

STRATEGIES FOR WHEN THERE IS A BLANKET POLICY OF NOT ACCEPTING CREDIT FROM A DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM

We have a long and solid history of our credit transferring to other universities; our annual surveys usually fall within a 92-94% success rate. That said, there is a handful of small private schools and Ivy League colleges with very rigid transfer policies, that reject any college credit earned from a dual credit program such as Challenge. The objection usually that courses not taught on a college campus cannot be truly college classes and /or earning both high school and college credit for the same class is not appropriate (termed "double-dipping").

If you encounter this, we hope the following will help you negotiate for the credit you earned through us.

1. Regarding whether the coursework was substantive college work, you will need to provide evidence. To do this, start by making sure you have your syllabi, course portfolios, exams ... whatever you can use to demonstrate the content and rigor of the course.

Make an appointment to talk to the person at your college who has the power to make credit transfer decisions. That person varies from institution to institution. Begin by asking your academic advisor; if she or he doesn't know, our recommendation is to talk with a department chairperson who is in the best position to assess the content of the coursework. Matching course content and rigor is the foundation to credit transfer.

Contact us so that we can help build your case. We can provide a detailed letter of support that explains our program and what we do to help bridge campus to the high school to ensure our students have a substantive college experience. Often our faculty and your instructor will do the same.

2. As for the issue of "double dipping," the objection really centers on whether the credit earned from high school was required for high school graduation. In this case, ask your high school Registrar to write a letter on your behalf explaining that the course you took for both high school and college credit exceeded high school graduation requirements (you do not have to take a college class in order to graduate from high school). Some of our students actually request to NOT take the course for high school credit, if they know they are applying to schools where this might be an issue.

Remember that there are other ways your PSU credit can be recognized by your college other than equivalent or elective credit. You may be exempt from taking a similar required course, or you may be placed in a higher-level course as a result of your PSU experience. Both forms of recognition will benefit you by allowing you more room in your program to take courses in your major and interesting electives. Typically colleges will not force you to take coursework you've already had. Your job will be to make and support that argument.

Finally, remember that your PSU record is permanent. Many of our students have gotten credit for their PSU work when they transfer to another school or go on to Graduate School.