

CHALLENGE PROGRAM



Southridge High School PSU WR 121 students: Campus Visit 2019

Student/Parent Handbook

2025-26

"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 Student

Challenge students,

Welcome to Challenge, a 50-year-old concurrent enrollment program between Portland State University and Portland-area high schools, where qualified high school instructors are granted honorary adjunct status to teach catalog-listed PSU courses at your high school, providing you an opportunity to earn college credit, for a fraction of the cost on campus.

The Challenge Program is the only one in Oregon accredited by the National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP). NACEP accredited programs meet a comprehensive set of quality standards (regarding faculty, students, curriculum, assessment, and evaluation) that provide an imprimatur of quality and campus alignment. The program reports directly to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Portland State and curriculum is carefully governed by our participating departments. The Challenge mission is to provide an authentic college experience.

This booklet contains important information about the Challenge Program, your courses, and what you can expect when you register as a part-time PSU student. Keep it handy throughout the year as a reference and share it with your parents. Should you have questions not answered here, please check with your instructor or contact the Challenge office at challengeprogram@pdx.edu or call 503-725-3430. I encourage you to visit the PSU campus and utilize the [Challenge Program website](#) which is a great repository of information.

I wish you the very best of luck with your coursework this year.



Joy Beckett, Director

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Why Challenge?

In today's drive to provide rigorous postsecondary academic challenges to high school students in their own environments, Challenge offers benefits that set it apart from other programs that earn college credit. The Challenge Program:

- builds a community of faculty and instructors that is the foundation of Challenge's success. It provides a venue for support and shared information that reinforces the connection between the campus and the classroom.
- encourages and supports class visits to campus to help familiarize students with Oregon's largest university and to use student resources such as the library online databases and computer accounts as well as attend special events, such as the Young Historians Conference.
- gives instructors the academic freedom to determine how to meet PSU standards and does not restrict them by making them focus on teaching to a high-stakes final exam; nor are students sidelined by weeks of test preparation.
- strives for both an academic and cultural college experience and holds students to college-level expectations, smoothing the transition to college.
- is the only Oregon concurrent enrollment program that is accredited both at the state and national levels. The Program has been featured twice in the US World & News Report Special issue on Colleges.

Courses Offered

Schools partner with Challenge to select catalog-listed college 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. In schools where more than one Challenge course is offered, students can take up to three classes at a time, although two is the recommended maximum.

Challenge courses—typically at the 100-200 college level and earning 4 or 5 college credits—are listed below. ***Please make note of any required or preferred prerequisites.***

COMPUTER SCIENCE:

- **CS 161** Introduction to Programming and Problem-Solving (4 credits). Introduction to fundamental concepts of computer science. Problem solving, algorithm and program design, data types, loops, control structures, subprograms, and arrays. Learn to write programs in a high-level programming language. Surveys current social and ethical aspects of computer science. ***Recommended prerequisite: MTH 111Z.***
- **CS 162** Introduction to Computer Science (4 credits). The goals of this class are to teach the syntax of C++ to students who already know how to program. Students are expected to be proficient at using conditionals, I/O, loops, and functions with arguments. Topics include: conditionals, I/O, files, functions, classes, pointers, dynamic memory, linear linked lists, and multi-dimensional arrays in C++, as well as program correctness, verification, and testing. ***Prerequisite: CS 161 or prior programming experience equivalent to CS 161.***

ENGLISH

- **ENG 254** Survey of American Literature II (4 credits). An introduction to American literature from the mid-nineteenth century to the present.

ENGLISH: WRITING

- **WR 121Z** Composition I (4 credits). Engages students in the study and practice of critical thinking, reading, and writing. The course focuses on analyzing and composing across varied rhetorical situations and in multiple genres. Students will apply key rhetorical concepts flexibly and collaboratively throughout their writing and inquiry process.
- **WR 222** Writing Research Papers (4 credits). Introduction to academic inquiry, with focus on evaluating and engaging with secondary research and on conventions for documentation. ***Recommended prerequisite: WR 121Z. An elective course; may not be used to fulfill PSU English major requirements.***
- **WR 228** Media Writing (4 credits). An introductory course in reporting and writing for fact-checked mass media, such as newspapers and broadcasting. Focus on identifying and constructing stories, interviewing, and attributing quotes. May be repeated once for a total of 8 credits. ***Recommended preparation: WR 121Z. May be repeated once for a total of 8 credits.***

GEOLOGY:

- **G 201** Dynamic Earth: Interior (3 credits) and **G 204** Lab (1 credit). Explores the Earth's structure and composition, why continents and oceans form, and how plate tectonics provide a unifying model to explain geological observations. Topics include the concept of deep time, the relationship between geology and topography, plate tectonics, volcanism, earthquakes, magnetism, rocks and minerals, mountain building, basin formation. **This is the first course in a sequence of two: G 201 and G 202.**
- **G 202** Dynamic Earth: Surface (3 credits) and **G 205** Lab (1 credit). Explores how weather and climate alter the Earth's surface and landscapes over time due to rock weathering, mountain building, the action of streams, glaciers, wind, and ocean waves and currents. Embedded in these topics is the discussion of human practices impacting the natural environment. **This is the second course in a sequence of two: G 201 and G 202.**

HISTORY:

- **HST 102, 103** Early Modern Europe and the World (4, 4 credits). Surveys the history of early modern Europe and its inter-regional and global connections from roughly 1400-1800 C.E. Part of sequence consisting of: HST 101: Age of Empires: The Medieval World; HST 102: Early Modern Europe and the World; HST 103: Modern Europe and the World.
- **HST 104, 105, 106** Introduction to World History (4, 4, 4 credits). A survey of world history from earliest times to the present, combining both chronological and thematic approaches. HST 104: Origins to 1000 CE, HST 105: 1000-1600 CE, HST 106: 1500-present. This is the first course in a sequence of three: HST 104, HST 105, and HST 106.
- **HST 203** History of the United States (4 credits). General survey of United States history. 1914 to present.

HONORS:

- **HON 101, 102, 103** The Global City (5, 5, 5 credits). This year-long (three terms) sequence introduces ways to think critically about the urban environment and the interdependence between the city and the global world. It begins the study of representations and perceptions of the city, the city in historical context, and the processes that shape the city's geopolitical manifestations. Courses in this series must be taken in order. **Prerequisite for HON 102 is HON 101. Prerequisite for HON 103 is HON 102. Restricted to Seniors who have a recommendation from the instructor.**

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS:

- **MTH 251** Calculus I (4 credits). Differential calculus of functions of a single variable, including limits, the definition and computation of the derivative, and applications of the derivative. This is the first course in a sequence of three: MTH 251, MTH 252, and MTH 253, which must be taken in sequence. **Note:** Challenge typically teaches just CALC I and CALC II, matched to a high school's two semesters. **Prerequisite: Completion of MTH 112, preferably with a grade of B or above.**
- **MTH 252** Calculus II (4 credits). Integral calculus of functions of a single variable, including the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, numerical integration and applications. This is the second course in a sequence of three: MTH 251, MTH 252, and MTH 253, which must be taken in sequence. **Prerequisite: MTH 251.**

- **MTH 253** Calculus III (4 credits). Introduction to differential equations, infinite series, parametric equations, polar coordinates, and conic sections. This is the third course in a sequence of three: MTH 251, MTH 252, and MTH 253, which must be taken in sequence. **Prerequisite: MTH 252.**
- **MTH 254** Calculus VI (4 credits). An introduction to differential and integral calculus of functions of several variables including vector geometry, the calculus of vector valued functions, and applications. **Prerequisite: MTH 253 (or MTH 252 and MTH 261).**
- **MTH 255** Calculus V (4 credits). Further study of multiple integrals, line and surface integrals, Green's theorem, Stokes' theorem, the divergence theorem, and applications. **Prerequisite: MTH 254.**
- **MTH 261** Introduction to Linear Algebra (4 credits). Systems of linear equations, linear transformations, matrix algebra, vector spaces, and determinants. **Prerequisite: MTH 251.**
- **MTH 356** Discrete Mathematics (4 credits). Topics in discrete mathematics, including propositional logic, sets, relations, inverse functions, divisibility, induction, recurrences, inclusion-exclusion, permutations, combinations, graphs, graph coloring, and applications. **Prerequisite: MTH 261.**
- **STAT 243Z** Elementary Statistics (4 credits). A first course in statistics focusing on the interpretation and communication of statistical concepts. Introduces exploratory data analysis, descriptive statistics, sampling methods and distributions, point and interval estimates, hypothesis tests for means and proportions, and elements of probability and correlation. Technology will be used when appropriate. This is the first course in a sequence of two: STAT 243Z and STAT 244 which must be taken in sequence. **Prerequisite: Completion of high school precalculus with a grade of C- or above.**
- **STAT 244** Introduction to Probability and Statistics II (4 credits). A basic course in statistical analysis including estimation, tests of significance, experimental design and analysis of variance, linear regression and correlation, nonparametric statistics, selected topics, applications, and use of statistical computer packages. A broad nontechnical survey designed primarily for non-math students who need to utilize the subject in their own fields. Not approved for major credit. This is the second course in a sequence of two: STAT 243Z and STAT 244 which must be taken in sequence. **Prerequisite: STAT 243Z.**

PHYSICS:

- **PH 211** General Physics (with Calculus) I (4 credits). Introductory physics for students majoring in science and engineering. The student will explore statics and dynamics using the methods of calculus. This is the first course in a sequence of three: Ph 211, Ph 212, and Ph 213 and must be taken in sequence. **Prerequisite: MTH 251Z.**

POLITICAL SCIENCE:

- **PS 101** United States Government (4 credits). An examination is made of American government in theory and practice. Topics include: the constitutional foundations of American government; federalism, civil liberties, and civil rights; Congress and the legislative process; the presidency and modern bureaucracy; the Supreme Court and judicial policy-making.

WORLD LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES:

- **ASL 201, 202, 203** Second-Year American Sign Language (4, 4, 4 credits). Expansion and refinement of first-year comprehension and production skills; expansion of grammatical and lexical repertoires through task-based instruction in transactions such as asking/giving directions, making plans, describing and identifying people, places and things, giving simple instructions, and telling what happened. This is the first course in a sequence of three: ASL 201, ASL 202, and ASL 203.
Prerequisite: ASL 103 for ASL 201, ASL 201 for ASL 202, ASL 202 for ASL 203.
- **FR 301, 302, 303** Third-year French (4, 4, 4 credits). Development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills and a review of grammar through study of appropriate texts, conversation, activities, and written assignments. **Expected preparation: FR 203. Students are expected to follow the sequence.**
- **RUS 342** Introduction to Russian Literature (4 credits). Study of selected short stories of the 19th century. For non-native speakers only. This is the second course in a sequence of two: RUS 341 and RUS 342. **Expected preparation: RUS 203.**
- **SPAN 201, 202, 203** Second-year Spanish (4, 4, 4 credits). Intensive review of basic materials introduced in First-year Spanish and further development of communication skills. **Recommended preparation: SPAN 103. Students are expected to follow the sequence.**
- **SPAN 201H, 202H, 203H** Second-year Spanish Heritage (4, 4, 4 credits). Intensive review of basic materials introduced in First-year Spanish and further development of communication skills. **Recommended preparation: SPAN 103. Students are expected to follow the sequence.**
- **SPAN 301, 302, 303** Third-year Spanish (4, 4, 4 credits). Spanish language study to help develop advanced proficiency. Intensive grammar instruction in preparation for upper division courses in culture, linguistics and literature. Emphasis on speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing skills for analysis and research. **Students are expected to follow the sequence.**
- **SPAN 301H, 302H, 303H** Third-year Spanish Heritage (4, 4, 4 credits). Continued work on the Spanish language at intermediate-advanced level. Prepares student for upper division classes. Intensive grammar review. SPAN 301H emphasizes listening comprehension and speaking. SPAN 302H emphasizes reading and writing. SPAN 303H emphasizes oral and written skills in order to prepare student for literary analysis and critical writing. **Recommended preparation: SPAN 103. Students are expected to follow the sequence.**

Student Eligibility

Challenge students are required to have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. Students not meeting this requirement may request a copy of their transcript from the high school counseling office to attach to their registration request for review **by the PSU Department.** Seniors have priority in Challenge classes as our courses exceed regular high school level work and Oregon learning outcomes for high school graduation.

In addition to student eligibility, Challenge requires that a minimum of 60% of the students in the class participate in the program. This promotes a college culture in the classroom.

It is very important to fully understand the expectations in Challenge courses. Challenge strongly advises you to talk with your counselor or the Challenge instructor about the requirements, objectives, and design of each course so that you can assess your readiness for college-level work.

Quarters, Semesters & Year-Long Courses

Because PSU is on the quarter system (10-week courses) and many high schools are on the semester system (15 weeks), there are a variety of ways Challenge works with high schools to determine how to cover course material—e.g., superimpose three quarters onto two semesters, match up a quarter with a semester, or teach one quarter over the course of an entire academic year. The decision is based both on the department requirements and the high school's needs and interests.

For example, world language courses are taught at the high school just as on campus in a sequence of three quarters (fall, winter, and spring), but math classes are typically taught at the high school in two semesters. Therefore, if you take PSU Spanish and PSU calculus, you enroll and pay three times during the year for Spanish (and earn 12 credits) and two times during the year for calculus (and earn 8 credits).

Cost

The program fee for the 2025-26 Academic Year is \$224.40 including the 2% credit card service fee. The fee is nonrefundable and must be collected at the time of registration. Payment is by credit card only. If you don't have a credit card, you can use a prepaid Visa or MasterCard.

The program fee for students eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program fee is \$51 (including the 2% credit card fee) per class. **To receive this discount Challenge requires a copy of the student's eligibility letter or a school document verifying need to be uploaded to the registration request form at the time of registration.**

CHALLENGE STUDENT REGISTRATION OVERVIEW



Before You Start:

Determine whether you will need to upload any documentation in order to complete your registration. This is the case if:

- You have less than a 3.0 cumulative GPA. You will need to upload a transcript for consideration. This must include both your GPA information and past course grades.
- You are eligible for financial assistance. You need to upload either your Free or Reduced lunch letter from this year or last year, a school-issued letter verifying need (usually from a counselor or a teacher), or a signed Challenge Program Financial Aid Verification form (which you can get from your teacher or the Challenge Program website).

Challenge Student Registration:

Go to pdx.edu/challenge-program, scroll down the page, and click on REGISTRATION PORTAL. Select from the options given based on the descriptions on the webpage.

- **New Student** – If you are a new student to PSU, enter your preferred email (the one you check most frequently, as this will be critical to completing registration). You will be asked to check your email to verify your identity.
- **Existing Student** – If you have an existing PSU account, follow the steps to log in or reset your password.
- **Returning Applicant** – If you have started (but not completed) the application process, enter the preferred email you used when beginning the process as a new student to resume from where you left off.

New to PSU	Existing Account
Request Classes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check your email for one titled High School Dual Credit Program: Verification email (1st EMAIL) with a “Verify Email” link. Click on the link to go to the application. 2. Complete the Student Account Application Form. Continue to the Registration for Dual Credit Courses Form, selecting program (Challenge), school, grade level, GPA, and financial assistance eligibility. Upload documentation if required. Select your class(es). 3. When you click this SUBMIT button, you will see a jumping Viking with the message that “Your registration has been submitted.” Check your email for a registration submission confirmation email (2nd EMAIL). 	Request Classes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the Registration for Dual Credit Courses Form, selecting program (Challenge), school, grade level, GPA, and financial assistance eligibility. Upload documentation if required. Select your class(es). 2. When you click this SUBMIT button, you will see a jumping Viking with the message that “Your registration has been submitted.” Check your email for a registration submission confirmation email (1st EMAIL).

New to PSU	Existing Account
<p>✪ Any additional communication about your registration request will come to your preferred email you entered on the first page. If you need to change or add anything, log back in by going back to pdx.edu/challenge-program, clicking on “Registration Portal,” and selecting Existing Students (if you have an Odin account) or Returning Applicants.</p>	
<p>Program Approval (and PSU Odin Account Setup):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Challenge will be monitoring these requests as they come in, checking for appropriate documentation and any mistakes while the Registrar’s Office creates your PSU computer account, called an Odin account. <i>This process can take from 10 minutes to a few days. Check your email for any related communication.</i> 2. During this time, you will receive notice (3rd EMAIL) that your PSU account is ready to be activated. This email will include your Odin username, PSU ID number, Odin Account Activation Code, and a link to oam.pdx.edu (Odin Account Management system). Click on this to activate your Odin account. (Keep this email so that you have a record of your PSU ID number.) <p>ACTIVATING YOUR ODIN ACCOUNT IS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT.</p>	<p>Program Approval:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Challenge will be monitoring these requests as they come in, checking for appropriate documentation and any mistakes. <i>This process can take from 10 minutes to a few days. Check your email for any related communication.</i>
<p>✪ You will NOT be registered until you have paid for the course(s). Payment deadlines vary by term. Check our website for deadlines. The cost is \$224.40 per course (which includes a 2% credit card fee) or \$51 per course for those with documented financial need. We do not accept checks.</p>	
<p>Payment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Once your registration request is approved and you have activated your Odin account, you are ready for the final step, which is to pay. You will receive a Next Steps email (4th EMAIL). If you have not activated your Odin account, it will remind you to do so. 2. Click on the link to review and pay, signing in with your Odin login and password. After review, click on the “Pay Now” button, which will take you to the secure payment page. Once you submit your payment, you will receive a payment receipt by email (5th EMAIL). 	<p>Payment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Once your registration request is approved you will receive a Next Steps email (2nd EMAIL). 2. Click on the link to review and pay, signing in with your Odin login and password. After review, click on the “Pay Now” button, which will take you to the secure payment page. Once you submit your payment, you will receive a payment receipt by email (3rd EMAIL).

Important Information about your Social Security Number

PSU does not require students to provide their social security numbers to be students at our university. However, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires PSU to report tuition and fee information on the tax form 1098-T and they want the SSN to be included on the form to help in accurately processing who claims the associated tax credits.

Any student who chooses not to provide their social security number when applying as a Challenge student will receive a letter from Portland State University in December or January pertaining to courses taken the prior calendar year stating that they are subject to a \$50 penalty. The IRS requires PSU to send this letter, and it is at the discretion of the IRS as to whether they impose the \$50 fine.

Your PSU Status

When you enroll through Challenge at the University, you are a part-time Portland State University student. You will have part-time student privileges, including a PSU computer (Odin) account which allows access to **MyPSU (my.pdx.edu) for academic records, transcripts, etc.**, the classroom management system ([Canvas](#)), use of the campus computer labs, and full access to the Library and its extensive online databases.

Computer account passwords expire every 6 months, so check your email occasionally to see if you've received a notification to change it or go to oam.pdx.edu to update your password.

For any problems logging into the PSU Information System, including resetting an expired password, call the PSU Help Desk at 503-725-4357. It is helpful, but not essential, to have your PSU ID number handy.

You are eligible for a PSU photo ID card. The card is a convenience because your PSU ID number is located on the front (9-digit number beginning with a 9). The number is essential as it identifies you as a PSU student. Your PSU ID card may also be required to access PSU campus buildings. To obtain this card, you will need to come to campus with government-issued ID and go to the [ID Card Services](#) window in the Fariborz Maseeh Hall (FMH) Student Services Lounge at 1855 SW Broadway. There is no cost for this. FMH can be accessed without a PSU ID card from the Broadway and Park Blocks entrances during regular business hours.

Dropping or Withdrawing from a Class

If you are worried about your performance in a Challenge class or feel overburdened, the first thing to do is talk with your parents and your teacher. If this is early on, you may be able to drop a Challenge class. Drop deadlines are listed below and on our [website](#). Dropping a class will result in no record at PSU for having registered for the class.

If the drop deadline has passed, you may still be able to withdraw by a later deadline. This will result in a W on your record; this does not factor into a college GPA. Withdrawal deadlines are listed below.

Drop and Withdrawal deadlines will vary depending on whether the class corresponds to the PSU quarter, is mapped to the high school semester, or overlays the entire academic year. Please see the chart below. This is also detailed on the school-specific brochure students should have received in class.

To drop or withdraw, you must email this signed [form](#) to challengeprogram@pdx.edu

There are no refunds for dropped or withdrawn courses.

Challenge Program 2025-26 Deadlines

Term	Mapping	Reg. Deadline	Drop Deadline	Withdrawal Deadline
Fall	Quarter	September 30, 2025	October 20, 2025	November 3, 2025
	Semester	September 30, 2025	November 3, 2025	December 16, 2025
	Year-long	September 30, 2025	December 16, 2025	April 13, 2026
Winter	Quarter	February 17, 2026	March 2, 2026	March 9, 2026
	Semester	February 17, 2026	March 16, 2026	May 4, 2026
Spring	Quarter	April 14, 2026	May 4, 2026	May 18, 2026

Grades

Challenge students obtain dual high school and college credit. The Challenge Program grade for the course is determined in accordance with grading criteria established by Portland State. PSU gives pluses and minuses, with the exception of the A+. The high school grade is determined in accordance with grading criteria established by the high school. Therefore, it is possible that your PSU grade may not be the same as your high school grade.

Your high school registrar only records the high school grade. Your instructor submits PSU grades separately, to PSU. You can view your PSU grades by logging into your MyPSU account (my.pdx.edu) with your computer (Odin) login and password.

For schools that use proficiency-based assessments, it is important to understand that Challenge, in accordance with its accreditation standards regarding equivalency to campus practices, expects behaviors and assessment to align with college course procedures and practices, regardless of also earning high school credit. This engenders an authentic college experience in classrooms, helps students understand what is expected of them on a campus, and promotes transferability of our credit.

Standard PSU Grading Options

Grade	Grade Point	Performance
A	4.00	Excellent
A-	3.67	
B+	3.33	
B	3.00	Good
B-	2.67	
C+	2.33	
C	2.00	Satisfactory
C-	1.67	
D+	1.33	
D	1.00	Inferior
D-	0.67	
F	0.00	Failure

It is important for students in a Challenge class to take responsibility for their own education. If you are struggling, talk to your instructor and always be mindful of deadlines.

The Library

The library website is library.pdx.edu. Phone number is 503-725-5874. We encourage you to use the library resources both on campus and remotely (logging in with your Odin account). Becoming familiar with the services of a large, urban university and honing research skills will prepare you well for becoming a full-time college student. Many of you will come to campus as a class to be introduced to the library. Bring your ID card to access the library and to check out books.

In addition, the library offers a variety of subject and course guides and tools to assist you in using its resources.

IMPORTANT: PSU Library Policies

- PSU Library books check out for 6 weeks and can be renewed three times. Books ordered from other libraries through the Summit system check out for 12 weeks and can be renewed one time for an additional 12 weeks.
- Library notices, including due dates, courtesy reminders, and overdue notices are sent to your pdx.edu email address. ***If you don't check that email address, you are still responsible for returning the books on time.***
- You can renew by visiting the Library website under My Accounts, by calling the Circulation Desk 503-725-5874, by emailing the library at circ@pdx.edu, or coming into the library and requesting a renewal.
- PSU Library books do not have daily late fees. ***However, replacement charges are \$75 plus a \$15 non-refundable fee. The charge is sent to the Cashier's Office and the University will send you a bill in the mail.***
- ***Interlibrary Loans, Course Reserves and Recalled Items have separate overdue or replacement charges. Charges can be found on the Library website [here](#).***
- ***You are responsible for the books checked out on your library account. If you check out books for a classmate and they don't return the books, you will have to track them down.***

The Writing Center

The Writing Center is available to you for help in a variety of ways. Check their website to see what services they offer and to set up an appointment: pdx.edu/writing-center/.

Privacy Laws

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of the student's records. FERPA rules specify when and who gets to see a student's records (which include not only files in offices or computerized information, but also student exam scores, student essays, or other student work).

The Challenge Program cannot share information with parents about their student's Academic record; we can only provide that information to your student. If this is an issue, you must pursue this with the Office of the Registrar. For more information on FERPA visit our [Parent information page](#).

Disability Accommodation

Disability policies for PSU students may be different than those for high school students. The Challenge Program policy is to follow the high school/school district disability policy.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is when you present someone else's work or ideas as your own. You may do this accidentally (forgetting to cite a source) or on purpose (copying). Portland State (and therefore, Challenge) considers plagiarism a serious form of academic misconduct.

“Plagiarism can be:

- Copying someone's words without giving them credit;
- Using someone's ideas or concepts without giving them credit;
- Misrepresenting someone's ideas or concepts;
- Copying images or music without permission or without proper attribution;
- Citing incorrectly by citing the wrong source or having incomplete or inaccurate citations;
- Failing to acknowledge the contribution of others in work produced collaboratively.”*

Please see the PSU Library's website (see footnote below) for more information on plagiarism and for examples of how to cite work.

As a university program, Challenge follows the PSU Student Code of Conduct. Its policy on Academic Misconduct (#5 in the Code) is as follows:

* <https://guides.library.pdx.edu/c.php?g=271259&p=2613696>

Academic Misconduct is defined as actual or attempted, fraud, deceit, or unauthorized use of materials prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment. Unless otherwise specified by the faculty member, all submissions, whether in draft or final form, must either be the student's own work, or must clearly acknowledge the source(s). Academic Misconduct includes, but is not limited to: (a) cheating, such as copying the work of another, allowing another to copy from one's own work, unauthorized use of notes or sources during an exam, giving or receiving unauthorized information prior to or during the examination; (b) plagiarism, such as word for word copying, using borrowed words or phrases from original text into new patterns without attribution, or paraphrasing another writer's ideas; (c) the buying or selling of all or any portion of course assignments and research papers; (d) performing academic assignments (including tests and examinations) in another person's stead; (e) unauthorized disclosure or receipt of academic information; (f) falsification of research data, sources, or other information represented in an academic assignment; (g) unauthorized collaboration; (h) using the same paper or data for several assignments or courses without proper documentation; (i) unauthorized alteration of student records; and (j) academic sabotage, such as destroying or obstructing another student's work.

If a student is caught plagiarizing or engaging in any other act of academic dishonesty, the course instructor may issue a zero or a failing grade for the assignment in which the academic dishonesty was found, but they may not remove the student from the course or fail them on other academic assignments. Academic units may, however, suspend the student engaging in academic dishonesty from the department or program, or expel them. In addition, the instructor or the department may submit a written complaint to the Office of Student Affairs regarding the student's misconduct.

To read the PSU Student Code of Conduct, please go to:

pdx.edu/dean-student-life/psu-code-student-conduct-and-responsibility

For information about PSU's policies regarding the use of AI, please visit:

pdx.edu/dean-student-life/academic-misconduct

Ordering Official Transcripts

Requesting a transcript (an official record of courses you've taken at PSU) is the most important action in seeking recognition for your PSU coursework.

ATTENTION

1. An official transcript must be ordered; it will NOT be sent automatically to you or to schools to which you apply.
2. Only YOU can order an official transcript.
3. You will need to know your PSU ID number or ODIN LOGIN to order a transcript.

If you are ordering transcripts to be sent to your university, find out exactly where you need to have a transcript sent (the main email address accepting transcripts and/or the office address of the college you're applying to. g. admissions or registrar's office). You can get this information from your college application, the college catalog, or the college admissions office.

Wait until your instructor has submitted final PSU grades so that all your coursework is accounted for. You can indicate, on your college applications that the PSU transcript will be forwarded once you've completed your course. You can also provide an unofficial transcript through your MyPSU account (my.pdx.edu) if you already have recorded grades in addition to courses in progress. (You will need your ODIN LOGIN and password to log in to my.pdx.edu.)

Follow the instructions on the PSU website page for Transcript requests - pdx.edu/regISTRATION/transcript-requests.

On this site you can indicate the number of transcripts needed. You can have them sent directly to Admissions Offices or, if you are taking one with you to a give to an Admissions Officer, keep it sealed or else it will not be valid. Transcript costs can be found [here](#).

NOTE: If you don't remember your password or it has expired, visit oam.pdx.edu or call the OIT Help Desk, give them your PSU ID number, and ask them to reset the password. They can do this over the phone at 503-725-HELP.

Transferring Credit

Because PSU is a member of the Oregon University System, Challenge courses count toward the completion of your bachelor's degree both at PSU and at other State Public community colleges, colleges, and universities.

Beyond the Oregon public institutions of higher education, PSU Challenge credit is accepted by most universities throughout the country. Challenge is accredited by the National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP), which identifies the program as one with exceptional standards of quality on a national scale.

That said, credit recognition always remains the exclusive prerogative of the institution granting it. Policies vary in regard to transfer credit and may be applied differently from year to year and from student to student. Many factors affect a university's decision to accept transfer credit, including the grade the student earned in the course and how similar the course content is. Usually, however, colleges accept courses in which you've earned a C or above and that are a good match for those you would have taken on that campus. Courses that differ from those the college offers may also be transferred, but as elective credit or as meeting prerequisites. *It's important to understand that credit can be given in a variety of ways.*

Some colleges (Ivy League or some small, private liberal arts colleges) will not give credit for a college course that also fulfilled a high school graduation requirement and/or for coursework not taken on a college campus. But again, student work typically will be recognized as meeting a prerequisite or allow for advanced placement, rather than direct credit.

PSU, like many universities, is on the quarter system with the school calendar divided into 10-week terms. Many other universities and colleges are on the semester system, which runs in two 16-week sessions. When transferring credit from one system to the other, these will be weighted differently. Each quarter unit is approximately 2/3 of a semester unit.

In some cases, even where transfer credit is not normally granted as general policy, you may be able to negotiate to have your PSU coursework recognized by showing your work and demonstrating your knowledge, particularly if it is assessed by the appropriate Academic Department in terms of the learning outcomes you've met.

You should keep your work—portfolios, exams, syllabi—so you can show them to college officials who need more information before accepting your transfer credit.

Things to Consider when Applying to Colleges

Policies for credit transfer are typically listed on a university's website with their admissions information. Take a look at the policies for the universities to which you plan to apply. Ask recruiters, as they visit your school, about their transfer policies for credit earned in dual credit programs, such as Challenge. If they do not accept credit, it's an opportunity to engage in a dialogue about their reasons. Then, make an informed decision about where you choose to apply that includes understanding these policies.

In today's economy, choosing a school that accepts your PSU credit should be a consideration in your final decision. It can make a significant difference in the cost of your college education.

Strategies for Pursuing Credit Transfer

If your PSU credit is not accepted, we encourage you to argue for it. Start with discussing this with your college academic advisor. Check to see what course at your university matches closely to the PSU class. Especially if there is a similar course, consider making an appointment with the Chair of the appropriate Department. The idea is to show evidence of what you've learned to a faculty member who can assess your knowledge and establish if you've met the learning outcomes of their course. Bring your course syllabi, course descriptions and, if appropriate, your portfolios from the PSU courses. This strategy has worked for some of our former Challenge students.

Remember too, that credit can be recognized in a variety of ways, such as exemption from a similar required course or placement in a higher-level course. Both forms of recognition still save a student money and time.

And finally, let the Challenge director know of your efforts so that they can advocate on your behalf.

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