

Administrative Procedure 4235

Credit by Examination

The purpose of credit by examination is to allow a student to gain credit for a specific course by demonstrating mastery of the course content, objectives, and outcomes.

Faculty who normally teach the course, in consultation with the appropriate Dean, shall determine how courses are selected and courses eligible for credit by examination. Courses eligible for credit by examination shall be listed in the college catalog.

Credit by examination may be obtained by one of the following methods:

- Credit by satisfactory completion of an examination administered by the college in lieu of completion of a course listed in the college catalog.
- Achievement of a score of 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement Examination administered by the College Entrance Examination Board. Faculty in the discipline will determine the tests and scores applicable for local degree credit. The tests and scores will be published in the college catalog.
- Achievement of an examination administered by other agencies approved by the college.

Eligibility Requirements

1. A student must have completed 12 semester units at El Camino College with a minimum grade point average of 2.00 and be in good standing at the time the credit is granted. However, students enrolling in or enrolled at El Camino College may be allowed to take the examination at any time, even though credit will not be granted until 12 semester units have been completed.
2. Students shall only be allowed to petition to receive credit by examination one time per course. Students may not petition for credit examination for a course in which they have previously enrolled and received a grade, unless statutorily required.
3. Students may not petition for credit by examination for a course in which they have been enrolled after the first two weeks of a semester, except under special circumstances as determined by the dean and faculty who normally teach the course.
4. Students must petition for credit by examination no later than the middle of the term except under special circumstances as determined by the dean and faculty who normally teach the course.

5. Only those courses listed in the catalog and approved for credit by examination at the time of the petition shall be available to students for such credit.
6. Credit is not available for any course that is lower in a sequence than a course for which credit has already granted, except under special circumstances determined by the dean and faculty who normally teach the course.
7. The maximum amount of credit by examination permissible shall not exceed 15 semester units, including not more than 50% of the credit required for the major subject field.

Fee Requirements

A processing fee will be charged to petition for credit by examination. The amount of the fee will be established by the Admissions Office. The amount of the fee cannot exceed the enrollment fee associated with enrollment in the course for which the student seeks credit by examination. Students involved in high school or occupational center articulated programs will be exempted from paying this fee.

Procedure for Earning Credit by Examination

Students shall complete a petition for credit by examination and submit it to the Admissions Office along with satisfactory evidence of knowledge, skills or experience. Students shall be provided with a copy of the pertinent Course Outline of Record to aid them in making the decision of whether or not to petition and attempt credit by examination.

The Admissions Office shall forward petitions, with supporting documentation, to the respective dean of the academic division concerned. The dean, in consultation with faculty who normally teach the course, shall determine the eligibility of the student for such an examination. Approved petitions must demonstrate that the knowledge, skills, and/or experiences gained outside the regular college curriculum are compatible with the course content, objectives, and outcomes for which credit is requested.

If the petition is approved, the nature and content of the examination shall be determined solely by faculty in the discipline who normally teach the course for which credit is to be granted. The faculty shall determine that the examination adequately measures mastery of the course content, objectives, and outcomes as set forth in the outline of record. Subject matter mastery and/or skills proficiency, as stated in the objectives and outcomes of the course outline of record, may be established by written examination, portfolio, skills demonstration or combination thereof. The faculty may accept an examination

conducted at a location other than the community college. The examination may be offered in more than one session and/or format. The examination must measure proficiency at the level expected of students who have successfully completed the course at El Camino College. The academic division shall notify the student of the examination arrangements.

Grading shall be according to the regular grading system used by the college, including a “pass-no pass” option if that option is ordinarily available for the course.

If credit is granted and all eligibility requirements have been met, the student’s academic record shall be clearly annotated to reflect that credit was earned by examination. The Admissions Office shall retain a copy of the petition and notify the student of the results.

Restrictions on Units Earned through Credit by Examination

Units earned by credit by examination shall not be counted in determining the 12 semester hours of credit in residence required for an associate degree. The maximum amount of credit by examination permissible shall not exceed 15 semester units, including not more than 50% of the credit required for the major subject field. Units earned by examination are not to be considered part of the student’s unit load. Credits acquired by examination are not applicable to meeting of such unit and requirements as Selective Service deferment and Veteran’s or Social Security benefits and shall not be considered in verifying eligibility for athletics or student government.

Faculty Compensation

Faculty will be compensated for their work in creating and assessing the examinations described in this procedure in accordance with the current Agreement between El Camino Community College District and El Camino College Federation of Teachers.

References:

Title 5 section 55050

Agreement Between El Camino Community College District and El Camino College Federation of Teachers, Article 10, Section 20 Credit by Exam.

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, “Awarding Credit Where Credit is Due,” Spring 2014.

El Camino College

Approved: 4/17/17