

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Policy Manual**

Policy Identification

Priority: Globally Competitive Students

Category: Course for Credit

Policy ID Number: GCS-M-001

Policy Title: Policy defining "Course for Credit"

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Statutory Reference: GS 115C-81

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THIS POLICY HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE NC STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, BUT IS STILL PENDING CODIFICATION IN THE NC ADMINISTRATIVE CODE. ALL CODIFIED RULES MAY BE ACCESSED BY GOING TO THE [OAH WEBSITE](#).

1. A credit course, one for which credit toward high school graduation is awarded and which qualifies as part of the instructional day:
 - 1.1 must consist of 150 clock hours of instruction in a traditional schedule or
 - 1.2 must consist of a minimum of 135 clock hours of instruction in a block schedule; developed curriculum guides, or Advanced Placement syllabi in which high school students are enrolled; and
 - 1.3 must be directed by a teacher.
2. Public University, Community College, and Private College Courses
 - 2.1 Courses taken for high school graduation requirements at community colleges and private or public colleges/universities are exempt from the 135 or 150 instructional hours with the exception of the following courses required for high school graduation, which must be taken at the high school or middle school where indicated:
 - English I, II, III, IV (English I may be taken in the middle school);

- Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and any higher level mathematics course with Algebra II as the prerequisite that will be used to fulfill the fourth mathematics requirement or Integrated Mathematics I, II, III (These mathematics courses may be taken in middle school.)
- Biology, Earth/Environmental Science, and a physical science course that is used to fulfill the third science requirement (These science courses may be taken in middle school.);
- Civics and Economics, US History, World History (These social studies courses may be taken in the middle school.) NOTE: Students entering grade 9 for the first time in 2012-2013 and beyond will be required to take US History Part I and Part II – OR – AP US History and one additional social studies elective (see GCS-N-004);
- first year of a World Language (This World Language course may be taken in middle school.);
- second year of the same World Language (This World Language course may be taken in the middle school.); and
- one credit of Health/Physical Education.

3. Beginning in the 2007-08 school year, students who pass mathematics or foreign language courses during grades 6-8 that are described in the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study* for grades 9-12 must achieve level III or IV on an EOC, if available, to meet that high school graduation requirement. High school mathematics and foreign language courses taken in grades 6-8 which do not have an EOC shall use high school course codes and shall be aligned to the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study* for grades 9-12. The courses will count toward graduation requirements, but the students' GPA will be computed with courses taken during the high school years.
4. Beginning in the 2008-09 school year, students who pass science courses during grades 6-8 that are described in the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study* for grades 9-12 must achieve level III or IV on an EOC, if available, to meet that high school graduation requirement. High school science courses taken in grades 6-8 which do not have an EOC shall use high school course codes and shall be aligned to the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study* for grades 9-12. The courses will count toward graduation requirements, but the students' GPA will be computed with courses taken during the high school years.
5. Beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, students who pass social studies courses during grades 6-8 that are described in the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study* for grades 9-12 must achieve level III or IV on an EOC, if available, to meet that high school graduation requirement. High school social studies courses taken in grades 6-8 which do not have an EOC shall use high school course codes and shall be aligned to the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study* for grades 9-12. The courses will count toward graduation requirements, but the students' GPA will be computed with courses taken during the high school years.
6. Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, students who pass English I during grades 6-8 as described in the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study* for grades 9-12 must achieve level III or IV on an EOC, if available, to meet that high school graduation

requirement. Courses taken in grades 6-8 which do not have an EOC shall use high school course codes and shall be aligned to the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study* for grades 9-12. The courses will count toward graduation requirements, but the students' GPA will be computed with courses taken during the high school years.

7. Laboratory facilities must meet safety requirements and state and national guidelines for laboratory expendables and equipment to allow the same opportunities for laboratory work as the high school laboratory in the local education agency.
8. Each local superintendent may grant a waiver to allow students to take the courses listed above at the Public University, Community College, and Private College and exempt them from the 135 or 150 instructional hour requirement, if these courses are not available to the student at his or her local high school. Courses taken at a Community College that have a corresponding end-of-course assessment at the high school require that the assessment be taken.
9. Each local superintendent shall ensure that all required and elective courses have sufficient rigor, breadth, and depth to be awarded high school credit.
10. An e-learning course qualifies for course credit if it meets the following requirements:
 - 10.1 Any K-7 e-learning course or 8-12 course taken for credit toward a diploma must first be approved for credit by the NC Virtual Public School (NCVPS).
 - 10.2 E-learning courses offering instruction in courses included within the NC Standard Course of Study must meet the Standard Course of Study competency goals and objectives. E-learning courses offered for Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate credit must align with nationally validated standards for AP and IB, where available.
 - 10.3 E-learning courses offering instruction in courses not included in the Standard Course of Study curriculum must have rigor, depth and breadth comparable to courses included in the Standard Course of Study. When determining whether an e-learning course has such rigor, depth and breadth, the NCVPS shall consider whether the course meets the SREB (Southern Regional Education Board) and/or NACOL (North American Council for Online Learning) criteria for awarding credit or is offered for credit toward a degree by a University of North Carolina institution, an institution in the North Carolina Community College System, or a regionally accredited college.
 - 10.4 Where available, end-of-grade tests, end-of-course tests, and post assessments must be used as an indicator of student mastery. The student's base school schedules and administers EOC and EOG tests. These scores shall be included in the determination of the base school's ABCs and AYP status.
 - 10.5 Enrollment in an e-learning "for credit course" shall count toward satisfying local

board requirements related to minimum instructional days, seat time policies, student attendance, athletic and/or extracurricular obligations. Furthermore, LEAs are instructed to be purposeful in establishing processes and procedures to enroll and manage such e-learning students in an environment where they can be successful.

11. Credit may not be awarded for school bus driving, office assistance, teacher assistance, or laboratory assistance.
12. Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, Credit Recovery and Repeating A Course for Credit shall be governed by the following definitions and parameters:
 - 12.1 The term “credit recovery” will be used to refer to a block of instruction that is less than the entirety of the Standard Course of Study for that course. Credit recovery, therefore, delivers a subset of the Standard Course of Study or Blueprint of the original course in order to specifically address deficiencies in a student’s mastery of the course and target specific components of a course necessary for completion. The length of credit recovery courses shall be dictated by the skills and knowledge the student needs to recover and not be a fixed length of seat time. When credit recovery is exercised, the original record of the course being completed and failed will remain on the transcript.
 - 12.2 The term “repeating a course for credit” will be used to refer to a high school course repeated via any delivery method when the entire Standard Course of Study for that course is being taught to the student for a second time.
 - 12.3 Students “Repeating a course for credit” will receive a grade and take the associated End-of-Course assessment. Those students who have already made a Level III or IV on the associated End-of-Course (EOC) assessment may elect to either retake the EOC or use the previous passing EOC score as 25% of their final grade. If the student retakes the EOC, the higher of the two scores will be used in the calculation of the final grade.
 - 12.4 The LEA shall allow a grade pass or a fail for each credit recovery course. The mark will not affect the student’s GPA.
 - 12.5 A student wishing to modify his or her GPA is to repeat a course for credit and not seek a credit recovery solution.
 - 12.6 A local school board may not limit the number of credit recovery courses taken by a student prior to graduation.
 - 12.7 The EOC test associated with credit recovery should be administered no later than 30 days upon the completion of the credit recovery course.

Credit Recovery in North Carolina Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Q What is credit recovery?
 - A. The term “credit recovery” will be used to refer to a block of instruction that is less than the entirety of the Standard Course of Study for that course. Credit recovery therefore, delivers a subset of the Standard Course of Study or Blueprint of the original course in order to specifically address deficiencies in a student’s mastery of the course and target specific components of a course necessary for completion.

2. Q. How is credit recovery recorded on the transcript?
 - A. Credit recovery only serves to recover the credit toward graduation and does not affect a student’s GPA. Therefore, the credit recovery course will appear on the transcript with either a “P” for pass or “F” for fail. Neither of these marks will affect the student’s GPA. If the credit recovery course has been passed, then the transcript will show a unit of credit for the course which will count toward graduation. The record of the student’s originally failing the course will remain on the transcript with the failing grade associated with it and will continue to impact the student’s GPA.

3. Q. Shouldn’t the student’s GPA be affected by taking a credit recovery course? If a student has originally failed a course and recovers it, it seems only fair that the student’s GPA be impacted.
 - A. Credit recovery has been defined as just that, recovering a credit; that is its sole purpose. If a student wants to both recover the credit and increase his or her GPA, then the student should retake the entire course to achieve those goals. The purpose of credit recovery is to earn credits toward graduation.

4. Q. Are there other situations when a student should consider retaking the entire course rather than using credit recovery?
 - A. Yes. Counselors should examine closely the postsecondary plans of students interested in credit recovery to see if it is appropriate for the student given their unique plans and the course under consideration. Here are a few examples where a student will need to retake the entire course rather than use credit recovery: A student who is wishing to receive community college articulated credit for a CTE course should retake the entire course. Likewise, students looking to enter a Health Occupations program who have failed biology will need to retake the course and not use credit recovery if the postsecondary institution of interest requires a minimum grade average in biology. Additionally, students seeking to raise their GPA, should repeat the course.

5. Q. Will the fact that credit recovery courses are graded on a pass/fail basis negatively impact athletic eligibility in any way?
 - A. No. Treating credit recovery this way has been reviewed and accepted by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. They have acknowledged that there will be no adverse impact on a student's athletic eligibility.

6. Q. Will the fact that credit recovery courses are graded on a pass/fail basis negatively impact admission of students into community college and / or the university system?
 - A. No. The General Administration of the University of North Carolina System and the North Carolina Community College System office have both agreed that the presence of a pass or fail on student's transcripts and the general approach to credit recovery as being outlined will not negatively impact a student's admission's eligibility into these institutions.

7. Q. Is there a time limit on when a credit recovery course must be taken?
 - A. No. Best practices suggest that students complete the credit recovery within one year, but there are many factors outside the control of the school which affect the school's ability to meet this expectation. It is strongly encouraged to place a student in credit recovery for that course as soon as possible to minimize learning loss.

8. Q. Does a credit recovery course have to be completed within one semester or summer session?
 - A. Yes, unless there are extenuating circumstances whereby the principal determines an Incomplete is more appropriate. If an Incomplete is awarded, then as soon as the credit recovery is finished, a grade of Pass or Fail would replace the Incomplete for the credit recovery course in the original semester in which it was begun.

9. Q. Can a student repeat a course which they have already passed?
 - A. At the current time, this is a local decision.

10. Q. When does a student receive credit for a credit recovery course?
 - A. As soon as the student has completed the credit recovery course and the End of Course Test, if required.

11. Q. If a credit recovery course has an associated End of Course Test, would a student have to retake the test?

- A. If the student has not yet received a Level III or IV on the End of Course Test, then they would retake the test. If the student has received a Level III or IV on the End of Course Test, the student may either retake the test or bank his or her first score.
12. Q. If a student is taking an End of Course test associated with a credit recovery course, when do they take the test?
- A. Students should be provided the online version of the test and be administered the test as soon as credit recovery has been completed.
13. Q. If a student takes an End of Course test as a part of a credit recovery experience, does the test count as 25% of the final grade in the credit recovery course?
- A. Yes.
14. Q. What should be the content of a credit recovery course?
- A. The content should be dictated by the deficiency demonstrated when the student attempted the course the first time. A pre-assessment of the student's understanding of the course material should ideally be administered at the beginning of the course and the credit recovery customized to meet the needs of the individual.
15. Q. Should all credit recovery courses take the same amount of time to complete?
- A. No. Credit recovery should be customized to meet the needs of the course and the student's prior knowledge and skills when entering the credit recovery course. It would be inconsistent with the definition of credit recovery for all credit recovery courses to take the same amount of seat time, even within a given course.
16. Q. How should courses be coded in NCWISE?
- A. NCWISE will develop a code within the context of the existing course coding structure that will designate a course as credit recovery using the 6th and 7th digits. The credit recovery course number will be very similar to the original course number.
17. Q. Is there a limit on how many credit recovery courses a student may take in his or her high school career?
- A. No.