

Guidance on Updates to Program Approval Articulation Requirements

Background

In November of 2013 CCCS released an update to the Program Approval system with significant changes to the method by which secondary programs include their advanced credit options for students. The changes were meant to increase the awareness and use of these opportunities for students by connecting the option for advanced work more closely to its related specific course(s).

Clarifying the Requirement

Colorado has placed a strong emphasis on building seamless systems of education that ensures ease in student transition from secondary to postsecondary education. Advanced credit (articulated) options are a critical component of this seamless system.

For secondary programs CCCS requires (Page 25 of the CTE Administrators Handbook):

3.08 Articulation

... Articulation options are required for secondary program approval. **Students must have access to** advanced learning through **one or more** of the following methods: **Articulation Agreements, Concurrent Enrollment & Advanced Credit Pathways.**

ACE, FACS Core, World of Work and Multi-Occ programs are encouraged, but not required, to utilize articulation methods where practical.

In short, each **program** must provide “**access to**” at least one advanced learning opportunity for students who are ready for the next level of learning. This access can be in the form of a local or statewide articulation agreement, CTE concurrent enrollment and/or use of an approved Advanced Credit Pathway agreement. This does **not** mean:

- Each course must be approved for articulation – *It is the program not each course that needs an advanced credit option.*
- All students must receive postsecondary credit – *The program only need provide access to the advanced credit opportunity to those students who have demonstrated readiness. It is not expected that all students should or will seek advanced credit.*

The program approval system requires one of the three advanced learning opportunities be selected for at least one course prior to the user being able to submit the approval for review.

Examples

Articulation Agreements

Articulation agreements support economical, seamless transition models between secondary schools and postsecondary institutions that provide students with a non-duplicative sequence of instruction leading to diplomas, certificates and/or degrees. Agreements can be local, connecting a single program

or set of district programs with a college or multiple colleges or statewide, connecting all secondary programs with participating colleges.

How to include in Program Approval: Select Articulation Agreement as the course attribute for the related courses on the Courses Page. When prompted on the articulation page enter the higher education partner(s) and other agreement information.

Current Statewide Articulation Agreements:

Interior Design - [PDF](#) ID Signature Page - [FRCC](#) Teacher Cadet - [PDF](#)

Please Note: If articulation agreements are the option used, they must be reviewed and verified annually by each participating institution.

Evidence of Compliance (*if required for Desktop Monitoring*): Copy of signed Articulation Agreement, Sample of student notification of Agreement

Concurrent Enrollment (CE)

Based on 2009 Concurrent Enrollment legislation, Colorado secondary students have expanded access to Career & Technical Education concurrent enrollment coursework. Acceptable methods include **offering** CTE CE on-site with district personnel (as adjunct college faculty) or on-campus, hybrid and/or online courses delivered by college faculty.

How to include on Program Approval: Enter postsecondary course that is the appropriate next step in the learning sequence for students into the program approval. Select Concurrent Enrollment as the course attribute for the course.

Evidence of Compliance (*if required for Desktop Monitoring*): Copy of signed Concurrent Enrollment Agreement, Course listing in student handbook/catalog, Plan of Study, Invoice from college for CTE course tuition.

Advanced Credit Pathways (ACP)

ACP provides college credit for equivalent learning at the secondary level in career and technical education. ACP crosswalks require review and approval by Content teams, Discipline teams, State Faculty Curriculum Committee (SFCC) and Ed Services Curriculum Committee (ESCC)

How to include in Program Approval: Select Advanced Credit Pathways as the course attribute for the related courses on the Courses Page. When prompted on the ACP page confirm the course crosswalks as prepopulated based on the currently approved pathways.

Evidence of Compliance (*if required for Desktop Monitoring*): Copy of ACP Crosswalks, Sample of student notification of ACP

Quick Links:

- Quick [reference guide](#) to all Accelerated Learning Options
- Full Descriptions and Resources - <http://www.coloradostateplan.com/articulation.htm>