

Technical Competency Credit Frequently Asked Questions

Recent Rule and Statute Changes to Technical Competency Credit (TCC)

*Idaho State Board of Education GOVERNING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SECTION: III. POSTSECONDARY AFFAIRS
SUBSECTION: Y. Advanced Opportunities February 2015¹ excerpt:*

Section 2. Definitions

C. Technical Competency Credit (TCC)

- i. Technical Competency Credit (TCC) allows secondary students to document proficiency in the skills and abilities they develop in approved high school career technical programs to be evaluated for postsecondary transcription at a later date. In addition to the standards outlined in section 4.d below, additional policies of the transcribing post-secondary institution may also apply.
- ii. Technical Competency Credits are awarded for skills and competencies identified as eligible TCC through a TCC Agreement with at least one Idaho postsecondary institution. Eligible skills and competencies are included in approved high school career technical programs and approved by the postsecondary institution in advance. **Students participating in a high school program approved for TCC are not considered postsecondary students until they matriculate to a postsecondary institution.**

Section 3. Idaho Programs Standards for Advanced Opportunities Programs

D. Technical Competency Credit (TCC) Standards

Students

Students 1 (S1) Technical Competency Credit (TCC) students are high school students; they are neither enrolled in the postsecondary institution nor counted as dual credit students. Students may request transcription of TCCs onto a postsecondary transcript after demonstrating the required level of proficiency; they must follow the transcribing institution's TCC transcription policy and pay the transcription fee discussed in standard AE1. **After completing a TCC course or sequence according to the articulation agreement, the credits must be transcribed within the time period required by the transcribing institution and in no instance longer than two years**

Idaho Administrative Code changed the definition of Technical Competency Credit² in March 2016:

01. Technical Competency Credit. Technical competency credit is a sequenced program of study that allows secondary students to document proficiency in the skills and abilities they develop in approved high school career-technical programs to be evaluated for postsecondary transcription at a later date. Technical Competency Credits are awarded for skills and competencies identified as eligible through an agreement with at least one Idaho postsecondary institution. Eligible skills and competencies are included as part of a high school career-technical program and approved by the postsecondary institution through the agreement in advance to

¹ https://boardofed.idaho.gov/policies/documents/policies/iii/iiiy_advanced_opportunities_0215.pdf

² <https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/08/0203.pdf>

student participation. Credits are granted by the postsecondary institution for which the agreement is with and are transcribed at the time the student enrolls at the postsecondary institution. (3-25-16)

Board Policy III.L, Continuing Education and Credit for Prior Learning (excerpt) – First Reading October 20, 2016

The “Definitions” place TCC under Prior Learning Assessment, Section 3 – Faculty developed assessments

The “Minimum Standards” for the “Administration of Prior Learning Assessments” include:

- i. Prior learning should be evaluated upon a student’s request and be eligible for credit through a PLA if it is demonstrated by successfully passing an appropriately rigorous assessment. CPEL is only awardable to enrolled students.
- ii. The definitions outlined and recommended in section 1, above, shall apply statewide.
- iii. Institutions are responsible for determining how best to implement PLAs within the context of its mission, culture, student needs and academic programs.
- iv. The Institutions shall ensure students have access to the most appropriate and current prior learning assessment methods.
- v. Each institution shall (a) assign oversight of PLAs to its highest ranking Academic Officer or his/her designee and (b) designate at least one liaison (person or place) to serve as a PLA resource for faculty, administrators, staff and students.
- vi. Idaho’s PLA infrastructure shall ensure maximum transferability of CPEL among the institutions.
- vii. Institutions shall ensure information technology systems can consistently record and track PLA data, as well as enable accurate reporting.
- viii. When appropriate and with approval from the faculty on campus, PLAs shall be made available for approved programs in a consistent, transferable and comparable manner.
- ix. Institutions shall provide professional development for those faculty members, administrators, and staff working with PLA students to assure high quality, transparency, and consistency in evaluating and awarding CPEL.
- x. Fees charged to students for the administration of PLAs must be based on and reflect the operational costs of administering a PLA. Assessment fees may not be based on the number of credits awarded.
- xi. Institutions shall integrate the review of institutional PLA practices into existing curricular review cycles and NWCCU Accreditation reviews to maintain their currency and relevance.

How does ICTE interpret Board rules and policy with respect to Technical Competency Credit?

Given the references above, TCC is available to high school students, who meet the requirements under statewide and individual articulation agreements, upon their request when enrolling into a postsecondary institution.

How does the two year time period effect students who are entering the military and/or completing a religious mission prior to enrollment at a postsecondary institution?

Board policy is clear that TCC cannot be transcribed prior to enrollment at a postsecondary institution and beyond two years following the completion of a TCC course or sequence. The institution however has latitude to consider Credit for Prior Experiential Learning using the requirements for TCC, if the institution determines that to be in their best interests and it is included in their Continuing Education and Prior Learning policy.

When does the two year time period start with TCC?

- Individual Articulations: For TCC provided under individual articulation agreements, the time period would begin at the time the TCC course or sequence is completed by the student. For example, if the articulation is a course-for-course articulation, the time period would begin upon completion of that course.
- Statewide Articulations: For TCC provided under the statewide articulation agreements where Idaho SkillStack® is used to communicate proficiency/competency, the time period commences when the student earns the TCC badge. In practice, this should coincide with high school graduation as a student is required to pass their technical skills assessment, and complete any postsecondary assessments required under the agreement.

Do individual badges earned by students in SkillStack® expire after two years?

In most cases, individual badges that are earned by high school students as they progress through their CTE sequence, will not expire. There may be circumstances where industry requests that a badge expire after a certain time period from the standpoint that the skills need to be refreshed, but generally, once a student earns a badge, their badge will not expire. The TCC badge consists of one or more individual badges along with the technical skills and postsecondary assessment requirements. The TCC badge expires two years following completion of the aforementioned assessments. The student will retain all non-expiring individual badges housed under the TCC badge even after it expires.

Which institution should transcribe the TCC?

For TCC provided under statewide articulation agreements, the student should request their credit from the institution they are enrolling in. For TCC provided under individual articulation agreements, the student must request their credit from the institution that is signatory to the agreement upon enrollment.

Can a student transcribe TCC credit that does not apply directly to the program they are enrolling in?

The postsecondary institution is responsible for determining whether a student is eligible to transcribe credit (through its internal policy on transcribing TCC and/or PLA). The primary focus of Transition Coordinators is to help high school students enrolled in career & technical programs transition to college and make informed, purposeful decisions regarding the transcription of postsecondary credit.

How should TCC be communicated to high school students?

TCC is college credit that can be placed on their transcript after they enroll in a postsecondary institution. Eligibility for TCC expires a maximum of two years after they have met all the qualifications to earn the credit. Regardless of whether a student earns college credit, the SkillStack® badges that are accumulated in high school may have additional value to the student in communicating their skills to employers and/or indicating preparedness for an industry certification.

As statewide articulation agreements are executed and SkillStack® is implemented as the platform to track eligibility for TCC, how can seniors meet the requirements to earn the badges needed for TCC (previously in CATEMA)?

SkillStack® is a competency-based platform and badges can be awarded by high school teachers upon demonstration of proficiency. If a student has already taken a course where the skills for a specific badge (or

badges) were taught, the high school teacher can ascertain that the student is proficient and award the badge(s).

Should articulation agreements be written for CTE programs that are in the process of becoming horizontally aligned?

This is at the discretion of the postsecondary institution; however, it is advised that the institution carefully consider whether they will be able to honor the articulation agreement once course changes are implemented the following Fall semester (i.e. the semester most students would be enrolling and requesting credit).

Can a CTE course be offered for both Dual Credit and TCC?

The postsecondary institution may agree to sponsor a high school course for both Dual Credit and TCC. The high school teacher would need to meet the postsecondary institutions' requirements for Dual Credit, and the student would choose between Dual Credit and TCC. High school teachers should award badges, upon demonstrated proficiency to all students in the course, as the badges hold additional value in sharing skills with employers whether postsecondary credit was received or not.

Are all CTE programs required to have an articulation agreement?

- Pathway and Career Specialty programs are expected to have an articulation agreement or participate in the statewide articulation as soon as it's available.
- Cluster programs are not required to have an articulation agreement; however, they may have an individual articulation with a postsecondary institution. SkillStack® badges can be used to support individual articulation agreements upon request by the postsecondary institution.