



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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CAAL
4/7/2016
Agenda Item 6

April 7, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Terrye Seckinger and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

From: John Lane, DMA, Director of Academic Affairs

Consideration of Revised Policies on Advanced Placement Credit Awards and International Baccalaureate Credit Awards

In accordance with state law (59-29-190) and Commission policy, each public institution is to award credit in courses for scores of three or higher on the Advanced Placement (AP) examinations which parallel the content covered in the courses. Effective in Fall 2014-15, the College Board launched two new courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. As a result, CHE staff convened a task force comprised of members of the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs to review the curricula in the new AP courses and possible comparable courses at the two- and four-year institutions in order to recommend how credit should be awarded to ensure consistency statewide. The task force met on April 30, 2015, and November 30, 2015, and recommended the following statement be added to the *Policies on Advanced Placement Credit Awards and International Baccalaureate Credit Awards*:

Task Force Recommendation

Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the AP Seminar and Research courses and because the culminating research project topic is selected by the student, institutions are encouraged to award general elective credit for scores of three or higher for those two courses; however, if the institution offers a comparable course, credit may be awarded for that course.

The Task Force also suggested that the course equivalencies be reviewed in three to five years to determine if consistent comparable courses can be identified at that time.

At its meeting on November 30th, the Task Force recommended additional revisions to the *Policies on Advanced Placement Credit Awards and International Baccalaureate Credit Awards* to update the language used in the policy and allow flexibility to address recent changes made by some institutions for English courses (e.g., the College of Charleston offers a single composition course,

First-Year Writing [ENGL 110]). In addition, staff recommended revisions to the *Policies* so that similar language is used for both AP and IB and to delete the exemption clause in the AP section of the *Policies* in order to be consistent with state law. State law does not refer to an exemption and no institutions have appealed to the exemption policy. The statute reads as follows:

SECTION 59 29 190. Advanced placement courses for academically talented students.
...A student who successfully completes the advanced placement requirements for a course and who receives a score of three or higher on the advanced placement exam shall receive advanced placement credit for the course in each post secondary public college in South Carolina in the manner specified by the Commission on Higher Education in conjunction with the State Board of Education.

The Advisory Committee on Academic Programs accepted the task force's recommendation and approved the revised *Policies on Advanced Placement Credit Awards and International Baccalaureate Credit Awards* at the meeting on February 18, 2016. The revised *Policies* document is attached for your consideration.

Recommendation

The Academic Affairs staff recommend that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing approve the revised *Policies on Advanced Placement Credit Awards and International Baccalaureate Credit Awards*.

Enclosures: Attachment I: Current Policy
Attachment II: Revised Policy with Changes Shown
Attachment III: Revised Policy

**SC Commission on Higher Education Policies on
Advanced Placement Credit Awards and
International Baccalaureate Credit Awards**

Advanced Placement Credit Award Policy

(Approved by CHE July 1985)

Effective not later than Fall 1986, each public institution shall give credit in appropriate courses for scores of three or better on pertinent Advanced Placement examinations, except that specific exemptions for not awarding credit for scores of three or better on particular tests at any institution may be approved by the Committee on Academic Affairs. (As used above, the phrase "appropriate courses" means those courses offered by the institutions which parallel the content covered by the AP exam. The phrase "pertinent examination" means those examinations whose content parallels that of the institutional course.)

(Approved by CHE January 1995)

1. In no instance shall an institution be required to award more than six to eight credits in any one discipline area. For purposes of this policy, history is defined as consisting of two disciplines: American History and non-American History.
2. Because of the major overlap in course content between the two English AP exams, English Language and English Literature, the awarding of AP credit in English should be treated separately from that of other disciplines as follows:
 - a. if a student receives a score of "3" or "4" on either English AP exam, credit would be awarded for English 101 or its equivalent;
 - b. if a student receives a score of "3" or "4" on each English AP exam, or a "3" on one and a "4" on the other, credit would be awarded for English 101 and 102 or their equivalents;
 - c. if a student receives a score of "5" on either or both English AP exams, credit would be awarded for both English 101 and 102 or their equivalents.

International Baccalaureate Credit Award Policy

(Approved by CHE October 2007)

1. Each public institution of higher education within the state shall adopt and implement a policy by Fall 2008 for the acceptance of International Baccalaureate credit for first-time freshmen students who have scored "4" or above on any higher-level IB course examination.
2. The amount of college course credit awarded for a higher-level IB course will be equivalent to the credit hour value of the college course for which the IB credit is being accepted.
3. This policy shall be referenced in the institution's academic catalogue and made available to the public in an electronic format on the institution's website.

SC Commission on Higher Education
Policies on Advanced Placement ~~Credit Awards~~ and
International Baccalaureate Credit Awards

Advanced Placement Credit Award Policy

~~(Approved by CHE July 1985)~~

~~Effective not later than Fall 1986,~~ Each public institution of higher education shall give credit in appropriate courses for scores of three or ~~higher~~better on pertinent Advanced Placement examinations, ~~except that specific exemptions for not awarding credit for scores of three or better on particular tests at any institution may be approved by the Committee on Academic Affairs.~~

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~~(Approved by CHE January 1995)~~

1. In no instance shall an institution be required to award more than six to eight credits in any one discipline area.
2. For purposes of this policy, history is defined as consisting of two disciplines: American History and non-American History.
3. Because of the major overlap in course content ~~between the two English AP exams, English Language~~ and Composition and English Literature and Composition, the awarding of AP credit in English should be treated separately from that of other disciplines as follows:
 - a. if a student receives a score of “3” or “4” on either English AP exam, credit would be awarded for English ~~101~~ Composition I (ENG 101)¹ or ~~its an~~ introductory composition equivalent;
 - b. if a student receives a score of “3” or “4” on each English AP exam, or a “3” on one and a “4” on the other, credit would be awarded for English Composition I and II (ENG 101 and 102) or their introductory composition equivalents;
 - a-c. if a student receives a score of “5” on either or both English AP exams, credit would be awarded for both English Composition I and II (ENG 101 and 102) or their introductory composition equivalents.
4. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the AP Seminar and Research courses, institutions are encouraged to award general elective credit for scores of 3 or higher on those AP exams; however, if the institution offers a comparable course, credit may be awarded for that course.

¹ This document uses the South Carolina Technical College System’s course titles.

International Baccalaureate Credit Award Policy

~~(Approved by CHE October 2007)~~

Each public institution of higher education ~~shall give credit in appropriate courses for scores of within the state shall adopt and implement a policy by Fall 2008 for the acceptance of International Baccalaureate credit for first-time freshmen students who have scored four“4” or higher above~~ shall give credit in appropriate courses for scores of within the state shall adopt and implement a policy by Fall 2008 for the acceptance of International Baccalaureate credit for first-time freshmen students who have scored four“4” or higher above on any higher-level IB course examination.

The amount of college course credit awarded for a higher-level IB course will be equivalent to the credit hour value of the college course for which the IB credit is being accepted.

~~The Policies on Advanced Placement Credit Awards and International Baccalaureate Credit Awards is~~ shall be referenced in the institution's academic catalogue and made available to the public ~~in an electronic format~~ on the institution's website.

Advanced Placement Policy initially approved by CHE July 1985

Revision approved by CHE January 1995

Revision approved by CHE

International Baccalaureate Policy initially approved by CHE October 2007

Revision approved by CHE

**SC Commission on Higher Education
Policies on Advanced Placement and
International Baccalaureate Credit Awards**

Advanced Placement Credit Award Policy

Each public institution of higher education shall give credit in appropriate courses for scores of three or higher on pertinent Advanced Placement examinations.

As used above, the phrase “appropriate courses” means those courses offered by the institutions which parallel the content covered by the AP exam. The phrase “pertinent examination” means those examinations whose content parallels that of the institutional course.

1. In no instance shall an institution be required to award more than six to eight credits in any one discipline area.
2. For purposes of this policy, history is defined as consisting of two disciplines: American History and non-American History.
3. Because of the major overlap in course content between the two English AP exams, English Language and Composition and English Literature and Composition, the awarding of AP credit in English should be treated separately from that of other disciplines as follows:
 - a. if a student receives a score of “3” or “4” on either English AP exam, credit would be awarded for English Composition I (ENG 101)¹ or an introductory composition equivalent;
 - b. if a student receives a score of “3” or “4” on each English AP exam, or a “3” on one and a “4” on the other, credit would be awarded for English Composition I and II (ENG 101 and 102) or their introductory composition equivalents;
 - c. if a student receives a score of “5” on either or both English AP exams, credit would be awarded for both English Composition I and II (ENG 101 and 102) or their introductory composition equivalents.
4. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the AP Seminar and Research courses, institutions are encouraged to award general elective credit for scores of 3 or higher on those AP exams; however, if the institution offers a comparable course, credit may be awarded for that course.

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International Baccalaureate Credit Award Policy

Each public institution of higher education shall give credit in appropriate courses for scores of four or higher on any higher-level IB course examination.

The amount of college course credit awarded for a higher-level IB course will be equivalent to the credit hour value of the college course for which the IB credit is being accepted.

The *Policies on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Credit Awards* shall be referenced in the institution's academic catalogue and made available to the public on the institution's website.

Advanced Placement Policy initially approved by CHE July 1985
Revision approved by CHE January 1995
Revision approved by CHE

International Baccalaureate Policy initially approved by CHE October 2007
Revision approved by CHE