801274>