



Guide to Establish CTE Programs Eligible for Academic Credit



Purpose: It is critical that Local Education Agencies (LEA) seeking to offer academic credit through Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs have a defined procedure for identifying Arizona academic standards integrated into CTE program standards and curriculum at the appropriate high school level in the academic subject considered for credit. Approved academic credit can be issued upon successful completion of the CTE program. It is equally important that the LEA has defined policies and procedures in place for local governing board approval. The purpose of this document is to offer suggestions for the development of such policies and procedures. Established operational procedures from several LEAs as well as the Arizona State Board of Education.

Authority: Minimum requirements for graduation from high school, which can be found in [Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-302](#).

- a. “The Board has approved the career and technical education and vocational education program for equivalent credit to be used toward the Board English, mathematics, science, and economics credit requirements for graduation.
- b. A credit or partial credit may apply toward more than one subject area but shall count only as one credit or partial credit toward satisfying the 22 required credits.
- c. A student who satisfies any part of the Board English, mathematics, science, and economics requirements through the completion of a career and technical education and vocational education programs shall still be required to earn 22 total credits to meet the graduation requirements prescribed in this rule”.

State Board of Education Approved CTE Programs with Embedded Academics:

Economics 0.5 High School Credit

- 2023: Hospitality Management
- 2022: Business Management
- 2019: AgriScience and Marketing

Mathematics 1.0 High School Math Credit (4th year Math Credit)

- 2015: Architectural Drafting
- 2014: Automotive Technologies, Construction Technologies, Engineering, Mechanical Drafting, Software and App Design

Science 1.0 High School Science Credit upon completion of Course I and Course II in the program

- 2019: AgriScience
- 2015: Bioscience

Local Education Agencies have the opportunity to request consideration to grant academic credit for CTE programs that have not been approved by the State Board of Career and Technological Education for that purpose by presenting compelling evidence to the Board that the programs have increased rigor and sufficiently integrated Arizona academic standards.

Local Governing Boards are the authorizing entity to determine credits that will be granted through CTE programs, there are several factors that must be in place in order to do so.

The specific CTE program under consideration must be approved by the State Board of Career and Technical Education as eligible for academic credit in the content area and is subject to the following provisions at the local level:

- The CTE program must meet the [8 elements of an approved CTE program](#) including an active, engaged local industry-based advisory board.
- Current industry-validated standards must be implemented.
- The Local Education Agency (LEA) must implement a rigorous, well-defined curriculum review process that includes connections to Arizona academic standards.
- The program must be taught by an appropriately certified teacher.
- The program will undergo a rigorous curriculum review/development process that provides evidence of substantial high school academic content in the subject considered for credit.
- Programs offering integrated academic credit will provide instruction with fidelity to both the specific CTE program industry standards and the academic content standards at the high school level.



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Sample Local Process:

Several LEA processes and procedures for analyzing CTE programs for integrated academic standards and seeking Local Governing Board approval were reviewed for common practices. The following is intended to serve as an example for LEAs who are considering establishing a process for approving CTE programs that have satisfied the required components for integrated academic credit:

