

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

Policy Identification

Priority: High Student Performance

Category: Course for Credit

Policy ID Number: HSP-M-001

Policy Title: Policy defining "Course for Credit"

Current Policy Date: 11/04/2004

Other Historical Information: Previous board dates: 05/05/1988, 08/02/2001, 02/07/2002, 12/05/2002, 07/01/2004

Statutory Reference: GS 115C-81

Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Reference Number and Category:

A credit course, one for which credit toward high school graduation is awarded and which qualifies as part of the instructional day:

- must consist of 150 clock hours of instruction in a traditional schedule or
- 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
- must be directed by a teacher.

Public University, Community College, and Private College Courses

- 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:
 - English I, II, III, IV;
 - 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 Mathematic I, II, III;
 - Biology, Earth/Environmental Science, and a physical science course that is used to fulfill the third science requirement;
 - Government/Economics (ELPS), US History, World Studies;
 - first year of a Second Language;
 - second year of the same Second Language; and
 - one credit of Health/Physical Education.

- 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.
- Each local superintendent shall ensure that all required and elective courses have sufficient rigor, breadth, and depth to be awarded high school credit.

An online course qualifies for course credit if it meets the following requirements:

- The NC Standard Course of Study competency goals and objectives must be adopted, where available. Nationally validated standards for AP and IB must be used, where available.
- In the absence of a Standard Course of Study curriculum, the course must be designed such that a typical student would take 135-150 hours to complete. The principal, in consultation with a teacher certified in that content area, is ultimately accountable for determining whether the course is of sufficient depth and breadth and meets the state and/or nationally developed criteria for awarding credit.
- Where available, end-of-grade tests, end-of-course tests, and post assessment must be used as an indicator of student mastery.
- Where statewide assessments are not available, the course must be DPI staff-and/or peer-evaluated before posting.

Credit may not be awarded for school bus driving, office assistance, teacher assistance, or laboratory assistance.

This policy will become effective with the 2004-05 school year.