

PROJECT CHALLENGE PROCEDURES

Northeast Community College, along with other public colleges and universities in Nebraska, support programs which provide college-level courses for high school students who demonstrate the advanced skills required for successful completion of such courses. These programs expand educational opportunities for capable high school students and result in more efficient use of public educational resources. "Project Challenge" is such a program.

The Northeast Community College Project Challenge is a cooperative program, formalized with a written contract, between Northeast and participating area high school districts. Project Challenge provides a mechanism for high school juniors and seniors to take entry level college courses and earn college credits while yet in high school. These courses are offered to students in their high school during the regular high school day. Project Challenge courses are taught using college textbooks, objectives and with the same level of rigor as on campus classes.

GUIDELINES

1. Faculty Qualifications

Instructors who are not regular full-time faculty of the college must be approved and formally appointed, yearly, as adjunct faculty members by the academic unit in which the course is taught on campus. Adjunct faculty members are required to have the same qualifications as faculty who teach the course on campus typically including at least a masters degree in the discipline or a minimum of 18 graduate hours in the discipline being taught.

Adjunct instructors for these courses shall be assigned a college faculty mentor who is a regular full-time faculty member. The mentor will be available to provide guidance and assistance to the instructor as needed throughout the course. The instructor should have regular contact with the main campus academic unit.

2. Student Admission

All students enrolled in Project Challenge classes must:

- a. Be a junior or senior
- b. Meet the prerequisites of the course
- c. Complete an Early Entry Application signed by a high school official

Northeast Community college has the following recommended academic guidelines:

- Rank in the upper ½ of their high school class
- Have attained a GPA of 3.0 or better
- Earned an ACT composite score of at least 20 or an equivalent score on other standardized test.
- Earned an ACT sub-score of at least 20 or equivalent on other standardized test.

Northeast may elect to administer a placement test to assure readiness of students to benefit from the course.

3. Curriculum

Course syllabi shall be submitted in the approved college format. Course objectives, syllabi, texts, laboratories, tutorials, and other elements of a course should be the same as the on-campus course regardless of the course location. Direct classroom contact hours shall be at least 15 hours of lecture, 30 academic laboratory hours, or 45 vocational laboratory hours for each one semester credit hour. Participating high schools may require additional instructional time without increasing the number of credits earned.

4. Instructional Context and Resources

All institutions must assure that students have access to adequate print and electronic resources. All Project Challenge students shall be granted access to the college library print and electronic resources. The high school shall provide the instructional equipment, laboratories, computer equipment, software and materials that are required for the course and that are comparable to the resources available to the students taking the course on the main campus.

5. Validation of Credits

The standards for credits awarded for a particular course are the same regardless of the location of the class. Students must meet the objectives and requirements outlined for the course. Credits are recorded on the Northeast Community College transcript at the completion of the course. Credits may be transferred to other post-secondary institutions based upon existing articulation agreements.

Decisions regarding the awarding of high school credits for the completion of college courses offered in the high school shall be made by the participating high school.

6. Evaluation of Instruction

Course and instructor evaluations will be conducted by Northeast Community College personnel. A summary of the Student Evaluation of Instruction and any comments from the Dean will be shared with the instructor and the school administration. The evaluation may include a comparison of student performance on a common final exam as well as classroom and student evaluations.

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