Advanced Placement and Credit by Examination

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References: Title 5 Sections 55050, 55052

Advanced Placement
Sierra College accepts all Advanced Placement Exams passed with a score of three or higher. Currently enrolled students are awarded up to six units of credit upon submission of official copies of exam results. Credit will be awarded in one or more of three ways: as credit in a Sierra College course or courses; as general education credit toward one or more areas of the associate degree; or as elective credit. For further information regarding credit for these exams please consult with a counselor.

Transfer students are cautioned that, regardless of Sierra College policy, some institutions recompute Advanced Placement credit to their own local policies. For further information regarding Advanced Placement Exam credit, please consult with a counselor.

To be eligible, the following conditions must be met:

- The student must currently be registered in the college and be in good standing.
- These credits shall not be counted in determining the 12 semester hours of credit in residence required for an Associate degree.
- Once units earned are credited for advanced placement, students may not enroll in the same courses for credit.

Credit by Examination
The AA degree attests to the fact that a student has sufficient knowledge and/or skills. Although this knowledge and these skills are commonly achieved through enrollment in courses offered at Sierra, it is not necessary that they be obtained in a formal class. It is the professor in the classroom who is responsible for making the decision as to whether the student has sufficient mastery of the body of knowledge or skills to pass the course.
To be eligible, the following conditions must be met:

- A student must currently be registered in the college and be in good standing.
- A student must currently be enrolled in and complete at least one course other than the course being challenged.
- The course must be listed in the college catalog.
- The student must NOT be enrolled in the particular course.
- The student must NOT have completed nor enrolled in a more advanced course.
- The student must have obtained approval of the challenge request from both the course professor and the division dean.
- The student must not have challenged more than 15 units of credit.

Units acquired by Credit by Examination are not applicable to meeting of such unit load requirements as Selective Service deferment, Veteran’s or Social Security benefits. These credits acquired by examination shall not be counted in determining the 12 semester hours of credit in residence required for an Associate degree. The earned credits by examination must be clearly indicated as such on the student’s academic record.

A course in which a student enrolls and receives a grade of “D,” “F,” NP,” or “I” may not be challenged at a later date, nor may a course be challenged again to improve the grade. Units received through the challenge process do not count toward the 12 units in residence required for the associate degree or the full-time enrollment necessary for honor roll determination.

To request a challenge, a student must file a “Credit by Examination” Petition form within the first four weeks of the semester of the first week of the summer session. Regulations are stated on the "Credit by Examination” Petition. It is important to note that many courses are not available for the challenge process.

Appropriate challenge fees must be paid when the petition is submitted. These fees are not refundable. For California residents, this is equivalent to the enrollment fee. Nonresident and international students must also pay the appropriate nonresident/international student tuition.

See Board Policy 4235.