

I. ENROLLMENT IN CAREER AND COLLEGE PROMISE

Career and College Promise is the result of a partnership between the North Carolina State Board of Education, the North Carolina Community College System, the University of North Carolina system, and many of North Carolina’s independent colleges and universities. Rules governing Career and College Promise are established by those entities. This regulation provides general information about Career and College Promise. For more specific information, students and parents should consult the prospective community college and/or the student’s school counselor.

A. Career and College Promise Description

Career and College Promise provides structured opportunities for eligible high school students to dually enroll in community college courses and earn college credit, tuition free, while still in high school. Academic credits earned through Career and College Promise enable students to accelerate the completion of a postsecondary credential, such as a certificate, diploma, or degree that leads to college transfer or provides entry-level job skills. Students may choose from the following types of options or “pathways”: College Transfer Pathways leading to a minimum of 30 hours of college transfer credit; Career Technical Education Pathways leading to a job credential, certificate, or diploma; or the Cooperative Innovative High School Pathway, which enables a student to begin earning tuition-free college credits as a high school freshman.

B. College Transfer Pathways

1. Description

The Career and College Promise College Transfer Pathways are designed for students who wish to begin earning credit towards a two-year associate degree and a four-year baccalaureate degree. These pathways are a structured set of general education courses designed to, upon successful completion, transfer to any North Carolina public university or participating private college or university. The College Transfer Pathways require the completion of at least 30 semester hours of transfer courses.

Students may choose either the Associate in Arts College Transfer Pathway (for students who wish to begin study toward the Associate in Arts degree and a baccalaureate degree in a non-STEM major) or the Associate in Science College Transfer Pathway (for students who wish to begin study toward the Associate in Science degree and a baccalaureate degree in a STEM or technical major).

2. Eligibility

To be eligible for initial enrollment in a College Transfer Pathway, the student must:

- be a high school junior or senior;
- have a weighted 3.0 grade point average on high school courses; and
- demonstrate college readiness in English/writing, reading, and mathematics on an approved assessment or placement test.

Students who cannot demonstrate college readiness on an approved assessment or placement test may be provisionally enrolled in a College Transfer Pathway if they meet certain grade point average, course completion, and other eligibility requirements. A provisional status student may register only for college mathematics and English courses within the chosen pathway. To enroll in other courses, the student must first successfully complete mathematics and English courses with a grade of at least a “C.”

To remain eligible for continued enrollment in a College Transfer Pathway, the student must:

- maintain a 2.0 or higher grade point average on college coursework after completing two courses; and
- be progressing toward high school graduation, as determined by the student’s principal.

A student who falls below a 2.0 grade point average is subject to the community college’s policy for satisfactory academic progress.

Students participating in a College Transfer Pathway must meet college course pre-requisite requirements established by the community college and comply with any other rules or requirements of the community college applicable to students participating in Career and College Promise.

C. Career Technical Education Pathways

1. For Juniors and Seniors

The Career Technical Education Pathway for high school juniors and seniors leads to a certificate or diploma aligned with a high school career cluster.

To be eligible for initial enrollment in a Career Technical Education Pathway, a high school junior or senior must meet the following criteria:

- have a weighted 3.0 grade point average OR be recommended by the principal or designee; and
- meet the course prerequisites for the career pathway.

To remain eligible for continued enrollment in the Career Technical Education Pathway, the student must:

- maintain a 2.0 or higher grade point average on college coursework after completing two courses; and
- be progressing toward high school graduation, as determined by the student's principal.

A student who falls below a 2.0 grade point average after completing two college courses will be subject to the community college's policy for satisfactory academic progress.

2. For Freshmen and Sophomores

The Career Technical Education Pathway for qualified freshmen and sophomores leads to an industrial or engineering certificate or diploma aligned with a high school career cluster. Freshmen and sophomores may enroll only in Industrial Technologies, Agricultural Technologies, Transportation Technologies, and Engineering Technologies certificate and diploma programs.

To be eligible for initial enrollment, a freshman or sophomore must:

- have passed Math I with a grade of "C" or better;
- have scored a 3, 4, or 5 on the EOC for Math I;
- have a weighted grade point average of 3.0 on high school courses (required for sophomores only);
- meet the college ready reading score as determined by the community college system;
- meet prerequisites for the career pathway; and
- have the recommendation of the high school principal or designee, based on an assessment of the student's maturity and ability to participate effectively in a class that may include adult students.

To remain eligible for continued enrollment in the Career Technical Education Pathway, the student must:

- maintain a 2.0 or higher grade point average on college coursework after completing two courses; and
- be progressing toward high school graduation, as determined by the student's principal.

A student who falls below a 2.0 grade point average after completing two college courses will be subject to the community college's policy for satisfactory academic progress.

D. Cooperative Innovative High School

1. The board of education, in partnership with Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, provides the opportunity for students to earn a high school diploma and complete an associate degree program or earn up to two years of college credit within five years at Caldwell Early College High School, located on the campus of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. College credits earned are tuition-free.
2. The board of education, in partnership with Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, provides the opportunity for students to earn a high school diploma and technical certification or credits leading toward certification at Caldwell Career Center Middle College, located on the campus of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. College credits earned are tuition-free.

To be eligible for enrollment at Caldwell Early College High School or Caldwell Career Center Middle College, the student must:

- be a Caldwell County resident or have an approved transfer to attend Caldwell County Schools; and
- apply during the student's eighth grade year according to the school's application process and timeline.

The only entry point for Caldwell Early College High School and Caldwell Career Center Middle College is the beginning of a student's ninth grade year. The application process and timeline for each school is posted on the school's website.

E. Application Process for Career and College Promise Programs

1. The principal or designee shall ensure that information pertaining to eligibility criteria (e.g., high school grade point average; assessment scores) appears on student transcripts.
2. Students must complete a college application and follow any other application steps established by the community college. Interested students should contact their school's community college transition advisor or school counselor for detailed application information.
3. For Career and College Promise college classes, students must provide their own transportation to and from the community college and purchase their own textbooks.

F. Enrollment in Multiple Career and College Promise Programs

With approval from the principal or designee and the designated college administrator, a student may participate in (1) a College Transfer and a Career Technical Education pathway at the same time or (2) in two Career Technical Education pathways at the same time.

II. ENROLLMENT IN OTHER COLLEGE COURSES

A. Course Eligibility for High School Credit

Students may self-enroll in courses taught by a college, university, or other institution of higher education to earn credit towards graduation. E-learning courses are subject to the requirements of policy 3102, Online Instruction, and any rules established by the superintendent. For all other college courses taken outside of Career and College Promise, eligibility for high school credit is subject to the requirements described here.

For a college course to be eligible for credit, the school principal must determine that the course content offers substantial coverage of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for the high school course and is otherwise consistent with the policies and standards of the school system and State Board of Education requirements. Credit is awarded in accordance with the requirements of State Board of Education Policy GCS-M-001, which defines “Course for Credit.”

B. Receiving High School Credit

In order for a student to receive high school credit for a self-enrolled college course (not a course taken through Career and College Promise), the following requirements must be met.

1. The parent or guardian of the student must give permission for the student to take the course. Students age 18 or older and emancipated minors do not need parental consent.
2. The course provider must be approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or its regional equivalent.
3. The principal must approve the course in advance.
4. The student is responsible for enrolling in the course.
5. Within 30 days of completing the course, the student must present an official transcript as evidence of successful completion of the course.

6. The school at which the course is offered must provide the principal with:
 - a. a detailed course syllabus that includes a description of the content and subject matter covered by the course and course activities sufficient to enable the principal to evaluate the course content against the North Carolina high school course standards;
 - b. an explanation of how grades are computed; and
 - c. the student's achievement or performance level in the course.

7. Unless notified otherwise, all fees, charges, tuition, books, materials, and transportation are the responsibility of the student and the student's parent or guardian.

III. CALCULATION OF GRADE POINT AVERAGE

The grades for any courses approved for high school credit will be calculated into the student's grade point average in accordance with State Board of Education Policy GCS-L-004.

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