



Articulated Credit Arrangements Between High Schools and Technical Colleges

Articulation refers to aligning high school and postsecondary curricula to create sequences of courses offering progressive skill attainment, free of gaps or unnecessary duplication. Achieving a logical, unbroken sequence of study that begins in high school and continues in college is a worthy and challenging goal in itself. Often, however, and certainly in the context of education reform, articulation also focuses on providing opportunities for high school students to take college level course work and get a head start on accumulating college credits while fulfilling high school graduation requirements. We refer to this as articulated credit.

Courses that provide articulated credit are of two types, advanced standing courses and transcribed credit courses. These two articulated credit arrangements are summarized in the table below. In order to provide such articulated credit opportunities, high schools and technical colleges must enter into articulation agreements. A listing of all WTCS Advanced Standing and Transcribed Credit Agreements is available at http://systematic.wtcsystem.edu/reports/STW/articulation_agreements.htm.

| | Advanced Standing | Transcribed Credit |
|--|---|--|
| RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE COURSES | The high school course or courses contain competencies that are recognized as equivalent to those in a technical college course. Students earn high school credit with potential to later apply credits to technical college. | An actual technical college course, using college textbooks and materials, is taught to high school students. Students simultaneously earn high school and technical college credit. |
| TEACHERS | Taught by a high school teacher. | Taught by technical college instructor or high school teacher who receives articulation certification under TCS 3.03(9)(b). |
| COLLEGE CREDIT | Student is granted technical college credit only after enrolling at the college and providing documentation that articulation requirements were met. | College credits are awarded and recorded on a technical college transcript immediately upon successful completion of the course. |
| ARTICULATION AGREEMENT | Agreement spells out equivalencies between high school course(s) and technical college course and conditions (e.g., grades and attendance) student must meet to qualify for college credits. | Agreement spells out conditions (e.g., grades and attendance) student must meet to successfully complete course. Plus, course is offered through 38.14(3) contract. |
| GRADES | High school grading policies/standards are followed. Technical college grades are not given. | Technical college grading policies/standards are followed. Grades contribute to student's college |

| | Advanced Standing | Transcripted Credit |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | GPA. |
| DOCUMENTATION OF COURSE OUTCOME | High schools usually give the student a document that specifies the course title and number of credits for which advanced standing credit may be granted upon enrollment at the technical college. (DPI administrative rule requires a notation on high school transcript, but this is not always followed.) | Technical college transcript. |
| FEEES, REPORTING, AND AIDABILITY | Students pay no fees. AB 06-06 covers reporting requirements and aidability of courses. | Same as for Advanced Standing. |
| TRANSFER TO ANOTHER TECHNICAL COLLEGE | All colleges will honor advanced standing agreements made by another college when comparable courses are involved. | Courses are technical college courses for transfer purposes. |

Note: Transcripted credit courses that are part of an articulation agreement are one avenue through which high school students may enroll in technical college courses. Other options that allow high school students to attend technical colleges are:

- *118.15 Compulsory Education* – Pupils who meet certain criteria are allowed to attend technical college in lieu of high school or on a part-time basis through contractual agreement between the high school and technical college.
- *Youth Options* – High school juniors and seniors are able to enroll in courses at a technical college for both high school and technical college credit.
- *Two-Year Youth Apprenticeship Programs* – Some Youth Apprenticeship programs include transcripted credit courses. (Others may include advanced standing courses.)
- *38.14(3) Contracted Services* – Sec. 38.14(3), stat., enables technical colleges to contract with school districts to provide a wide variety of educational services.

February 26, 2007