

Advanced Standing Changes

Overview

In full transparency, we want to notify you of an upcoming change to advanced standing courses in General Education (Communication Skills, Math, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences) for the 2024-2025 academic year. We realize high school course request materials will need to be updated to reflect this change prior to the new year and wanted to provide you with the information as soon as possible.

What are Advanced Standing and Dual Credit Courses?

An **Advanced Standing** class is a high school course that is similar to a technical college course taught by a non-qualified high school teacher at the high school. A successful student becomes eligible to receive advanced standing after enrolling in an associate degree or a technical diploma at the college.

A **Dual (Transcribed) Credit** class is a technical college course taught by a high school teacher that meets Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) faculty qualifications for dual credit instruction, taught at the high school. A high school student earns credit at their high school and at the technical college.

FVTC & HLC Accreditation

FVTC is preparing for our Higher Learning Commission (HLC) site visit and quality review in 2025 and wants to make sure all processes and qualifications are in line with HLC requirements.

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) provided an extension to allow more time for states and institutions to ensure dual credit instructors have the necessary credentials to teach dual credit. The extension began in 2020 and was extended until 2025. The extension from HLC allowed grace for high school instructors not meeting credentials and provided an opportunity attain them.

HLC requires that accredited institutions awarding college credit by means of dual credit arrangements ensure the quality and integrity of such offerings and their comparability to the same college credit offered on the institution's main campus or at the institution's other locations. As such, the faculty members teaching dual

credit courses should hold the same minimal qualifications as required by the institution of its own faculty.

Faculty teaching general education courses, or other non-occupational courses, must hold a master's degree or higher in the discipline or subfield. If a faculty member holds a master's degree or higher in a discipline or subfield other than that in which they are teaching, that faculty member should have completed a minimum of 18 graduate credit hours in the discipline or subfield in which they teach.

What does this mean for High Schools?

FVTC General Education division will honor all advanced standing agreements for the 2023-2024 academic year, but we will not be able to extend advanced standing courses beyond that point due to the need to provide integrity of the curriculum and faculty qualifications.

Furthermore, the acceptance of advanced standing agreements is limited to specific FVTC programs. Advanced standing credits in these agreements are not able to be applied to programs such as Nursing and the University Transfer – Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees. Offering advanced standing could prove problematic for your students who strive to earn a bachelor's degree in the future.

This change will not affect agreements you have with occupational courses as the requirements are different in programmatic areas. The change will affect general education courses.

We value our partnership with you and will continue to offer, and work to expand, dual credit agreements with our district high schools. We are also exploring the development of academy offerings and would welcome your ideas to best serve your students in these areas.

If you have any questions regarding this change and the effects on your advanced standing course offerings, please contact Jenny Van Thiel

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