

6.7 Concurrent Enrollment Quality Standards: Virginia Community College System Policy Manual (Approved September 2018)

This policy reflects national standards and best practices for dual credit as outlined by the National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) and aligns with regional accreditation standards set forth by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). NACEP Standards are measurable criteria that address quality in concurrent enrollment programs. The standards promote the implementation of policies and practices such that:

- College courses offered in the high school are of the same quality and rigor as the courses offered on campus at the sponsoring college.
- Students enrolled in concurrent enrollment courses are held to the same standards of achievement as students in on-campus courses.
- Instructors teaching college courses through the concurrent enrollment program meet the academic requirements for faculty teaching in the college and are trained in course delivery and provided ongoing discipline-specific professional development.
- Concurrent enrollment programs display accountability through program evaluation.

Institutions must ensure that concurrent enrollment courses and programs offered in the high school comply with the following standards:

6.7.1 Partnership Standards

6.7.1.1 The concurrent enrollment program aligns with the college mission and is supported by the institution's administration and academic leadership.

6.7.1.2 The concurrent enrollment program has ongoing collaboration with secondary school partners.

6.7.2 Faculty Standards

6.7.2.1 All concurrent enrollment instructors must be approved by the appropriate college academic leadership and must meet the minimum qualifications for instructors teaching the course on campus. A college may not assign an unqualified concurrent enrollment instructor as a teaching assistant with a qualified college faculty member who is not directly teaching the course assigned as the course's instructor of record.

6.7.2.2 Faculty liaisons at the college provide all new concurrent enrollment instructors with course-specific training in course philosophy, curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment prior to the instructor teaching the course.

6.7.2.3 Concurrent enrollment instructors participate in college-provided annual discipline-specific professional development and ongoing collegial interaction to further enhance instructors' pedagogy and breadth of knowledge in the discipline.

6.7.2.4 The concurrent enrollment program ensures instructors are informed of and adhere to program policies and procedures.

6.7.3 Assessment

6.7.3.1 The college ensures that concurrent enrollment students' proficiency of learning outcomes is measured using comparable grading standards and assessment methods to on campus sections.

6.7.4 Curriculum Standards

6.7.4.1 Courses administered through a concurrent enrollment program are college catalogued courses with the same departmental designations, course descriptions, numbers, titles, and credits.

6.7.4.2 The college ensures the concurrent enrollment courses reflect the learning objectives and the pedagogical, theoretical, and philosophical orientation of the respective college discipline.

6.7.4.3 College faculty or academic deans conduct site visits to observe course content, delivery, and student engagement to ensure the courses offered through the concurrent enrollment program are equivalent to the courses offered on campus.

6.7.5 Student Standards

6.7.5.1 Registration and transcripting policies and practices for concurrent enrollment students are consistent with those on campus.

6.7.5.2 The concurrent enrollment program has a process to ensure students meet the college's course prerequisites.

6.7.5.3 Concurrent enrollment students are advised about the benefits and implications of taking college courses, as well as the college's policies and expectations.

6.7.5.4 The college provides concurrent enrollment students with access to learning resources and student support services.

6.7.6 Program Evaluation Standards

6.7.6.1 The college conducts end-of-term student course evaluations for each concurrent enrollment course to provide instructors with student feedback.

6.7.6.2 The college conducts and reports regular and ongoing evaluations of the concurrent enrollment program effectiveness and uses the results for continuous improvement.