

**Iowa Department of Education
Division of Community Colleges
Bureau of Adult, Career and Community College Education
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319**

**Project Lead the Way® (PLTW) and Concurrent Enrollment
Responses to Questions -- 03.05.12**

Q1: Are PLTW courses designated as career and technical education (CTE) or arts and sciences (A&S) for the purposes of concurrent enrollment supplementary weighting?

A1: It depends on how the courses apply toward programs at the community college serving the district claiming supplementary weighting. The department utilizes a methodology developed in collaboration with the community college chief academic officers for the assignment of all credit courses as arts & sciences (A&S), career and technical education (CTE), both A&S and CTE, or developmental. Currently, each college assigns its courses using the methodology and the department compiles the list, removes certain ineligible courses, and assigns a weighting factor.

Listed below is the agreed-upon methodology used by colleges in assigning courses for the purposes of concurrent enrollment supplementary weighting:

- ❖ The department provides a list of all active credit courses at each college. Each college assigns all of its credit courses as A (A&S), C (CTE), B (both A&S and CTE), or D (developmental education) using the following method.
 - A (A&S) = Course is a mandatory part of a program leading to an AA or AS degree without career option.
 - C (CTE) = Course is a mandatory part of a program leading to an AAA, AGS, AAS, Diploma, or Certificate; it is not a general education course.
 - B (Both) = Course is both a mandatory part of a program leading to an AA or AS degree without career option AND is a mandatory part of a program leading to an AAA, AGS, AAS, Diploma, or Certificate, but it not a general education course.
 - D (Developmental) = Course is developmental. [Note: All courses with common course numbers less than 100 will likely be designated as developmental by the department regardless of course assignment.]
 - Mandatory courses are those that are required for the program or included in the list of courses provided as options to meet a program requirement.

- Courses that are a mandatory part of an ASCO program should be assigned as CTE if they are a mandatory part of another CTE program, but not an A&S program. If it is not required for a CTE program, then it should be assigned A&S. If the course is mandatory for both A&S and CTE programs, then it should be assigned “both.”
- If it is possible for a course to not be included in the pool of mandatory courses for any program, then it should be assigned as A&S.

Q2: How is supplementary weighting determined?

A2: Concurrent enrollment supplementary weighting is calculated using data reported through Project EASIER (fall and spring files). Essentially, for non-ICN courses, the following formula is used:



For more information regarding section FTE and supplementary weighting calculations, please see [here](#) and [here](#).

Q3: Why are PLTW instructors teaching for college credit held to different standards than those teaching for high school credit only?

A3: State law requires all instructors teaching community college credit courses (including concurrent enrollment courses delivered by teachers on high school campuses) to meet state minimum faculty standards (281—IAC 24.5(1)). Additionally, concurrent enrollment instructors are required to meet the same expectations as other community college adjuncts within the academic department (281—IAC 22.3(1)) (see page 27 of the [Senior Year Plus Guide](#)).

Instructors teaching PLTW courses (or any other courses) for high school credit only are required by state law (281—IAC 12(5)) to be appropriately licensed and endorsed by the Board of Educational Examiners (see pg. 25 of the [Senior Year Plus Guide](#)).

Q4: Why are freshman now allowed to participate in concurrent enrollment?

A4: Senior Year Plus statute (enacted in 2008) explicitly expanded eligibility for concurrent enrollment to include high school students in 9th and 10th grades. Institutions may but are not obligated to share college credit courses intended for students at these grade levels. Department data shows that the vast majority of concurrently enrolled students are juniors and seniors.

Q5: Why are PLTW courses offered for both A&S and CTE credit? If credit is awarded based on testing, why is there supplementary weighting when the teacher does not have a master’s degree?

A5: The Iowa Association of Community College Presidents (IACCP) approved standards of practice in 2008 for delivery of PLTW which included the unique credit awarding arrangement. All students who successfully complete a college credit PLTW course obtain college credit.

With regard to how state minimum faculty standards apply to instructors of college credit PLTW courses, the department issued the following guidance to colleges in November 2009 (which aligns with the IACCP-approved standards of practice):

Q. How are minimum faculty standards applied to school district-employed instructors of community college PLTW courses delivered through a contractual agreement between a college and the district?

A. Instructors of college credit PLTW courses delivered through contractual agreements between a community college and a district must meet the minimum faculty standards for career and technical education (CTE) instructors by July 1, 2011 (281—IAC 21.3) as well as instructor requirements set by PLTW (e.g. a bachelor's degree or higher and successful completion of the training program). Because of the unique arrangement by which credit is awarded, instructors are treated as CTE instructors for the purposes of state minimum faculty standards, even in cases where arts and sciences credit may later be awarded.

Q6: Why is the length of PLTW courses often different than semester-length concurrent enrollment courses?

A6: Concurrent enrollment courses may not be delivered on a year-long basis and may not have excessive contact time when compared to regular on-campus sections of the course (see May 2011 guidance on supplementary weighting calculations [here](#)). Due to scheduling and calendar differences between colleges and the districts they serve, some variation in contact time is allowable and expected. However, PLTW courses are designed for more instructional contact time than can be compressed into the length of a normal semester-length course. Legislation has been proposed which addresses the length issue.