

Weighting College Credit Plus Courses - Q&A

With the College Credit Plus program entering its fourth year in 2018-2019, the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Higher Education have compiled a list of questions and answers regarding the weighting of College Credit Plus (CCP) courses. In light of the numerous issues that have come to our attention and questions we have received; we believe it helpful to offer this guidance. While we recognize that it is up to the participating secondary schools to develop their own policies, we offer the following to aid secondary schools in developing and/or updating their policies in compliance with Ohio law.

1. What are the statutes and rules related to weighting of College Credit Plus courses?

Ohio Revised Code 3365.04(E) requires each public and participating nonpublic secondary school to implement a policy for the awarding of grades and the calculation of class standing for courses taken under division (A)(2) or (B) of section 3365.06 of the Revised Code. The policy adopted under this division shall be equivalent to the school's policy for courses taken under the advanced standing programs described in divisions (A)(2) and (3) of section 3313.6013 of the Revised Code or for other courses designated as honors courses by the school.¹ If the policy includes awarding a weighted grade or enhancing a student's class standing for these courses, the policy adopted under this section shall also provide for these procedures to be applied to courses taken under the college credit plus program.

Ohio Administrative Code 3333-1-65.2(B)(7) requires that the policy for awarding of grades and the calculation of class standing for college credit plus courses adopted and implemented by a district or secondary school pursuant to division (E) of section 3365.04 of the Revised Code shall not disadvantage students who choose to participate in college credit plus rather than in other advanced standing programs.

Additionally, established policies shall not provide higher value to any course provided through one advanced standing program as defined in section 3313.6013 of the Revised Code than to a course within the same academic subject area provided by another advanced standing program. A higher value shall also not be granted to honors courses.

¹ "Advanced Standing" program is defined as a program that enables a student to earn credit toward a degree from an institution of higher education while enrolled in high school or that enables a student to complete coursework while enrolled in high school that may earn credit toward a degree from an institution of higher education upon the student's attainment of a specified score on an examination covering the coursework. Advanced standing programs may include: the College Credit Plus Program; Advanced Placement (AP) courses; International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma courses; and early college high school programs. (ORC 3313.6013).

Please note: The grade weighting policies for CCP apply to both advanced standing courses and any weighted honors courses designated by the school or district.

2. Does a school have to go back and correct the weighting of previous years' grades if it did this incorrectly?

Yes, if the school realizes that the weighting has not been correctly managed, then the school must correct the

weighting for all current students and for all years since the 2015-2016 school year when College Credit Plus went into effect.

3. When must the participating secondary school weight a College Credit Plus course?

- If the school has advanced standing courses or programs (AP or IB) or honors courses that are weighted in a subject area, then the school **MUST** weight a CCP course in that subject area.
Example: If the school offers an AP course in English and the grading scale for that English course is weighted, then any CCP course in English must also be weighted
- If the school does not have a weighted honors, AP, or IB course in a subject area, then the school **CANNOT** weight CCP courses in that subject area.
Example: If the school offers an AP Business course, but the grading scale for that Business course is not weighted, then any CCP course in Business cannot be weighted
- If the school has no honors, AP, or IB courses in a subject area, then the school **MAY** weight CCP courses.
Example: If the school does not offer any courses in Culinary Arts, then the school may choose to weight any CCP course in Culinary Arts.

To determine if courses count as being part of the same subject area, refer to the High School Graduation Requirements Crosswalk document to review the courses that serve as substitutions within a subject area.

There is no limit on the amount of CCP courses for which the above rules apply.

4. What college courses align to high school subject areas for weighting purposes?

As required in Ohio Administrative Code 3333-1-65.2(B)(7), if a school weights an advanced standing (IB, AP) or honors course, then the school must also weight a CCP course in the same subject area. A subject area is a broad categorization of courses. The following subject areas are based on primary high school graduation requirements:

- English language arts: Any college course in literature, composition, journalism, speech, applied communication
- Health: Any college course that covers health concepts
- Mathematics: Any college math course
- Science: Any college science courses
- Social Studies: Any college course in social science, humanities, psychology, western civilization, political science, history, government, philosophy
- Electives: Various college courses will satisfy elective requirements, including but not limited to, foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical, family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education or English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies not otherwise required.
- Financial literacy: Various college courses including economics, financial, social science, or humanities courses which include the concepts of economics and financial literacy.
- Refer to the High School Graduation Requirements Crosswalk document to review the details about graduation requirements.

5. How do College Credit Plus courses factor into class standing?

The same rules apply to calculating class standing as to the weighting of grades. Secondary schools must implement a policy for the calculation of class standing for College Credit Plus courses. The policy must be equivalent to the school's policy for courses taken under the advanced standing programs (AP or IB) or honors courses. If the policy includes awarding a weighted grade or enhancing a student's class standing for these courses, the policy must also provide for the same weighting or enhancing to be applied to College Credit Plus courses (ORC 3365.04).

Established policies shall not provide higher value to any course provided through AP or IB than to a course within the same academic subject area provided by another advanced standing program. A higher value shall also not be granted to honors courses (OAC 3333-1-65.2).

A district cannot create policies that exclude College Credit Plus courses or students who participate in College Credit Plus in the calculations for valedictorian, salutatorian, class standing, or class rank.

6. What delivery mode does the school weight? Only courses at the high school or elsewhere?

Students can participate in College Credit Plus courses at a college campus, online, and/or at the high school. Regardless of the delivery mode or location of the course, if the school weights a course in the same subject area, then the College Credit Plus course must be weighted also, as described in Question 3 above.

7. What if the high school uses plusses and minuses, but the college does not?

The highest grade that is achievable on the grading scales should have equal weight. For example, if the high school's highest grade is an A+ and that equals 5.3 on the high school weighted scale, and a college's highest grade is an A, then a student earning an A in a College Credit Plus course will earn the same 5.3 weight as the A+ at the high school. This applies only to weighted courses in the same subject area.

8. What if the school only uses percentages and not letter grades?

Colleges and universities typically will only issue letter grades for college courses (e.g., A, B, C, D, F, W, NC). This is the grade that must be recorded on the high school transcript. If the school only uses percentages for high school courses, that can continue, but the high school must make modifications to their computer system to accommodate letter grades and weight the grades accordingly.

9. Does the school have to include college grades on the high school transcript?

Ohio Revised Code 3365.12 requires that College Credit Plus courses must be recorded on the student's transcript. The information should include "evidence of successful completion of each course and the high school credits awarded by the school" and the record must "indicate that the credits were earned as a participant under" College Credit Plus and must "include the name of the college at which the credits were earned."

10. What if the high school teacher is an adjunct of the college and teaches the course at the high school? Can the teacher use the high school grading scale?

No, the teacher is serving as an adjunct instructor of the college. The course belongs to the college and the course must match the syllabi, learning outcomes, textbooks, grading scales, etc., of the college regardless of where it is taught and by whom it is taught. 11. When a district has multiple high schools and the weighting of courses differ, how is the weight of a given course determined? Courses that are weighted differently at high schools within the same district must be weighted according to the building in which the student is enrolled. If the district has district-wide weighting, then all buildings will use the same weighted grading scale.

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