CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Portland State
UNIVERSITY

Southridge High School PSU WR 121 students: Campus Visit 2019

Student/Parent Handbook
2019-20

"My Challenge Program writing and English literature courses were both excellent preparation for my future college courses. I found them invaluable in terms of understanding the subject matter, and I am convinced that my Challenge Program courses helped me do well in my college classes."

Former Challenge Student

To our students,

Welcome to Challenge, a 43-year old concurrent enrollment program between Portland State University and Portland-area high schools, where qualified high school instructors are granted honorary adjunct status to teach catalog-listed PSU courses at your high school, providing you an opportunity to earn college credit, for a fraction of the cost on campus.

Our program is the only one in Oregon accredited by the National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP). NACEP accredited programs meet a comprehensive set of quality standards (regarding faculty, students, curriculum, assessment, and evaluation) that provide an imprimatur of quality and campus alignment. We report directly to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Portland State and curriculum is carefully governed by our participating Departments. Our mission is to provide an authentic college experience.

This booklet contains important information about the Challenge Program, your courses, and what you can expect when you register as a part-time PSU student. Keep it handy throughout the year as a reference and share it with your parents. Should you have questions we've not answered here, please check with your instructor or call us in the Challenge office. We encourage you to visit the PSU campus, search the PSU website, which is a great repository of information, and stop by the Challenge office at PSU Cramer Hall, 3rd floor, Room 387 to introduce yourself.

We wish you the very best of luck with your coursework this year.

Joy Beckett

Joy Beckett, Director

Table of Contents

Why Challenge?

In today's drive to provide rigorous postsecondary academic challenges to high school students in their own environments, we see Challenge as offering benefits that set it apart from other programs that earn college credit. Consider the following:

- We build a community of faculty and instructors that is the foundation of Challenge's success. It provides a venue for support and shared information that reinforces the connection between the campus and the classroom.
- We encourage and support class visits to campus to help familiarize students with Oregon's largest university and to use student resources such as our library online databases and computer accounts as well as attend special events, such as the Young Historians Conference.
- Our instructors have the academic freedom to determine how to meet PSU standards and are not restricted by having to focus on teaching to a high-stakes final exam; nor are our students sidelined by weeks of test preparation.
- We strive for both an academic and cultural college experience and hold our students to college-level expectations, smoothing the transition to college.
- Challenge is the only Oregon concurrent enrollment program that is accredited both by the State and nationally. We have been featured twice in the US World & News Report Special issue on Colleges.

Courses Offered

Schools partner with us to select catalog-listed college courses based on individual high school needs and teacher qualifications. This means that different high schools will offer one or some of the courses listed below. In schools where more than one Challenge course is offered, students can take up to three classes, although two is the recommended maximum.

Challenge courses—typically at the 100-200 college level and earning 4 college credits—are listed below. *Please make note of any required or preferred prerequisites.* Other courses may be considered, based on school interest, instructor eligibility, and departmental support.

COMPUTER SCIENCE:

- **CS 161** Introduction to Programming and Problem-Solving (4). Introduction to fundamental concepts of computer science. Problem solving, algorithm and program design, data types, loops, control structures, subprograms, and arrays. Learn to write programs in a high level programming language. Surveys current social and ethical aspects of computer science. *Recommended prerequisite*: *MTH 111*.

- **CS 162** Introduction to Computer Science (4). The goals of this class are to teach the syntax of C++ to students who already know how to program. Students are expected to be proficient at using conditionals, I/O, loops, and functions with arguments. Topics include conditionals, I/O, files, functions, classes, pointers, dynamic memory, linear linked lists, and multi-dimensional arrays in C++, as well as program correctness, verification, and testing. PSU proficiency lab testing administered by PSU faculty. *Prerequisite: CS161 or prior programming experience equivalent to CS161.*

ENGLISH: WRITING

- **WR 121** College Writing (4). A writing course for lower- division students, in which they develop critical thinking abilities by reading and writing, increase their rhetorical strategies, practice writing processes, and learn textual conventions. Includes formal and informal writing, responding to a variety of readings, sharing writing with other students, and revising individual pieces for a final portfolio of work.

- **WR 222** Writing Research Papers (4). The techniques for compiling and writing research papers. Attention to available reference materials, use of library, taking notes, critical evaluation of evidence, and conventions for documenting academic papers. Practice in organizing and writing a long expository essay based on use of library resources. *Recommended prerequisite: WR 121. An elective course; may not be used to fulfill PSU English major requirements.*

- **WR 228** Media Writing (4). An introductory course in media reporting and writing. Focus on identifying newsworthiness, writing leads, constructing news stories, interviewing, and attributing quotes. Students learn to gather local news, writing some stories in a computer lab on deadline. *Expected preparation: WR 121.* May be repeated once for a total of 8 credits.

ENGLISH: LITERATURE

- **ENG 107** Introduction to World Literature (4). An introduction to significant literary works from different regions, cultures, and periods.

- **ENG 204, 205** Survey of English Literature (4, 4).
ENG 204: Beowulf to Milton;
ENG 205: Enlightenment through Victorian period.

- **ENG 253, 254** Survey of American Literature (4, 4). American literature from its beginnings to present.

GEOLOGY

- **G 201/204, G202/205 (4, 4).**

  G 201/204. Dynamic Earth: Interior (3) + lab (1). Explores the Earth's structure and composition, why continents and oceans form, and how plate tectonics provide a unifying model to explain geological observations. Topics include the concept of deep time, the relationship between geology and topography, plate tectonics, volcanism, earthquakes, magnetism, rocks and minerals, mountain building, basin formation. This is the first in a sequence of two: G 201 and G 202.

  G 202/205. Dynamic Earth: Surface (3) + lab (1). Explores how weather and climate alter the Earth's surface and landscapes over time due to rock weathering, mountain building, the action of streams, glaciers, wind, and ocean waves and currents. Embedded in these topics is the discussion of human practices impacting the natural environment. This is the second course in a sequence of two: G 201 and G 202.

HISTORY

- **HST 101, 102, 103** History of Western Civilization (4, 4, 4). Survey of the origins and development of Western civilizations. HST 101: Antiquity to Renaissance; HST 102: Late Medieval to Enlightenment; HST 103: Enlightenment to present.

- **HST 104, 105, 106** World History (4, 4, 4). A survey of world history from earliest times to the present, combining both chronological and thematic approaches. HST 104: Origins-1000; HST 105: 1000-1600 CE; HST 106: 1500 CE-present.

- **HST 201, 202, 203** History of the United States (4, 4, 4). General survey of United States history. HST 201: colonial era to 1840; HST 202: 1840 to 1914; HST 203: 1914 to present.

HONORS COLLEGE

- **HON 101, 102, 103 Freshman Seminar: The Global City** (5, 5, 5). This year-long (three terms) sequence introduces ways to think critically about the urban environment and the interdependence between the city and the global world. It begins the study of representations and perceptions of the city, the city in historical context, and the processes that shape the city's geopolitical manifestations. *Prerequisite: Restricted to Seniors who have been recommended by the instructor.*

8/2019

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

- **MTH 251, 252, 253** Calculus I, II, III (4, 4, 4). Differential and integral calculus of functions of a single variable, analytic geometry, infinite series and applications. *Prerequisite to MTH 251: high school pre-calculus or PSU MTH 112 (preferably with a grade of B or higher). PSU calculus courses must be taken in sequence.* [Note: Challenge typically teaches just Calc I and Calc II, matched to a high school's two semesters.]

- **MTH 254** Calculus VI (4). An introduction to differential and integral calculus of functions of several variables and applications. *Prerequisite: MTH 253 (or MTH 252 and MTH 261).*

- **MTH 261** Introduction to Linear Algebra (4). Systems of linear equations, linear transformations, matrix algebra, vector spaces, and determinants. *Prerequisite: MTH 251*

- **MTH 346** Number Theory (4). A presentation of the properties of numbers as found in the theory of divisibility, congruence, diophantine equations, continued fractions, and algebraic numbers. *Prerequisites: MTH 252, MTH 261.*

- **STAT 243, 244** Basic sequence in statistical analysis including presentation of data probability, probability distributions, sampling distributions, estimation, tests of significance, experimental design and analysis of variance, regression and correlation, nonparametric statistics, selected topics, applications, and use of statistical computer packages. A broad nontechnical survey designed primarily for non-math students who need to utilize the subject in their own fields. Not approved for major credit. This is a sequence of two: STAT 243 and STAT 244 which must be taken in sequence. *Prerequisite for STAT 243:* Completion of MTH 095 with a grade of C- or above within the last year, or passing at the necessary level on the mathematics placement test within the last year (see Math Dept. webpage at mth.pdx.edu for information). *The Challenge Program strongly recommends successful completion of pre-calculus. Prerequisite for STAT 244: STAT 243.*

WORLD LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

- **CHN 201, 202, 203 (5, 5, 5) Second-Year Chinese (3 terms).** Continued work in Mandarin, with emphasis on mastering all basic grammatical structures, developing conversation skills, and building vocabulary in characters with correct pronunciation. sequence of three: CHN 201, CHN 202, AND CHN 203. Expected preparation: CHN 103. *Students to follow the sequence.*

- **FR 201, 202, 203** (4, 4, 4) Second-Year French (3 terms). Intensive review of basic materials introduced in First-Year French and further development of communication skills. *Expected preparation for FR 201: Fr 103. Students to follow the sequence.*

- **SPAN 201, 202, 203** (4, 4, 4) Second-Year Spanish (3 terms). Intensive review of basic materials introduced in First-Year Spanish and further development of communication skills. *Recommended preparation for Span 201: Span 103. Students expected to follow the sequence.*
- **SPAN 201H, 202H, 203H** Second-Year Spanish (4, 4, 4)**.** Intensive review of basic materials introduced in First-Year Spanish and further development of communication skills; for heritage speakers of Spanish. *Recommended preparation for SPAN 201: SPAN 103. Students expected to follow the sequence.*

Student Eligibility

Challenge students are required to have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. Students not meeting this requirement may request a copy of their transcript from the counseling office to upload into their registration request form for consideration by the PSU Department. Seniors have priority in Challenge classes as our courses exceed regular high school level work and Oregon learning outcomes for high school graduation.

Aside from student eligibility, we require that a minimum of 60% of the students in the class participate in Challenge. This promotes a college culture in the classroom.

It is very important to fully understand the expectations in Challenge courses. We strongly advise you to talk with your counselor or the Challenge instructor about the requirements, objectives, and design of each course so that you can assess your readiness for college-level work.

Quarters, Semesters & Year-Long Courses

Because PSU is on the quarter system (10-week courses) and many of our high schools are on the semester system (15 weeks), there are a variety of ways we have worked with high schools to determine how to cover course material—e.g., superimpose three quarters onto two semesters, match up a quarter with a semester, teach one quarter over the course of an entire academic year. The decision is based both on the department requirements and the high school's needs and interests.

For example, world language courses are taught at the high school just as on campus, in a sequence of three quarters (fall, winter, and spring) but our math classes are typically taught at the high school in two semesters. Therefore, if you take PSU Spanish and PSU calculus, you enroll and pay three times during the year for Spanish (and earn 12 credits) and two times during the year for calculus (and earn 8 credits).

Cost

The program fee for the 2019-20 Academic Year is $224.40 including the 2% credit card service fee. The fee is nonrefundable and must be collected at the time of registration. Payment is by credit card only. If you don't have a credit card, you can use a prepaid Visa or MasterCard.

The program fee for students eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program fee is $51 (including the 2% credit card fee) per class. To receive this discount we require a copy of the student's eligibility letter, or a school document verifying need, uploaded to the registration request form at the time of registration.

Registration Process

REQUEST CLASSES ➡ PROGRAM APPROVAL ➡ PAYMENT

Before You Start:

Determine whether you will need to upload any documentation in order to complete your registration. This is the case if:

- You have less than a 3.0 cumulative GPA. You will need to upload a transcript for consideration.
- You are eligible for financial aid. You will need to upload either your Free or Reduced lunch letter from this year or last year, or a school-issued letter verifying need (usually from a counselor or teacher).

Challenge Student Registration:

Go to pdx.edu/challenge-program, and click on REGISTRATION. Enter your preferred email (the one you check most frequently as this will be critical to completing registration). Based on your email address, the system will determine if:

- You are New to PSU - you will be asked to check your email to verify your identity

OR

- You have an Existing Account - you will be given your Odin username. Follow the steps to activate your account or reset your password.

Follow the steps below according to your status.

New to PSU	Existing Account
Request Classes: 1. Check your email for one titled **High School Dual Credit Program: Verification email** (**1st EMAIL**) with a "Verify Email" link. Click on the link to go to the application. 2. Complete the Student Account Application Form. Continue to the Registration for Dual Credit Courses Form, selecting program (Challenge), school, grade level, GPA, Free/Reduced lunch eligibility. Upload documentation if required. Select your class(es). 3. When you click the SUBMIT button, you will see a jumping Viking with the message that "Your registration has been submitted." Check your email for a **registration submission confirmation email** (**2nd EMAIL**).	**Request Classes**: 1. Complete the Registration for Dual Credit Courses Form, selecting program (Challenge), school, grade level, GPA, Free/Reduced lunch eligibility. Upload documentation if required. Select your class(es). 2. When you click the SUBMIT button, you will see a jumping Viking with the message that "Your registration has been submitted." Check your email for a **registration submission confirmation email** (**1st EMAIL**).

From this point forward, any additional communication about your registration request will come to your preferred email you entered on the first page. If you need to change or add anything, log back in by going back to pdx.edu/challenge-program, clicking on "Registration" and entering your email again.

Program Approval (and PSU Odin Account Setup): 1. Challenge will be monitoring these requests as they come in, checking for appropriate documentation and any mistakes while the Registrar's Office creates your PSU computer account, called an Odin account. ***This process can take from 10 minutes to two days. Check your email.*** 2. During this you will receive notice (**3rd EMAIL**) that your **PSU account is ready to be activated**. This email will include your Odin username, PSU ID number, Odin Account Activation Code, and a **link to OAM.pdx.edu (Odin Account Management system).** Click on this to activate your Odin account. (Keep this email so that you have a record of your PSU ID number.) **ACTIVATING YOUR ODIN ACCOUNT IS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT**.	**Program Approval:** 1. Challenge will be monitoring these requests as they come in, checking for appropriate documentation and any mistakes. ***This process can take from 10 minutes to two days. Check your email for any related communication.***

✪ You will NOT be registered until you have paid for the course(s). The cost is $220 per course per term (or $50 per course for those with documented financial need) with a 2% credit card fee. We do not accept checks.

Payment 1. Once your registration request is approved and you have activated your Odin account, you are ready for the final step, which is to pay. You will receive a **next-steps email (4th EMAIL).** If you have not activated your Odin account, it will remind you to do so. 2. Click on the link to review and pay, signing in with your Odin login and password. After review, click on the "Pay Now" button, which will take you to the secure payment page. Once you submit your payment, you will receive a payment receipt by email (**5th EMAIL**).	**Payment** 1. Once your registration request is approved you will receive a **next-steps email (2nd EMAIL).** 2. Click on the link to review and pay, signing in with your Odin login and password. After review, click on the "Pay Now" button, which will take you to the secure payment page. Once you submit your payment, you will receive a payment receipt by email (**3rd EMAIL**).

Important Information about your Social Security Number

PSU does not require students to provide their social security numbers to be students at our University. However, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires PSU to report tuition and fee information on the tax form 1098-T and they want your SSN to be included on the form to help in accurately processing who claims the tax credits.

If you choose not to provide your social security number when applying as a Challenge student you'll receive a letter from Portland State University in December or January pertaining to courses taken the prior calendar year stating that you are subject to a $50 penalty. The IRS requires PSU to send this letter and it is at the discretion of the IRS as to whether they impose the $50 fine.

Your PSU Status

When you enroll through Challenge at the University, you are a part-time Portland State University student. You will have part-time student privileges, including a PSU computer (ODIN) account which allows access to the PSU Information System (banweb.pdx.edu) for academic records, transcripts, etc., the classroom management system (D2L), use of the campus computer labs, and full access to the Library and its extensive online databases.

Computer account passwords expire every 6 months so check your email occasionally to see if you've received a notification to change it. Or go to oam.pdx.edu to update your password.

For any problems logging into the PSU Information System, including resetting an expired password, call the PSU HELP Desk at 503.725.4357. It is helpful, but not essential, to have your PSU ID number handy.

You are eligible for a PSU photo ID card. The card is a convenience because your PSU ID number is located on the front (9-digit number beginning with a 9). The number is essential as it identifies you as a PSU student. To obtain this card, you will need to come to campus, with government-issued ID and go to the ID Card Services window in the lobby of Neuberger Hall (Broadway street between Harrison and Hall streets). There is no cost for this.

8/2019

Dropping or Withdrawing from a Class

If you are worried about your performance in a Challenge class or feel overburdened, the first thing to do is talk with your parents and your teacher. If this is early on, you may be able to drop a Challenge class. Drop deadlines are listed below. Dropping a class will result in no record at PSU for having registered for the class.

If the drop deadline has passed you may still be able to withdraw by a later deadline. This will result in a W on your record; this does not factor into a college GPA. Withdrawal deadlines are listed below.

Drop and Withdrawal deadlines will vary depending on whether the class corresponds to the PSU quarter, is mapped to the high school semester, or overlays the entire academic year. Please see the chart below. This is also detailed on the school-specific brochure your student received in class.

To drop or withdraw, you must complete the form, available on our website at **https://www.pdx.edu/challenge-program/.**

There are no refunds for dropped or withdrawn registrations.

Challenge Program 2019-20 Deadlines

Term	Mapping	Reg. Deadline	Drop Deadline	Withdrawal Deadline
Fall	Quarter	October 1, 2019	October 24, 2019	November 21, 2019
	Semester	October 1, 2019	November 7, 2019	December 5, 2019
	Year-long	October 1, 2019	December 12, 2019	April 2, 2020
Winter	Quarter	February 18, 2020	March 5, 2020	March 12, 2020
	Semester	February 18, 2020	March 19, 2020	April 16, 2020
Spring	Quarter	April 14, 2020	April 30, 2020	May 14, 2020

8/2019

Grades

Challenge students obtain dual high school and college credit. The Challenge Program grade for the course is determined in accordance with grading criteria established by Portland State. PSU gives pluses and minuses, except no A+. The high school grade is determined in accordance with grading criteria established by the high school. Therefore, it is unlikely but possible that your PSU grade may not be the same as your high school grade.

Your high school registrar only records the high school grade. Your instructor submits PSU grades separately, to PSU. You can view your PSU grades by logging into the PSU Information System with your computer (ODIN) login and password (banweb.pdx.edu).

For schools that use proficiency-based assessments, it is important to understand that Challenge, in accordance with its accreditation standards regarding equivalency to campus practices, expects behaviors and assessment to align with college course procedures and practices, regardless of also earning high school credit. This engenders an authentic college experience in our classrooms, helps our students understand what is expected of them on a campus, and promotes transferability of our credit.

Standard PSU Grading Options

Grade	Grade Point	Performance
A	4.00	Excellent
A-	3.67	
B+	3.33	
B	3.00	Good
B-	2.67	
C+	2.33	
C	2.00	Satisfactory
C-	1.67	
D+	1.33	
D	1.00	Inferior
D-	0.67	
F	0.00	Failure

It is important for students in a Challenge class to take responsibility for their own education. If you are struggling, talk to your instructor and always be mindful of deadlines.

The Library

The library website is library.pdx.edu. Phone number is 503.725.5874. We encourage you to use the library resources both on campus and remotely (logging in with your ODIN account). Becoming familiar with the services of a large, urban university and honing research skills will prepare you well for becoming a full-time college student. Many of you will come to campus as a class to be introduced to the library. Bring your ID card or your ID number if you plan to check out books.

In addition, the library offers a variety of subject and course guides and tools to assist you in using its resources.

IMPORTANT: PSU Library Policies

- PSU Library books check out for 6 weeks and can be renewed twice. Books ordered from other libraries through the Summit system check out for 6 weeks and cannot be renewed.
- Library notices, including due dates, courtesy reminders, and overdue notices are sent to your **pdx.edu** email address. *If you don't check that email address, you are still responsible for returning the books on time.*
- You can renew by calling the Circulation Desk (503-725-4234), emailing the library at circ@lists.pdx.edu, or coming into the library and requesting a renewal.
- PSU Library books do not have daily late fees. *However, if the books are more than 40 days overdue, the lost book charge is $100 per book: $75 for the book and a $35 processing fee. The charge is sent to the Cashier's Office and the University will send you a bill in the mail.*
- *Summit books have daily overdue fines of .50 a day. Lost book charges are $90. The lost book charge is $75 and there is a $15 processing fee.*
- *You are responsible for the books checked out on your library account. If you check out books for a classmate and they don't return the books, you will have to track them down.*

The Writing Center

The Writing Center is available to you for help in a variety of ways. Check their website to see what services they offer and to set up an appointment: www.pdx.edu/writing-center.

Privacy Laws

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of the student's records. FERPA rules specify when and who gets to see a student's records (which include not only files in offices or computerized information, but also student exam scores, student essays, or other student work).

The Challenge Program cannot share information with parents about their student's Academic record; we can only provide that information to your student. If this is an issue, you must pursue this with the Office of the Registrar. For more information on FERPA, please see: www.pdx.edu/registration/guidelines-for-release-of-student-records

Disability Accommodation

Disability policies for PSU students may be different than those for high school students. Our general policy is to follow the high school/school district disability policy.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is when you present someone else's work or ideas as your own. You may do this accidently (forgetting to site a source) or on purpose (copying). Portland State (and therefore, Challenge) considers plagiarism a serious form of academic misconduct.

"Plagiarism can be:
- Copying someone's words without giving them credit;
- Quoting somebody's words incorrectly or out of context;
- Using or repeating someone's ideas or concepts without giving them credit;
- Misrepresenting someone's ideas or concepts;
- Copying images or music without permission or without proper attribution;
- Citing incorrectly - i.e. citing the wrong source or having incomplete or inaccurate citations;
- Intentionally presenting someone else's work as your own - i.e. copying off fellow students, submitting papers you didn't write, buying research papers from the Internet;
- Failing to acknowledge the contribution of others in work produced collaboratively."[*]

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[*] http://library.pdx.edu/tutorials/citation/7

8/2019

Please see the PSU Library's website (see footnote below) for more information on plagiarism and for examples of how to cite work.

As a university program, Challenge follows the PSU Student Code of Conduct. It's policy on Academic Misconduct (#9 in the Code) is as follows:

Academic Misconduct is defined as, actual or attempted, fraud, deceit, or unauthorized use of materials prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment. Unless otherwise specified by the faculty member, all submissions, whether in draft or final form, must either be the Student's own work, or must clearly acknowledge the source(s). Academic Misconduct includes, but is not limited to: (a) cheating, (b) fraud, (c) plagiarism, such as word for word copying, using borrowed words or phrases from original text into new patterns without attribution, or paraphrasing another writer's ideas; (d) the buying or selling of all or any portion of course assignments and research papers; (e) performing academic assignments (including tests and examinations) in another person's stead; (f) unauthorized disclosure or receipt of academic information; (g) falsification of research data (h) unauthorized collaboration; (i) using the same paper or data for several assignments or courses without proper documentation; (j) unauthorized alteration of student records; and (k) academic sabotage, including destroying or obstructing another student's work.

If a student is caught plagiarizing or engaging in any other act of academic dishonesty, the course instructor may issue a zero or a failing grade for the assignment in which the academic dishonesty was found, but they may not remove the student from the course or fail them on other academic assignments.   Academic units may, however, suspend the student engaging in academic dishonesty from the department or program, or expel them. In addition, the instructor or the department may submit a written complaint to the Office of Student Affairs regarding the student's misconduct.[**]

To read the PSU Student Code of Conduct, please go to pdx.edu/dos/psu-student-code-conduct

Portland State
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Ordering Official Transcripts

Requesting a transcript (an official record of courses you've taken at PSU) is the most important action in seeking recognition for your PSU University coursework.

ATTENTION

1. An official transcript must be ordered; it will NOT be sent automatically to you or to schools to which you apply.

2. Only YOU can order an official transcript.

3. You will need to know your PSU ID number or ODIN LOGIN to order a transcript.

If you are ordering transcripts to be sent to your university, find out exactly where you need to have a transcript sent (the office and address of the college you're applying to … may be an admissions or registrar's office, for example). You can get this information from your college application, the college catalog, or the college admissions office.

Wait until your instructor has submitted final PSU grades so that all your coursework is accounted for. You can indicate, on your college applications that the PSU transcript will be forwarded once you've completed your course. You can also provide an unofficial transcript through the banweb database if you already have recorded grades as well as courses in progress.

Go to the PSU Information System banweb.pdx.edu

Log in with your ODIN LOGIN and password.

NOTE: If you don't remember your password or it has expired, call the OIT Help Desk, give them your PSU ID number and ask them to reset the password. They can do this over the phone. 503.725.HELP.

On this site you can indicate the number of transcripts needed. You can have them sent directly to Admissions Offices or, if you are taking one with you to a give to an Admissions Officer, keep it sealed or else it will not be valid. Transcripts cost $5.00 each.

Transferring Credit

As a State of Oregon institution, Challenge courses count toward the completion of your bachelor's degree at PSU and other State Public community colleges, colleges, and universities.

Beyond the Oregon public institutions of higher education, PSU Challenge credit is accepted by most universities throughout the country. We are accredited by the National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP), which identifies our program as one with exceptional standards of quality on a national scale.

That said, credit recognition always remains the exclusive prerogative of the institution granting it. College policies vary in regard to transfer credit, and may be applied differently from year to year and from student to student. Many factors affect a university's decision to accept transfer credit, including the grade the student earned in the course, and how similar the course content is. Usually, however, colleges accept courses in which you've earned a C or above and that are a good match for those you would have taken on that campus. Courses that differ from those the college offers may also be transferred, but as elective credit or as meeting prerequisites. *It's important to understand that credit can be given in a variety of ways.*

Some colleges (Ivy League or some small, private liberal arts colleges) will not give credit for a college course that also fulfilled a high school graduation requirement and/or for coursework not taken on a college campus. But again, student work typically will be recognized as meeting a prerequisite or allow for advanced placement, rather than direct credit.

PSU, like many universities, is on the quarter system with the school calendar divided into 10-week terms. Many other universities and colleges are on the semester system, which runs in two 16-week sessions. When transferring credit from one system to the other, these will be weighted differently. Each quarter unit is approximately 2/3 of a semester unit.

In some cases, even where transfer credit is not normally granted as general policy, you may be able to negotiate to have your PSU coursework recognized by showing your work and demonstrating your knowledge, particularly if it is assessed by the appropriate Academic Department in terms of the learning outcomes you've met.

We strongly encourage you to keep your work—portfolios, exams, syllabi--so you can show them to college officials who need more information before accepting your transfer credit.

Things to Consider when Applying to Colleges

Policies for credit transfer are typically listed on a university's website, with their admissions information. We encourage you to take a look at the policies for the universities to which you plan to apply. We also encourage you to ask recruiters, as they visit your school, about their transfer policies for credit earned in dual credit programs, such as Challenge. If they do not accept credit, it's an opportunity to engage in a dialog about their reasons. Then, make an informed decision about where you choose to apply that includes understanding these policies.

In today's economy, choosing a school that accepts your PSU credit should be a consideration in your final decision. It can make a significant difference in the cost of your college education.

Strategies for Pursuing Credit Transfer

If your PSU credit is not accepted, we encourage you to argue for it. Start with discussing this with your college academic advisor. Check to see what course at your university matches closely to the PSU class. Especially if there is a similar course, consider making an appointment with the Chair of the appropriate Department. The idea is to show evidence of what you've learned to a faculty member who can assess your knowledge and establish if you've met the learning outcomes of their course. Bring your course syllabi, course descriptions and, if appropriate, your portfolios from the PSU courses. This strategy has worked for some of our former Challenge students.

Remember too, that credit can be recognized in a variety of ways, such as exemption from a similar required course or placement in a higher-level course. Both forms of recognition still save a student money and time.

And finally, let us know of your efforts so that we can advocate on your behalf.

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