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
- Azuza Pacific University
- Barry University
- Belmont University
- Boston 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 (LSD)
- California, San Diego, University of
- California, Santa Barbara, University of
- California, Santa Cruz, University of
- California State University, Chico
- Carlson College
- Caros College
- Clark University
- Clemson University
- Colorado State University
- Colorado College
- Connecticut College
- Chapman University
- Charleston, College of
- Clark College
- Colorado at Boulder, University of
- Columbia Christian College
- Concordia College
- Connecticut, University of
- Cumberland University
- Denier, University of
- Duquesne University
- Eastern Washington University
- Emory Riddle Aeronautical University
- Emerson College
- Evergreen State College
- Fisk University
- Footbll College
- George Fox College
- Georgia, University of
- Gonzaga University
- Gonzaga College
- Hawaii College, School of Technology
- Howard University
- Idaho State University
- Idaho, University of
- Illinois, University of
- Kilgore College
- Knox College
- La Talle University
- Lewis & Clark College
- LeTourneau College
- Loomis 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
- Pass University
- Pacific, University
- Pacific Lutheran University
- Pepperdine University
- Pitzer College
- Point Loma Nazarene University
- Portland, University of
- Richmond, University of
- Rice College
- Saint Louis University (Spain)
- Saint Olaf College
- San Diego, University of
- Santa Clara University
- Scripps College
- Seattle, University of
- Seattle Pacific University
- Seattle, University of
- 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 College
- Western Baptist College
- Westminster College
- Wheaton College
- Western Washington University
- William and Mary College
- Wisconsin, University of
- Wisconsin, University of
- Xavier University
- York College of Pennsylvania
- Yakima Valley Community College

Challenge Program
An authentic college experience for high school students

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 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 high 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.
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 Program grade becomes part of a student’s permanent college record.

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.
Choose 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 credit.

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 Challenge 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

Instructors partner with PSU department faculty and have been given PSU adjunct appointments. Faculty partners visit classrooms at least once a quarter.

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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; Development 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 university but 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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