

Credits

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1. What is the role of the State Board of Education (SBE) in defining credits?
2. How are high school credit and college credit equivalent?
3. How are credit equivalencies calculated by community and technical colleges (CTC) when students are enrolled in CTC high school completion programs and the CTC is awarding the diploma?
4. How are credit equivalencies calculated by school districts when students are enrolled in community and technical college (CTC) high school completion programs and the district is awarding the diploma?
5. If a district's schedule results in fewer than 150 hours of planned instructional hours per credit, what should the district do?

1. What is the role of the State Board of Education (SBE) in defining credits?

The SBE defines high school credit in WAC 180-51-050. Specifically, the WAC states that high school credit shall mean:

- (1) Grades nine through twelve or the equivalent of a four-year high school program, and grades seven and eight under the provisions of RCW 28A.230.090 (4) and (5):
 - (a) One hundred fifty hours of planned instructional activities approved by the district; or
 - (b) Satisfactory demonstration by a student of clearly identified competencies established pursuant to a process defined in written district policy. Districts are strongly advised to confirm with the higher education coordinating board that the award of competency-based high school credit meets the minimum college core admissions standards set by the higher education coordinating board for admission into a public, baccalaureate institution.

2. How are high school credit and college credit equivalent?

WAC 180-51-050 establishes equivalencies for college credit and high school credit, specifying that five quarter or three semester hours of college and university course work designated at the 100 level or above by the college or university shall equal one high school credit.

3. How are credit equivalencies calculated by community and technical colleges (CTC) when students are enrolled in CTC high school completion programs and the CTC is awarding the diploma?

A CTC will award one high school credit for five quarter or three semester hours of community and technical college high school completion course work, provided that the CTC course work is designated below the 100 level by the college.

4. How are credit equivalencies calculated by school districts when students are enrolled in community and technical college (CTC) high school completion programs and the district is awarding the diploma?

A district will award a minimum of .5 and a maximum of 1.0 high school credit for every five quarter of three semester hours of CTC high school completion course work, provided that the CTC course work is designated below the 100 level by the college.

5. If a district's schedule results in fewer than 150 hours of planned instructional hours per credit, what should the district do?

Districts can request a waiver from the 150 hour-per-credit requirement by completing an application available through the Office of State Superintendent (OSPI) website. The request form must be submitted to OSPI by May 1 of each year prior to the school year when the exemption takes effect.