

Institutions that have accepted Challenge Program credit include:

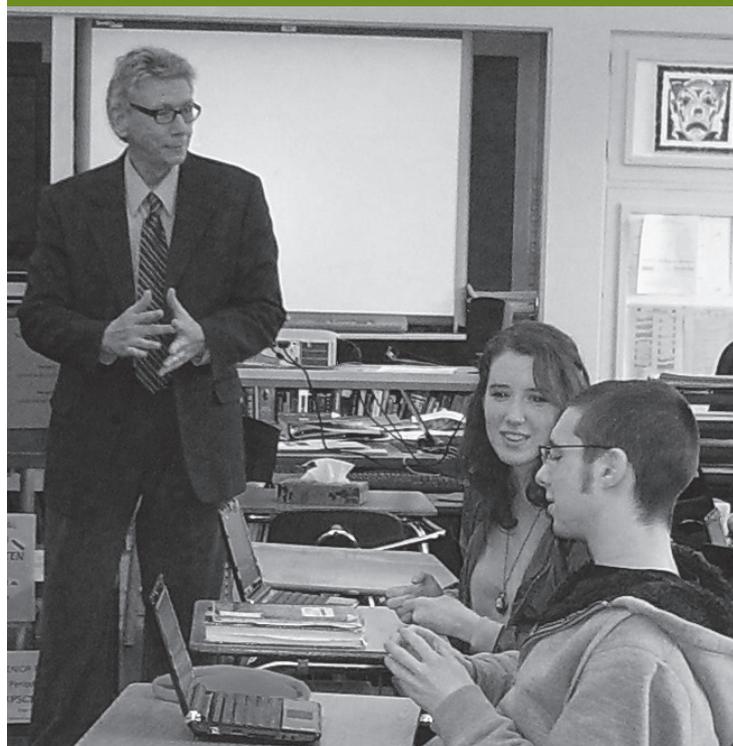
This list is taken from annual student surveys, is not comprehensive, and may not represent current policies. Not listed here but accepting credit are all Oregon State Schools.

Academy of Art University
Alabama, Birmingham, University of
Albertson College
American University
Arizona, University of
Arizona State University
Azusa Pacific University
Barry University
Belmont University
Boise State University
Boston University
Brigham Young University
British Columbia, University of
California, Berkeley, University of
California, Davis, University of
California, Los Angeles, University of
California Polytechnic (SLO)
California, San Diego, University of
California, Santa Barbara, University of
California, Santa Cruz, University of
California State University, Chico
Carlton College
Canisius College
Clark University
Clemson University
Colorado State University
Carroll College
Cedarville College
Chapman University
Charleston, College of
Clark College
Colorado at Boulder, University of
Columbia Christian College
Concordia College
Connecticut, University of
Cumberland University
Denver, University of
DePaul University
Eastern Washington University
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Emerson College
Evergreen State College
Fisk University
Foothill College
George Fox College
Georgia, University of
Gonzaga University
Grinnell College
Heald College, School of Technology
Howard University
Idaho State University
Idaho, University of
Illinois, University of
Kilgore College
Knox College
La Salle University
Lewis & Clark College
Linfield College
Lower Columbia College
Loyola Marymount University
Macalester College
Marquette University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Miami University
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Minnesota, Twin Cities, University of
Montana State University at Bozeman
Montana, University of
Mount Holyoke College
Nebraska, University of
New England Conservatory of Music
New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology
New York University
Northern Arizona University
Northwest Nazarene College
Northeastern University
Occidental College
Oklahoma Baptist University
Oklahoma Christian University
Pace University
Pacific University
Pacific Lutheran University
Pepperdine University
Pitzer College
Point Loma Nazarene University
Portland, University of
Redlands, University of
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rochester, University of
Richmond, University of
Ricks College
Saint Louis University (Spain)
Saint Olaf College
San Diego, University of
Smith College
San Francisco State University
Santa Clara University
Scripps College
Seattle University
Seattle Pacific University
Skidmore College
Stevens Institute of Technology
Southern California, University of
Southern Methodist University
St Olaf College
Stanford University
Trinity University
Utah, University of
Vanguard University of Southern California
Virginia, University of
Warner Pacific College
Washington, University of
Washington State University
Western Baptist College
Westmont College
Wheaton College
Whittier College
Whitworth College
Wichita State University
William and Mary, College of
Wisconsin, University of
Wyoming, University of
Xavier University
York College of Pennsylvania
Yakima Valley Community College

Challenge Program

An authentic college experience for high school students



Grant High School PSU Writing 222 class with Dr. Dreyer



Clackamas High School PSU Humanities student Sarah Cox presenting her winning paper at the 2011 Young Historians Conference.

Are you a high school student who would like:

To earn early college credit?

To know what a college course will be like?

To make your college application more competitive?

Take PSU courses in your high school. Smart students don't go off to college without them!

“Challenge is unique because it unites the high school and college campus. It is an example of best practices in assessment because students are evaluated often, grades are determined by the teacher, and credit is earned as it is on campus, not by a single high-stakes exam. I am an enthusiastic Challenge advocate because of what my students gain. They earn the second year Spanish college credit they deserve at a fraction of what it will cost as college freshmen. It allows them to continue on in Spanish at college in the appropriate placement with credit for levels they have already achieved. Indeed, it motivates them to continue in Spanish when they see how much closer they are to a BA or minor or double major. Instructors also benefit, through the sharing of expertise, resources, and ideas”

—Celeste Colasurdo, Southridge High School, PSU Spanish Instructor & IB Coordinator

“Skeptics doubt whether Challenge courses truly deserve to be thought of as college courses. They do. I’ve worked with many teachers over the years, and there’s little doubt in my mind that they are teaching the course we teach on campus. If anything, students in the Challenge Program tend to be better writers than many of our students on campus.”

—Duncan Carter, PSU English Faculty and long-time Challenge Writing Faculty Partner

“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 Program student

Challenge: College in the High School

PSU Challenge is a partnership linking Portland State University with secondary schools. Through this partnership, high schools offer qualified students the opportunity to enroll in PSU courses for credit. Courses are offered in high school classrooms during the regular school day. They are taught by high school teachers who meet the criteria to be hired as college instructors at PSU and have been given PSU adjunct appointments. Instructors partner with PSU department faculty members to coordinate texts and syllabi. Faculty partners visit classrooms at least once a quarter.

Reasons to consider Challenge

- ← Research indicates that students in these programs are better prepared for college expectations.
- ← Our courses provide multiple and varied assessments to evaluate work instead of one final, norm-referenced exam.
- ← Challenge students have access to PSU services—computer accounts, the library with its research databases and available training, and on-campus activities.
- ← It's a great deal. Students pay a program fee which is approximately a 70 percent savings over regular college tuition.
- ← Successful completion of coursework results in college credit from a four-year university. Your transcript doesn't distinguish your Challenge coursework from on-campus coursework.
- ← PSU actively seeks opportunities for partnership; students are invited to campus for special events and lectures. Challenge Program adjunct instructors and PSU faculty meet for professional development workshops, engaging in rich professional dialogue.

Blended Challenge and AP/IB courses

In some disciplines, the content for our PSU Challenge courses match up with content requirements in an AP or IB course. With approval from our departments, some of our participating

high schools offer courses that are both Challenge and AP or IB. Many students opt to take the course for college credit. In this way, they still have the AP or IB designation on their high school transcript but also have the assurance of college credit through their enrollment in PSU, without the stress of taking a single, high-stakes exam.

Choosing courses

The Challenge Program is demanding. Because these are university-level courses, they examine the subjects in greater depth, take more time, and require more work. Students and parents should be aware of the rigorous study necessary to succeed in a Challenge Program course and realize that a Challenge Program grade becomes part of a student's permanent college record.

Only courses that are listed in the PSU catalog as departmental offerings at the 100 and 200 undergraduate level are eligible to be taught through the Challenge Program, with rare exceptions.

School districts partner with us to select 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. Each of these courses earns 4 college credits. In all cases, at least 60% of the class must be registered for Challenge.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

- ← CS 161, CS 162, CS 163 Introduction to Programming and Problem Solving; Introduction to Computer Science (Prerequisite: CS 161); Data Structures (Prerequisite: CS 162)

ENGLISH

- ← ENG 107, 108 World Literature. Narrative prose, drama, and poetry
- ← ENG 204, 205 Survey of English Literature; From Beowulf through the Victorian Period
- ← ENG 253, 254 Survey of American Literature

- ← WR 121 College Writing. Focus on critical thinking abilities, rhetorical strategies, writing processes, and textual conventions.

- ← WR 222 Writing Research Papers

- ← WR 228 News Writing

WORLD LANGUAGES

Challenge offers 2nd year world language instruction in French and Spanish. (2nd year, college-level foreign language instruction is roughly the equivalent of 4th year high school instruction.) These courses provide an intensive review of basics introduced in 1st year courses and further development of communication skills. Course numbers and titles are:

- ← FR 201, 202, 203 Second-Year French

- ← SPAN 201, 202, 203 Second-Year Spanish

HISTORY

- ← HST 101, 102, 103 History of Western Civilization. Antiquity to Renaissance; Late Medieval to Enlightenment; Enlightenment to present

- ← HST 104, 105, 106 World History. Emergence of Human Societies; 1000-1600, Developments in Science & Technology and Impact on Social and Economic Patterns and Structures; Major Characteristics of the World Since the 18th Century

- ← HST 201, 202 History of the United States. The colonial era to the Civil War; Reconstruction of the South to present

MATHEMATICS:

- ← MTH 251, 252, 253 Calculus I, II, III. Differential and integral calculus of functions of a single variable; Analytic Geometry; Infinite Series and Applications. Courses must be taken in sequence. (Calculus I prerequisite: full year of high school pre-calculus)

- ← STAT 243, 244 Introduction to Probability and Statistics. A basic course in statistical analysis. (Prerequisite: Second-year high school algebra; pre-calculus is preferred)

Eligibility

Seniors with a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or above are eligible to enroll in Challenge. Juniors may be accepted with approval. In all cases, students must meet any posted pre-requisites prior to taking PSU coursework.

Enrollment and fees

To participate in Challenge, students must: 1) apply to the university, 2) establish their computer account, and 3) request their classes and pay the program fee through the Challenge Program system, which must be done using their PSU login and password. Full instructions for all three online steps can be found on our website at <https://www.pdx.edu/challenge-program/for-students>. The program fee for one 4-credit class is based on the current year's on-campus tuition and is approximately a 70% savings. Those with documented financial need are eligible for a discount. Students may enroll for a maximum of three classes per quarter, although the recommended maximum is two classes per quarter. The program fee is nonrefundable.

Transferring Challenge credit

Decisions about credit transfer are ultimately up to the individual universities but it is our intention to put our students in the best possible standing for credit transfer nationally. We do this both by maintaining our accreditation with the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP), which gives the Challenge Program national recognition for its quality and rigor, and, for the handful of small, private schools who restrict credit transfer from concurrent enrollment programs, by lobbying for an exception on a case-by-case basis. As a result, we have a very good record of credit transfer nationally.

Challenge Program

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