

# Concurrent Enrollment DS Policy

The Center for Dis/Ability and Accommodations at Western Colorado University works with staff, faculty, and students to ensure that all students have equitable access to educational opportunities including high school students who are receiving college credit through Western's Concurrent Enrollment program. Students with disabilities who enroll in collegiate coursework through Concurrent Enrollment are held to the same financial obligations, academic performance expectations, and consequences for both success and failure as other college students enrolled in the same coursework. Concurrent Enrollment considerations should align with the student's identified postsecondary goals as well as address any necessary accommodations and services.

Students and parents should be aware that some services provided in high school level coursework may not be considered reasonable for collegiate level coursework. In some instances, the university and the student's school district may collaborate to provide services for students with disabilities. This may include extended time for quizzes and exams, note taking support, eBooks, and other accommodations.

Students with disabilities who meet the prerequisites of a course will be provided reasonable accommodations that allow equal access to course content. However, the university will not provide modifications to change course content or performance expectations that would substantially alter the essential elements of the course. Students must understand that not all accommodations available at the high school will be allowed in college level coursework.

Students with disabilities who are enrolled in courses offered through Concurrent Enrollment should complete a request for academic accommodations with the Director of the Center for Dis/Ability and Accommodations. The online request form can be found on our website at [www.western.edu/ds](http://www.western.edu/ds). The university reserves the right to request supporting documentation that may include 504 Plans, IEPs, and/or psychoeducational evaluations that demonstrate a need for services.

School districts have a responsibility to ensure that all college credit hours earned through Concurrent Enrollment apply towards the student's high school graduation requirements as defined in the student's academic plan.

## FAQs

### **Are Concurrent Enrollment options available in every school district?**

**No.** Concurrent enrollment opportunities are dependent upon a cooperative agreement between the school district and the university.

### **How does an institution of higher education determine that the student is qualified for admission?**

The institution of higher education will utilize existing procedures and/or those in the cooperative agreement to determine if a student is qualified. Administrative approval is required at the high school level before a student can register for a class through Concurrent Enrollment.

### **Are the rules for participation different if the class is held at the high school?**

**No.** If the class is for college credit, the participation rules apply regardless of the location of the class.

### **Does the Accuplacer exam have to be taken prior to enrollment?**

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The legislation does not require a specific test; however, a student who intends to concurrently enroll in a postsecondary course must satisfy the minimum prerequisites for the course prior to enrollment. The institution may require testing or other means to demonstrate preparedness.

## **Do the accommodations listed in the student's IEP automatically apply to college classes?**

**No.** It is important to remember that the IEP does not continue to college or the workplace. Some accommodations provided at the high school may also be appropriate at the college level. However, at the high school, there may be supports and services provided that go beyond reasonable accommodation and would not be appropriate at the college level.

## **Does the IEP team make decisions about accommodations provided in college classes?**

**No.** Although the IEP team plays a key role in providing recommendations and documentation for requested accommodations, decisions about the accommodations provided in college classes will be determined by the college.

## **What is the process for obtaining accommodations in Concurrent Enrollment courses?**

The student must:

1. Apply to the Center for Dis/Ability and Accommodations at the university to self-identify as having a disability.
2. Complete an online request for academic accommodations at [www.western.edu/ds](http://www.western.edu/ds).
3. Provide appropriate documentation that supports the request for accommodations. This may include clinic notes, psychoeducational evaluations, IEPs, and/or Section 504 Plans.

It may be appropriate for the special education teacher to assist the student in this process as a transition service.

## **If a student is eligible for an interpreter or text in alternate format, does the college provide these services or the high school?**

The college is responsible for providing any accommodations for the college course upon approval. However, there may be good reason for the college and the school district to collaborate on some services. Roles and responsibilities related to specific accommodations should be clearly defined in the Concurrent Enrollment agreement developed between the school, the student, and the parent.

## **Is a student with disabilities held to the same grade requirements as other students?**

**Yes.** Students with disabilities are held to the same standards of academic and behavioral performance.

## **Can a student audit a class at an institution of higher education?**

**Yes.** This would not be considered Concurrent Enrollment as only classes that are taken for both high school and college credit are considered part of the Concurrent Enrollment program at Western. In order to determine funding eligibility, such a class would follow the requirements of contractual education services.

## **How will compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) be addressed in Concurrent Enrollment programs?**

Requirements under IDEA concerning a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) do not apply at the postsecondary level.

For more information about Concurrent Enrollment opportunities at Western Colorado University, please visit their website at <https://www.western.edu/concurrent-enrollment>.