Concurrent Credit Program

Overview and FAQ

Arkansas State University
Concurrent Credit Program
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CONTENTS

A-STATE CONCURRENT PROGRAM

CONCURRENT COURSES
The list of wide ranging courses from various A-State subject areas is continually growing.

PROGRAM STANDARDS
A-State is committed to bridging the gap between high school and college by providing quality university courses in each subject area.

STUDENTS
Who should apply? What can they expect?

COST
Expenses for students and schools.

BECOMING A PARTNER
How a high school becomes an A-State concurrent partner.

INSTRUCTORS
Get an overview of A-State’s teacher enrichment path.

TECHNOLOGY
A-State digital tools that enhance the experience for teachers, administrators, and students.

COURSE CATALOG
Listing of current A-State courses offered to concurrent students.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Our team is eager to answer questions or help in any way.
**Concurrent Enrollment.** A partnership between Arkansas State University and high schools to develop the concurrent enrollment program is one that many high schools have found to be enriching. The program allows sophomores, juniors, and seniors to satisfy both high school and university credit requirements simultaneously through concurrent courses.

**A-State Courses.** Offered through the concurrent program, these courses use the same curriculum as those taught to Arkansas State University freshman and sophomores. The cost is $40 per credit hour versus $187 per credit hour plus required fees on campus. Students’ grades are recorded as college credits earned at Arkansas State University and are considered as such by other colleges and universities.

**Is concurrent credit the same thing as Advanced Placement?** No, concurrent credit differs from Advanced Placement (AP) in several ways. In concurrent credit courses, students will earn college credit based upon their performance on college level work, rather than on the AP test score they receive at the end of the course. Additionally, students will receive a grade on their college transcripts for the concurrent course, whereas only credit is earned on the college transcript for AP. However, concurrent grades are not weighted, unlike AP grades. Students are encouraged to examine their individual educational goals to decide which path works best for them. Some schools teach the concurrent and AP classes together, which provides the option for weighted high school and standard college concurrent credit.
A variety of courses can be offered. The concurrent program currently offers approximately 15 A-State courses from 8 academic disciplines. A listing is included on page 13. Courses vary with need and requests.

Concurrent courses are identical to courses offered on the A-State Jonesboro campus. Course offerings at each school varies dependent upon need and instructor availability.

What can I take? Are they really A-State classes? The classes students can take concurrently depend on the high school, but any available class is a real A-State college class. Once a student fills out the application and is accepted into the program, he or she is a real A-State student and will not have to reapply for admission after graduating high school provided they continue their college education at A-State immediately after graduating from high school. The concurrent classes will appear on an A-State transcript as regular A-State courses.

Concurrent classes are monitored by the A-State academic departments by the department facilitator and the concurrent course coordinator, who will visit the concurrent classes and work with the high school instructor to ensure college level expectations.
Continuous enhancement. The concurrent program at Arkansas State University is jointly managed by University College and by the A-State academic colleges and departments that offer the specific courses. University faculty and administrators work directly with high schools to ensure that A-State courses offered through our concurrent program mirror those courses taught on the A-State campus. Our program assures consistent quality.

Credits accepted. Students who send their Arkansas State University transcripts to colleges usually receive recognition of their coursework in the form of credit, advanced standing, exemption from a core requirement, or a combination of these actions.

Nationally Accredited. The A-State Concurrent Program is accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnership (NACEP). NACEP accreditation is an international symbol of quality, excellence and rigor.

Faculty interaction. Arkansas State University faculty members regularly communicate with their colleagues in the high schools. Throughout the semester, Arkansas State University faculty members and the concurrent program coordinator visit each class to monitor student progress and collaborate with teachers and high school administrators.

Measuring performance. Comparability studies prove that A-State concurrent students consistently out-perform their campus counterparts on examinations and assignments. Concurrent students will complete a course evaluation for each course taken at the end of the semester. The processed data from the evaluations are forwarded to the high school counselors.
Arkansas State University — Jonesboro

Concurrent Program Admissions Standards

For admission all students must have a minimum **ACT composite score of 19 and reading score of 19 and a 2.5 grade point average** on a standard transcript, or meet one of the following standardized testing equivalencies.

### Admissions Standardized Testing Equivalencies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Composite</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Math</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>470 (verbal)</td>
<td>450 (verbal)</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPASS</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>80 (writing)</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSET</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLAN*</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This test is used to project ACT scores and may only be accepted for concurrent students.

**Composite scores or composite equivalencies are not available, therefore to be admitted to the A-State Concurrent Program all students must meet the reading equivalency score. Concurrent students may enroll in concurrent courses without specific subtest requirements, such as Biological Science, if the student is admitted to the A-State Concurrent Program.

### Requirements to register for specific concurrent courses include:

**English courses:** ACT subtest score of 19 in English (or meeting the minimum standardized testing equivalency score in English on the SAT, COMPASS, ASSET, or PLAN listed above)

**College Algebra (MATH 1023):** High School Algebra II and score of 19 or above on ACT Math or 460 or above on SAT Math or 41 or above on COMPASS Algebra or 39 or above on ASSET Math or 17 or above on the PLAN Math.

**Plane Trigonometry (MATH 1033):** High School Algebra II and score of 19 or above on Math ACT or 590 or above on Math SAT, Corequisite, MATH 1023.
**Challenging minds.** The concurrent credit coursework is more demanding than high school coursework and requires students to conceptualize and draw conclusions from their reading and research. Success requires concerted effort. Students accept these challenges when they register for a university course, and should be aware that grading standards are more stringent as well.

**Who should apply?** Students who qualify according to the academic requirements on page 6 by having earned a 2.50 high school cumulative grade point average (GPA) along with having received at least a 19 on the following parts of the ACT test: Composite, Reading and Subject Matter. Students need to apply online to A-State and must have proof of two MMR immunizations or acceptable exemptions sent to A-State, along with their transcripts and test scores.

**I wasn’t planning on going to A-State after high school. Can I still use these courses?** A-State courses are easily transferred to the college of choice, as long as that college accepts transfer credit. To be certain, contact the registrar of the intended college and ask if concurrent courses transferred from A-State will be accepted. If so, the transfer process works just like any other A-State class. When students apply to the college of choice, they should always have a copy of their A-State transcript sent from A-State’s registrar to the intended college or university. The registrar of the other college will determine course equivalencies.

**Why take a “harder” class than I have to?** There are several benefits to taking concurrent credit courses. First students receive the college experience, with college level work, in a familiar environment. Having already experienced success in college level coursework the freshmen anxiety is lessened when students arrive on campus. Also, concurrent courses save time. By getting a start on college credit, some of the required general education courses are completed. Students can start on their program of study or “major” courses much faster.
How do students enroll?

Partner school administrators determine which courses they require in their respective schools. The list of concurrent courses are generally provided by the counselors to the students during class registration.

Students who meet the academic requirements and are recommended by the principal will fill out the online application for Arkansas State University which requires a $15 application fee. Students qualifying for free/reduced meals will have this fee waived if verified by the school counselor or principal.

Every semester the concurrent program coordinator will assist the counselors of partner schools with the enrollment process. This online process is outlined in the Student and Parent Program Guide. An overview of the process is provided below:

“Visit the A-State homepage, www.astate.edu, and click apply now. This will take the student to the link for the online application, where the student will click the link “Apply for Admission or Readmission/Check your Admission Status.” From there, the student will be able to create an account and application. Students also need to speak with their high school counselors about having their ACT records, immunization records and high school transcript sent to A-State. Once admitted, the student will work with the high school counselor to create a school schedule and then will register for courses online. Once registered for classes online, payment is also made either online, by phone, by mail, or in person to the A-State Cashier’s Window.”
**Cost to students.** Cost to students is comparatively low (approximately 20 percent of the tuition rate for students taking the same course on campus). Each course is $40 per credit hour, which for most courses offered will be $120. Additionally, there is a one-time $15 application fee.

**Cost to schools.** Basic training workshops are offered at no cost for qualified teachers and all workshop materials are provided. In addition, schools pay for texts, other instructional materials where appropriate. It may be necessary to provide a reduced schedule for the instructor to permit time for teacher-student conferences and student support.

**What else do students get?**

Students can obtain an A-State student ID, which can be used on campus to access the resources of the library and the computer lab.

An Arkansas State University student ID card holder can receive 10% student discounts at many businesses and restaurants around Jonesboro. To obtain the ID, students must travel to the A-State Student Union ID Center to have their photo taken and present a photo ID, such a driver's license, to the ID Center.
Initial Steps. Concurrent program administrators respond to the requests of the school administration and visit the school to provide detailed explanations of the program. School officials and concurrent program administrators determine the facilities, equipment and personnel required to meet the needs of the school. The principal identifies courses and possible classroom teachers. After qualified teachers are approved and the required professional development is completed, concurrent program administrators draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the university and the partner school district.

Teacher credentials. Concurrent Program administrators and the A-State department chairs from the relevant subject areas review the instructor applications. A Master’s degree and at least 18 graduate credit hours in the subject area are required to be considered as an A-State adjunct. Criteria and procedures for evaluation are established by the University.

Preparing to embark. Concurrent program coordinator and the department facilitator from each content area contact prospective instructors to review the course design activities and assignments. Before implementing the program, teachers will attend the Summer Seminar with workshops run by concurrent program administrators, academic department chairs and faculty who teach the specific courses on campus and supervise courses in participating high schools.
Ongoing Professional Development. Every high school has teachers who are eager to expand their professional skills. Concurrent program staff has developed a professional development program that offers a school's best teachers the opportunity to teach college courses. Working in conjunction with the A-State concurrent staff and academic departments, the professional development is designed to help classroom teachers bridge the gap to a college learning environment and broaden their teaching experience. Our programs offer teachers and professors the opportunity to learn from each other through our Summer Seminar, conferences, course development activities, research and advanced studies.

Summer Seminar. The Summer Seminar draws teachers from all disciplines to the A-State campus for one or two day sessions. Each department offers a workshop conducted by the A-State professors who teach and/or facilitate the course on campus.

Required Seminars. Along with the Summer Seminar held on the A-State campus, concurrent program instructors are required to participate in all planned professional development activities, including, but not limited to, two yearly meetings with departmental faculty facilitators during high school visits and one yearly training workshop at the Arkansas State University campus. A one-day workshop engages teachers in an exchange, sharing teaching methods and instructional approaches.

Developmental Activities. A-State academic departments and the concurrent staff annually provide professional development activities for concurrent faculty. Departmental activities are designed to enhance collegiality between department and concurrent faculty and to ensure that concurrent courses mirror university courses pedagogically and in course content. The concurrent staff in conjunction with academic departments provides training materials and opportunities for professional development to concurrent faculty.
Learning Management System:  
Arkansas State University’s Blackboard learning management system helps teachers and professors connect with their classes. Instructors can post announcements, assignments, threaded discussions, blogs, wikis, and more.

Syllabus: Instructors can follow the syllabus guidelines required by the respective A-State academic departments. Each department facilitator shall collect the syllabi and submit them for approval of the department chair.
Selected Course Offerings

The United States to 1876 [HIST 2763]
This course covers the social, economic and political developments from Columbus to the end of Reconstruction. By the end of the course, students will know more about the beginning of the American experience.

The United States since 1876 [HIST 2773]
This course focuses on social, economic, and political developments from the Reconstruction period to the present. The course also emphasizes thinking and understanding processes of causality that forged the saga of US history between the late Victorian Era and the early 21st century.

World Civilization to 1660 [HIST 1013]
Beginning and ending at approximately AD 1600, this course teaches the history of the world’s significant civilizations with an emphasis on the main historical currents influencing modern society. It includes the development of political, social, economic, religious, intellectual, and artistic traditions and institutions within each of those cultures and intercultural exchanges.

World Civilization since 1660 [HIST 1023]
This course explores the ideas, events and characters that molded world political, social, religious, intellectual, cultural, scientific, technological and economic history during the tumultuous period between the 17th and 21st centuries.

Intro to US Government [POSC 2103]
This course covers the constitution, government, and politics of the United States.

English Composition I [ENG 1003]
This class studies and practices the fundamentals of written communication including principles of grammar, punctuation, spelling, organization, and careful analytical reading.

English Composition II [ENG 1013]
This class continues the practice of English Composition I, to develop further the skills learned in that course. Based on reading and discussion of various types of writing, essays will provide practice in different kinds of rhetorical development including research and documentation.

World Literature to 1660 [ENG 2003]
Introduction to the analysis and interpretation of literary works from several historical periods ranging from early civilizations through the Renaissance.

World Literature Since 1660 [ENG 2013]
Introduction to the analysis and interpretation of literary works from several historical periods ranging from the Renaissance to the present.

College Algebra [MATH 1023]
This class will focus on equations and inequalities, functions, and graphs, polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, systems of equations and inequalities, matrices and miscellaneous topics.

Plane Trigonometry [MATH 1033]
In this course students will learn about right triangles and similar triangles, trigonometric ratios, degrees, and radians, trigonometric functions, circular functions, trigonometric identities, inverse trigonometric functions, trigonometric equations, Law of Sines, Law of Cosines, vectors, polar coordinates, and complex numbers.

Pre-Calculus Mathematics [MATH 1054]
This course will combine selected topics from algebra, trigonometry, and analytic geometry.

Fine Arts-Musical [MUS 2503]
An introduction to music for the listener who has had no formal training or experience. The purpose is to develop listening skills.

Biological Sciences and Lab [BIOL 1003/1001]
This course will cover the major characteristics and processes of life emphasizing the human organism, understanding of diversity and unity among living organisms with focus on ecological interactions and responsibilities of people within their social and natural environment.

Microcomputer Applications [CIT 1503]
Students will learn basic computer skills that can be used immediately, throughout college, and beyond. Emphasis on learning basic office applications in word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and presentation graphics.
For more information on any aspect of our Concurrent Program contact us at:

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