

Flexibility/Guidance for Secondary Schools and Colleges & Universities

Last revised 11/23/2020

Per House Bill 404, the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Ohio Department of Education, has issued the following flexibility and guidance for College Credit Plus. Requirements listed below are the legal requirements/standard practices for the College Credit Plus program, while the flexibility/guidance refers to temporary changes to the corresponding requirements. This flexibility/guidance is immediately effective for the 2020-2021 academic year and the 2021-2022 academic year unless additional guidance or statutory requirements are issued.

1

Student Eligibility

REQUIREMENT: For students to be eligible to participate in College Credit Plus, the student must meet college-ready scores on a state-identified assessment exam.

FLEXIBILITY/GUIDANCE: Colleges may use either the student's scores on an assessment exam or the student's unweighted high school cumulative grade point average (GPA) to determine eligibility. A minimum unweighted cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 is required. This flexibility item will continue to be reviewed to ensure that students have appropriate access to participate in the College Credit Plus program and additional guidance may be forthcoming.

2

Intent to Participate Form (Public School)

REQUIREMENT: Public school students must submit a completed Intent to Participate form to the public school by April 1 annually.

FLEXIBILITY/GUIDANCE: Public school students may submit a completed Intent to Participate form to the public school by May 1, 2021 for the 2021-2022 academic year. Public schools have the option of accepting the form after the deadline.

3 Intent to Participate Form & Funding Application (Private School & Homeschool)

REQUIREMENT: Private school students and homeschooled students must submit an electronic Intent to Participate and Funding Application by April 1 annually.

FLEXIBILITY/GUIDANCE: Private school students and homeschooled students must submit a fully completed Funding Application, which includes the Intent to Participate, by May 1, 2021 for the 2021-2022 academic year. There will be no exceptions to this deadline.

4 Course Eligibility - Pass/Fail Option

REQUIREMENT: Courses graded on a Pass/Fail option, or equivalent grade, are not permitted for College Credit Plus (some specific exceptions are allowable such as for internship courses – see [Ohio Administrative Code 3333-1-65.12](#) for details).

FLEXIBILITY/GUIDANCE: In the event that COVID-19 disruptions occur and the college/university offers a Pass/Fail option to all students for a course that is usually graded on a letter basis (i.e., A,B,C,D,F), a student may choose the Pass/Fail option. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss this option with their school counselors and college advisors as this type of grade may impact grade point average/class rank calculations, future financial aid, athletic eligibility, etc.

5 Late Withdrawal Option

REQUIREMENT: Students must withdraw from a course before the 15th day (census date) or face possible financial responsibility for the course.

FLEXIBILITY/GUIDANCE: In the event that COVID-19 disruptions occur, and the college offers a no-fault withdrawal option after the census date to all students, a student may choose this option. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss this option with their school counselors and college advisors as this type of grade may impact grade point average/class rank calculations, future financial aid, athletic eligibility, etc.

6

Nonpassing Grade – Reimbursement & Underperforming Students

REQUIREMENT: Schools may seek reimbursement if a student earns a nonpassing grade and the student is not economically disadvantaged. Students who earn nonpassing grades may also be considered underperforming if the student withdraws from or receives no credit for two or more courses or earns less than a 2.0 cumulative minimum GPA.

FLEXIBILITY/GUIDANCE: If a student earns a nonpassing grade (i.e., failure or withdrawal) and the student can demonstrate that the nonpassing grade was the direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, then the school may not seek reimbursement. Additionally, for those students, the nonpassing grade(s) may not be used for the calculation or determination of underperforming status.

7

Reporting of Students After 15th Day

REQUIREMENT: Colleges must submit enrollment data within two weeks after the 15th day (census date).

FLEXIBILITY/GUIDANCE: In the event that COVID-19 disruptions occur, colleges have permission to delay the uploading of student enrollment data files up to four weeks after the 15th day (census date). Note that any delay will postpone the 45-day review timeline. Major delays will possibly impact the regularly scheduled payments to colleges.

8

In-Person Communication, Activities, Meetings

REQUIREMENT: Various activities for College Credit Plus are typically held in-person such as information sessions, counseling sessions, college advising, teacher observations, assessment testing, professional development, etc.

FLEXIBILITY/GUIDANCE: To every extent possible, remote options for activities should be used. If an in-person activity must be held, all appropriate safety precautions such as physical distancing, facial coverings, etc., should be used.