

Guidance on Including Academic Credit on Program Approval

Background

In November of 2013 CCCS released an update to the Program Approval system with significant changes to the course entry section. This revision included the addition of fields to insert academic credit that a student may receive for successful completion of a course. This notation allows for greater visibility of academically enhanced courses and serves as a quick reference for program directors and internal audit when reviewing the program.

Clarifying the Requirement

Academic alignment of CTE courses is a priority of both the Perkins Act as well as Colorado's State Plan for Career & Technical Education. CCCS requires programs to align occupational standards and competencies with at a minimum the Academic Model Content standards in Math, Science, Reading, and Writing & Communication. State validated alignments are posted at www.coloradostateplan.com/content_standards.htm.

CCCS supports programs in the pursuit of dual (academic and CTE) credit for these courses through their district process. CTE courses whose credits may be allocated by the district for academic credit must include in the course description section of the program approval the credit awarded for the course and how it will be allocated to the student.

Examples

If you were completing a Health Science Program Approval including the course **Health Science I** which also received district approved English and Science Credit, you would:

1. Select the appropriate pathway
2. Enter required information: course name, contact hours and description
3. Select the **"Students completing this course earn Academic Credit"** check box.
4. Enter a description of the academic credit students will earn on their transcript for successful completion of the course – i.e. Students completing this CTE course will receive .5 Health Science Credit and .5 credits of Eng 11B and .5 credit of Anatomy/Physiology B