



## Senior Year Plus

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### ➔ What is it?

The intent of the Senior Year Plus statute is to ensure all students in Iowa have increased and more equal access to courses that have the potential to generate college credit while in high school.

Iowa has been offering many such opportunities over the years, through the following programs:

- Advanced Placement courses,
- Concurrent enrollment (previously and commonly called dual-credit) courses,
- Post-secondary Enrollment Options Act courses,
- Career Academy courses, and
- Iowa Communication Network (ICN) and Iowa Learning Online courses.

However, the new statute provides more consistency in expectations for students, teachers, parents, schools, and postsecondary institutions regarding these programs while providing specific program improvements.

These improvements and consistencies include:

- Establishing new post-secondary course audit committee charged with ensuring that courses offered under Senior Year Plus are of college-level difficulty.
- Creating a new, expanded supplemental weighting for school districts that host courses shared between districts.
- Changing the weighted funding for concurrent enrollment classes to 0.70 for career and technical courses, which are more costly to operate, and 0.46 for all other courses.
- Establishing criteria for student, teacher, and institution participation in programming covered by this statute. This includes a requirement that the student be proficient in reading, math, and science or that the student meets other alternate, but equivalent criteria established locally.
- Providing funding that will cover half the cost of all Advanced Placement exams taken statewide beginning in 2008-2009.

### ➔ How did it come about?

Senior Year Plus was established in May 2008 when the Iowa legislature passed House File 2679. The enacted statute creates a new Iowa Code Chapter 261E that consolidates and standardizes several existing programs that have the potential to provide college credit coursework to high school students. Providing more opportunities for students to earn college credit while still in high school was an early proposal of Governor Chet Culver.

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# LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Iowa Department of Education

## → Where does this initiative currently stand?

The Iowa Department of Education (Department) is currently working with various stakeholders to development rules for Senior Year Plus, and the State Board of Education will notice them in the spring of 2009. In addition, the Department is supporting the web-based clearinghouse and forming the required postsecondary course audit committee, which will annually audit postsecondary courses offered to high school students to ensure college-level difficulty.

In addition, the Department is examining opportunities to allow students to take “replacement credit” courses through Iowa Learning Online. This would permit students to target the concepts or skills they may have either missed during a class or failed to master.

The Department has also provided guidance to the field for determining which courses fall under the career and technical category; therefore receive supplemental weighting of 0.70. The criteria are based on the common course numberings used by all Iowa community colleges in the state.

## → How will this initiative help Iowa students?

As stated previously, the intended purpose of this statute is to ensure all students — regardless of where they live, their career path, or family income — have increased access to courses that have the potential to generate college credit while students are still in high school. It brings all existing programs for college credit under the umbrella of one “Senior Year Plus” program, making options easier to understand for parents and students. Research shows that nearly 90 percent of jobs require some type of postsecondary education or training. Providing these opportunities to Iowa students still in high school helps them meet Iowa’s workplace needs and assists them in reaching their future goals.

## → Where can I get more information?

For a listing of courses that fall under the career and technical category, please visit

[www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=252&Itemid=2182#ASCTE](http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=252&Itemid=2182#ASCTE). Additional

information is at

[http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1661&Itemid=1](http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1661&Itemid=1).

### Senior Year Plus Programs

#### Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) is governed by the College Board. AP courses are college-level studies available to high school students. Students can choose among 37 courses and exams across 22 subject areas, with an optional final exam at the completion of the course. A qualifying score on an AP exam may give the student college credit or advanced standing in a college in the subject area in which the course/exam was taken. All school districts have access to Iowa’s Advanced Placement online academy.

	<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>
<i>AP Exams</i>	10,776	11,786

#### Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)

Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act (PSEO) permits high school students to enroll in a course at a Regents university, independent college/university, or community college if a comparable course is not offered by the school district or accredited nonpublic school the student attends. The student receives high school credit toward graduation, as well as arts and science or career/technical college credit, upon successful completion of the course. Funding for this program comes from local districts paying \$250 per course.

	<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>
<i>Course Enrollment</i>	11,229	11,095

#### Concurrent Enrollment

Concurrent Enrollment is a supplementary student weighting funding mechanism specific to courses provided by Iowa’s community colleges to local Iowa school districts. This option permits district-to-community college sharing of classes. The class must supplement, not supplant, high school courses; the class must be open to all registered community college students, not just high school students; the class must be offered for college credit toward an associate degree or completion of a college diploma program.

	<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>
<i>Funding</i>	\$10,978,341	\$12,650,253
<i>Student Enrollment</i>	21,689	23,654

#### Career Academies

Career Academies are a defined sequence of studies offered to high school students through an agreement or contract between their high school and a community college. They are designed to bridge to community college programs and typically provide coursework in STEM or other highly technical areas.

	<b>2007-2008</b>
<i>Enrollment</i>	61,450 secondary and postsecondary students statewide