

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

Credit for External Experiences and Prior Learning

KCTCS values the varied life experiences of its students. These unique experiences and learning opportunities allow students to learn at the college level outside the formal classroom. College-level learning is the same, whether gained in the traditional classroom or through non-collegiate sources. Credit for prior learning methods allow KCTCS credits to be awarded when academically sound and rigorous processes validate equivalencies. Awarding credit for prior learning accelerates students towards completion of credentials, saves time and money, improves student retention, and gets students more rapidly into high-skill, high-wage, in-demand jobs in their chosen industry.

1. Articulation Agreements

Articulation agreements provide a mechanism to accept and award credit for courses that will transfer toward a credential. Articulation agreements specify the terms and conditions for courses taken at other institutions that will apply to a KCTCS credential, and/or the terms and conditions for courses taken at KCTCS that will apply to credentials or degree programs at other institutions. In either case, the award of applicable credit to the credential is subject to the specific terms of each agreement and all requirements specified in the agreement must be met before credit can be awarded. For information about articulation agreements for KCTCS credentials, contact the college Student Records Office.

a. CTE 2 KCTCS - High School Articulation

Statewide High School Articulation, which is required by statute as of July 1, 2022 (KRS 164.2951(2)(o)), is an alternative method for college credit for secondary CTE completers who may not have the opportunity to take dual credit for specific technical courses. Public high school students now have two early postsecondary opportunities to earn college credit through the skills, competencies, credentials, and coursework they complete in their secondary CTE program. Students can start with their high school instructor to receive credit.

2. Military Service Experience

A student may receive course credit where appropriate and equivalent courses are available for formal military training or education as recommended in the ACE Military Guide published by the American Council on Education (ACE). Students will need to submit their Joint Service Transcript (<https://jst.doded.mil/jst/registration/>) to the Registrar of their home KCTCS college and visit the KCTCS veteran's services coordinator on that campus. There is no cost to be awarded credit for training received in the military.

3. Special Exam: STEP (Special Technical Education Proficiency) or Challenge

Institutionally developed and administered exams provide an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of course content and receive credit toward program requirements. The student must be accepted for admission and enrolled in the college, and apply for the exam through the Student Records Office. For more information, see "Tuition and Charges." A STEP test allows students to earn credit in technical courses by assessing learning acquired through non-college experiences. Challenge exams enable students to test out of courses not required for the program but are prerequisites for the higher-level required program courses.

- **Challenge Exam** - A Challenge Exam is utilized in cases where a student requests to test out of general or developmental subject matter. An example would be supplemental instruction courses that support math or English.
- **STEP Exam** - A Special Technical Education Proficiency (STEP) Exam is utilized in technical programs when students believe they have knowledge and skills to test out of a course such as welding, electrical, and others. A student may have taken related courses in high school or acquired skills through a position at work.
- **Portfolio**

A portfolio is a formal faculty-validated narrative of your learning. Students need to align their prior learning, supported by experiences, to the learning outcomes of a college-level course. That is the main component of the narrative. The vital point is not what you have done but how and what you have learned through those activities. Portfolio students may contact any KCTCS college for information regarding applications for college credit via portfolio. For more information, please meet with your KCTCS academic advisor.

1. Non-Classroom Learning Experiences

2. Work-Based Learning Experiences

Many diploma and degree programs offered through the colleges include Work-Based Learning in the curriculum. Work-Based Learning refers to the programs that provide academic credit for degree-related work experience during a specific semester. The experiences and credit awarded vary according to the program's requirements. The experiences and credits awarded vary according to the program's requirements. The college and the employer must be planned and supervise these experiences to ensure that the work experience contributes to the student's education and career objective. The cornerstone of Work-Based Learning is Cooperative Education. Internships, Practicums and Experiential Learning are other programs considered part of Work-Based Learning. These courses offer students unique opportunities to integrate formal classroom training with supervised work experience.

3. Service-Learning

Service-Learning Students can enroll in service-learning programs designed to integrate community service with academic instruction as it focuses on critical and reflective thinking and civic responsibility. Service-learning programs involve students in organized community service that addresses local needs, while developing academic skill, sense of civic responsibility and commitment to the community.

External Exams

Advanced Placement (AP) - AP Exams are standardized exams and designed to measure how well a student has mastered the content and skills of a specific AP course. KRS 164.098 requires Kentucky institutions to award credit for scores of 3 or higher on the Advanced Placement Tests. KCTCS colleges participate in the Advanced Placement Program of the College Board. Therefore, interested students should have their official examination results sent to the Admissions Office of their local KCTCS college. In addition, students are responsible for providing a transcript of AP credits earned.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) - CLEP offers over 30 exams covering introductory college course material. Students must score a minimum of 50 on the exam to have course credit earned. Therefore, interested students should have their official examination results sent to

the Admissions Office of their local KCTCS college. In addition, students are responsible for providing a transcript of CLEP credits earned.

DSST (DANTES Subject Standardized Tests) - The DSST started as an exam offering military members college credit, administered by Prometric, but is now available to anyone. There are over 30 DSST exams in business, humanities, math, physical science, social sciences, and technology. Interested students should have their official examination results sent to the Admissions Office of their local KCTCS college. A minimum score is 400, but depending on the exam, a higher score may be required for credit. In addition, students are responsible for providing a transcript of the DSST test taken to be considered for credit.

International Baccalaureate (IB) - Most US colleges have recognized the International Baccalaureate program. The IB Diploma program is an intense curriculum for high school juniors and seniors emphasizing intercultural understanding and enrichment. It culminates in six rigorous subject exams. Interested students should have their official examination results sent to the Admissions Office of their local KCTCS college. In addition, students are responsible for providing a transcript of IB credits earned.

Guidelines for DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST)

Exam Subject	Scaled Score to Earn Credit	Equivalent Course	Credit Hours
Astronomy	400	TRN 130	3

Guidelines for Advanced Placement Credit

AP Subject Examination	Scaled Score to Earn Credit	Equivalent Course	Credit Hours
African American Studies	3-5	Elective Credit**	3 credit hours
AP Research Capstone	3-5	Elective Credit**	3 credit hours
AP Seminar Capstone	3-5	Elective Credit**	3 credit hours
Art History	3	ART 105 or ART 106	3 credit hours
	4-5	ART 105 and ART 106	6 credit hours
Biology	3-5	BIO 112	3 credit hours
Calculus AB	3-5	MAT 175	5 credit hours
Calculus BC	3-5	MAT 175 and MAT 185	10 credit hours
Chemistry	3	CHE 170	4 credit hours
	4-5	CHE 170 and CHE 180	8 credit hours
Chinese Language and Culture	3	RAE 150	4 credit hours
	4-5	RAE 150 and RAE 151	8 credit hours
Comparative Government and Politics	3-5	POL 210	3 credit hours
Computer Science A	3	Elective Credit**	3 credit hours
	4-5	CIT 149	3 credit hours

Computer Science Principles	3-5	Elective Credit**	3 credit hours
English Language/Composition	3-5	ENG 101	3 credit hours
English Literature/Composition	3-5	ENG 161	3 credit hours
Environmental Science	3-5	EST 150	4 credit hours
European History	3-5	HIS 104 and HIS 105	6 credit hours
French Language	3	FRE 201	3 credit hours
	4-5	FRE 201 and FRE 202	6 credit hours
German Language	3	GER 201	3 credit hours
	4-5	GER 201 and GER 202	6 credit hours
Human Geography	3-5	GEO 172	3 credit hours
Italian Language and Culture	3	Elective Credit**	3 credit hours
	4-5	Elective Credit**	6 credit hours
Japanese Language and Culture	3	JPN 201	3 credit hours
	4-5	JPN 201 and JPN 202	6 credit hours
Latin: Vergil	3	Elective Credit**	3 credit hours
	4-5	Elective Credit**	6 credit hours
Macroeconomics	3-5	ECO 202	3 credit hours
Microeconomics	3-5	ECO 201	3 credit hours
Music Theory	3-5	MUS 174	3 credit hours
Physics 1	3-5	PHY 151	3 credit hours
Physics 2	3-5	PHY 152	3 credit hours
BOTH Physics 1 and Physics 2	4-5	BOTH PHY 201 ^{2,*} and PHY 203 ^{2,*}	8 credit hours
Physics C: Mechanics	3-4	PHY 201 ^{1,*}	4 credit hours
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	3-4	PHY 203 ^{1,*}	4 credit hours
Physics C: Mechanics	5	PHY 231 ^{2,*}	4 credit hours
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	5	PHY 232 ^{2,*}	4 credit hours
Precalculus	3-5	MAT 171	5 credit hours
Psychology	3-5	PSY 110	3 credit hours
Spanish Language	3	SPA 201	3 credit hours
	4-5	SPA 201 and 202	6 credit hours
Spanish Literature	3-5	Elective Credit (humanities)**	3 credit hours

Statistics	3-5	STA 220	3 credit hours
Studio Art 2-D Design	3-5	ART 112	3 credit hour
Studio Art 3-D Design	3-5	ART 113	3 credit hours
Studio Art – Drawing	3-5	ART 110	3 credit hours
US Government & Politics	3-5	POL 101	3 credit hours
US History	3-5	HIS 108 and HIS 109	6 credit hours
World History - Modern	3-5	HIS 102	3 credit hours

¹ Credit is not given for PHY 151 or PHY 152 to students who receive credit for PHY 201 and PHY 203.

² Credit is not given for PHY 201 or PHY 203 to students who receive credit for PHY 231 or PHY 232, respectively.

* Upon presentation of documentation of appropriate laboratory experience, credit will also be given for the laboratory portions of these courses.

**KCTCS does not offer courses that are an exact equivalent for the AP subject offered. Appropriate General Education or technical elective credit is awarded in these cases.

Guidelines for CLEP General Examinations

CLEP Subject Examination	Scaled Score to Earn Credit	Equivalent Course	Credit Hours
Foreign Languages			
College Level French Language	50-65	FRE 201	3
College Level French Language	66 or above	FRE 201, FRE 202	6
College Level German Language	50-65	GER 201	3
College Level German Language	66 or above	GER 201, GER 202	6
College Level Spanish Language	50-65	SPA 201	3
College Level Spanish Language	66 or above	SPA 201, SPA 202	6
History and Social Sciences			
American Government	50 or above	POL 101	3
History of the United States I	50 or above	HIS 108	3
History of the United States II	50 or above	HIS 109	3
Introductory Psychology	50 or above	PSY 110	3

Principles of Macroeconomics	50 or above	ECO 202	3
Principles of Microeconomics	50 or above	ECO 201	3
Introductory Sociology	50 or above	SOC 101	3
Western Civilization I: Ancient Near East to 1648	50 or above	HIS 104	3
Western Civilization II: 1648 to the Present	50 or above	HIS 105	3
Social Sciences and History	50 or above	SOC 101	3
Human Growth and Development	50 or above	AHS 100	2
Science and Mathematics			
Calculus	50 or above	MAT 174 or MAT 175	4, 5
College Mathematics	50 or above	MAT 146	3
College Algebra	50 or above	MAT 150	3
Pre-calculus	50 or above	MAT 160	5
Biology	50-59	BIO 112	3
Biology	60-64	BIO 120, BIO 112	6
Biology	65-80	BIO 150, BIO 152	6
Chemistry	50 or above	CHE 170, CHE 180	8
Natural Sciences	50 or above	BIO 112	3
Business and Computer Applications			
Financial Accounting	50 or above	ACC 201	3
Principles of Management	50 or above	BAS 283	3
Principles of Marketing	50 or above	BAS 282	3
Introduction to Business Law	50 or above	BAS 267	3
Information Systems	50 or above	Elective Credit	3
English and Humanities			
American Literature	50 or above	ENG 251	3
Analyzing and Interpreting Literature	50 or above	ENG 161	3
English Literature	50 or above	ENG 161	3
Humanities	50 or above	HUM 120	3

College Composition or College Composition Modular	50 or above	ENG 101	3
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Guidelines for International Baccalaureate (IB)

IB Course	Score	Credit Awarded	Credit Statement
Biology HL	4	BIO 152	3 credit hours
Biology SL	4	BIO 112	3 credit hours
Chemistry HL	4	CHE 170, CHE 180	8 credit hours
Chemistry SL	4	CHE 140	3 credit hours
English A: Literature HL	4	ENG 101	3 credit hours
French B HL	5	FRE 201, FRE 201	6 credit hours
French B SL	5	FRE 101, FRE 102	8 credit hours
History HL	5	HIS 108, HIS 109	6 credit hours
Mathematics HL	5	MA 113	4 credit hours
Mathematics SL	5	MAT 170	3 credit hours
Math Studies SL	5	Technical Math Elective	3 credit hours
Music SL/HL	4	MUS 100	3 credit hours
Physics SL/HL	5	PHY 201 ¹	4 credit hours
Psychology SL	4	PSY 110	3 credit hours
Spanish B HL	5	SPA 201, SPA 202	6 credit hours
Spanish B SL	5	SPA 101, SPA 102	8 credit hours
Theatre Arts HL/ SL	4	THA 101	3 credit hours
Visual Art HL/SL	4	ART 100	3 credit hours

¹ Upon presentation of documentation of appropriate laboratory experience, credit will also be given for the laboratory associated with this course, PHY 202 College Physics I Laboratory (1 credit hours).