

Credit Flexibility Options



DELAWARE CITY SCHOOLS

A SUMMARY: WHAT IS CREDIT FLEXIBILITY?

PHILOSOPHY: Credit flexibility is based on competence. Research confirms that varying time and instructional methodology, while maintaining quality, can cultivate the kind of self-directed learning that is essential for success in post-secondary education and careers -- and throughout life.

ELIGIBILITY: Any student entering grades 8-12 who: (1) meets the course's established pre-requisites, (2) demonstrates competency in the content area of chosen study, (3) possesses sufficient skills to work independently, and (4) completes learning activities on time.

CREDIT: All credit will have equitable value regardless of how it is earned. Student records and other documentation will not differentiate credit based on how it is earned. A Credit Flexibility Panel at Hayes High School will review applications and proposals and will determine Carnegie Unit** equivalency. Students must meet course pre-requisites for course level advancements.

*****What is a Carnegie Unit? Established in 1906, the Carnegie Unit is a time-based measurement of educational coursework. 120 hours of "seat time" in a course is equal to 1 Carnegie Unit of high school credit.***

STUDENT PROPOSALS: Students must submit proposals for all options offered. Upon approval of the Credit Flexibility Panel (Principal, School Counselor, Curriculum Director, and Department Chair & Department member of the designated department), the student will be notified of his/her acceptance into the Credit Flexibility Program.

SUBMISSION DATES: Requests for all options need to be submitted to your Counselor by **June 1st for 1st semester and October 15th for 2nd semester**. Students will be notified by July 1st for first semester options and November 1st for second semester options. **THESE DEADLINES ARE FIRM AND WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED.**

COST: There are fees for Credit Flexibility Participation. Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch also qualify for reduced fees in the Credit Flexibility Options. Additional costs associated with the student proposed independent studies, testing out, and virtual learning are the sole responsibility of the student.

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Option #1: Testing Out

1. Students will be notified twice a year either through newsletters, parent letters, or e-mail, about the upcoming opportunities for testing out or flexible credits.

Students must complete an Application to Test Out of a Course for **first semester by June 1st or by October 15th for second semester** test out of a course. **THESE DEADLINES ARE FIRM AND WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED.**

Testing out requirements must be met in **June** for first semester/summer grading and by **December 1st** for second semester grading.

2. Students must receive a grade of 80% or above to pass a course through testing out procedures.

Students have the option of accepting the grade for credit. These grades are reflected on high school transcripts and impact class rank. Students also have a pass/fail option, meaning they can take the test for a grade of "P" only. This will not affect their grade point average or class rank. Students will not receive an "F" on the transcript if they fail, but they will not receive course credit.

Weights, grading, and Carnegie Unit scales will be the same as if the student attended the course. Course credits and weights are listed annually in the Course Description Handbook. Students can also receive credits for AP course tests in this manner.

The grading scale of AP tests shall be as follows: A score of 5 on the AP test will receive a weighted "A." A score of 4 on the AP test will receive a weighted "B." A score of 3 will receive a "P." Students may take this as a pass/fail option, as well. **Please see valedictorian/salutatorian policies.

- 1 Test Out Fee -All courses will have an \$80 fee associated that must be paid upon submission of the Application to Test Out of a Course. This will go to offset the cost of materials, teacher consulting time, and grading that would take place outside the normal school day. **AP test costs are \$91.

- 2 Partial credits are allowed by law if a student starts a school year in a year-long course and requests by October 15th to test out of the second semester. The student would remain in the course and receive partial credit for the first semester and, upon completion and passing of materials by December 15th, would receive credit for the second semester and not be required to continue in the course.

- 3 Students who do not complete the testing out requirements may in writing appeal to the Superintendent for a 30-day extension. Students who transfer to another district or are applying for early graduation shall meet with the Superintendent or designee to develop a plan for the completion of testing out credit.

****PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 FOR THE COURSE TEST OUT
TIMELINE.****

Test Out Course Offerings

The following are a list of courses that students may opt to test out of through the Delaware City Schools Credit Flexibility Program. Next to each course is the date of the school year that these test out offerings will be available.

English	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
English 9	Algebra I	Physical Science	World Studies
English 10	Geometry	Biology	United States Studies
English 11	Algebra II	Biology 2	Government/Economics
English 12 (2012-13)	Pre-Calculus (2012-13)	Earth Science (2012-13)	AP European History*
AP Literature*	Calculus (2012-13)	Chemistry (2012-13)	AP United States History*
AP Language*	FST (2012-13)	Physics I (2012-13)	AP Government*
	AP Calculus*	AP Biology*	
		AP Chemistry*	

French	Spanish	Health
French 1 through 3	Spanish 1 through 3	Health - .5 credit
French 4 & 5 (TBA)	Spanish 4 & 5 (TBA)	

AP Courses: Students must take Advanced Placement Exam, which is given each May. Additional AP Courses that are not offered at Hayes may also be taken through Test Out. These courses can be found at collegeboard.com.

All courses are one full credit unless otherwise indicated. When considering applying to test out as a senior, please realize all course grades must be completed by the end of May. AP Test scores are not received until July.



Option #2: Independent Study

Ohio's plan for credit flexibility is designed to broaden the scope of curricular options available to students, increase the depth of study possible for a particular subject, and allow tailoring of learning time and/or conditions. These are ways in which aspects of learning can be customized around more of students' interests and needs.

One option for students to obtain “flexible credit” is by pursuing one or more “educational options” (e.g., distance learning, educational travel, independent study, an internship, music, arts, after-school/tutorial program, community service or other engagement projects and sports). Independent study is designed for students to take advantage of this type of credit. Further, Independent Study is designed for coursework that is not offered on a “test out” basis, and for more non-traditional studies.

Requirements

- Students must apply for independent study by **June 1st for first semester coursework and October 15th for second semester coursework**. Students must complete the Independent Study application to officially request this option. **THESE DEADLINES ARE FIRM AND WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED.**
- Student applications will be reviewed by the Credit Flexibility Panel (Curriculum Director, Principal, School Counselor, and Department Chair & Department member of designated department).
- Students must pay the applicable independent study fee of \$80 to Delaware City Schools upon approval of this application. This covers teacher and evaluation fees. Students are also responsible for any other fees associated with the independent study proposed.
- Students are required to have a teacher mentor/sponsor from Delaware City Schools to monitor and evaluate the project on a regular basis. Students may also have a monitor in the community to work in cooperation with a Delaware City School staff member.
- Students must complete the project presentation prior to the last day of the school year.
- Students must receive a grade of 80% or higher to receive credit for an Independent Study.
- Students may elect to take this course as a graded option or pass/fail option. The pass/fail option does not affect a student's grade point average or class rank. Students must pass the course to earn a grade of “P.”
- Students must include a plan to demonstrate mastery of course content standards through a project, presentation, or final exam.



Option #3: College Credit Plus Credit

1. Through College Credit Plus college credit, students can earn credit in both high school and college simultaneously.

Students will enroll in the course at Hayes High School, just as they would for any other class. However, at the same time, students will complete a registration form for that course through the respective university that is offering dual enrollment. Students do not have to leave campus, but can take the class within their regular schedules. At the end of the year, students will receive a transcript from the university that offers the course. Course offerings are listed in the Course Handbook and College Credit Plus portion of the website.

2. Students pay no college fee to take the course through College Credit Plus.

Students can begin to spread out college costs over their high school years and save thousands of dollars in college tuition fees.

3. Students can take a College Credit Plus course and opt not to take the course for college credit.

Students will still be able to take the course for high school credit in this case. However, if students take the college course, they must have registered by the appropriate deadline. They cannot register retroactively.

4. Students must fulfill GPA requirements set by the university offering the course.

As a college course, the standards for this coursework will mirror college standards. Students should be prepared to fulfill such requirements.

5. Students should talk to college admissions counselors about the College Credit Plus options they wish to take at the high school level when applying to their respective colleges and universities.

Colleges and universities have many different admissions standards. While most College Credit Plus courses offered at Hayes are “tagged” for automatic transfer to all in-state (Ohio) universities, universities across the country differ with regard to admissions. Please check with institutions to determine exactly what they will accept for College Credit Plus credit.



Option #4: Virtual Learning

At Delaware City Schools, students have the opportunity to take coursework virtually as part of credit flexibility. The procedure for completion of virtual learning coursework are outlined below.

1. Students may apply to use Virtual High School (by completing the VHS application) or other virtual coursework vendors and institutions (by completing the Application for Virtual Learning). Coursework through other vendors other than VHS must be pre-approved by the Credit Flexibility Panel (Principal, School Counselor, and Department Chair of the designated department). All course vendors must be accredited institutions.
2. Students must receive a grade of 80% or above to pass a course through the Virtual Learning Option.
 - Students have the option of accepting the grade for high school credit. These grades are reflected on high school transcripts and impact class rank.
 - Weights, grading, and Carnegie Unit scales will be the same as if the student attended the course. Course credits and weights are listed annually in the Course Description Handbook. Students can also receive credits for AP course tests in this manner.
 - The grading scale of AP tests shall be as follows: A score of 5 on the AP test will receive a weighted "A." A score of 4 on the AP test will receive a weighted "B." A score of 3 will receive a "P." Students may take this as a pass/fail option, as well. **Please see valedictorian/salutatorian policies.
 - Students have a pass/fail option, meaning they can take the test for a grade of "P" only. This will not affect their grade point average or class rank. Students will not receive an "F" on the transcript if they fail, but they will not receive course credit.

