

STAMFORD ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

Stamford, Connecticut

Governing Board Policies

Instruction

Policy Number: 6001

GRADUATION CREDIT FOR ONLINE COURSES

Stamford Academy recognizes the importance of technology in education and the growing popularity and use of online coursework. In that regard, and in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a, the Stamford Academy Board of Directors sanctions the receipt of online course credit to be used toward high school graduation requirements, in accordance with this policy.

Pre-approval

To receive credit for online courses to be used toward high school graduation requirements, students must, prior to registering for the course, receive approval from the School Director or his/her designee. Students need not obtain pre-approval for courses offered directly through Stamford Academy or through a planning and placement team ("PPT") or Section 504 team. The School Director or his/her designee shall grant approval for the online course if the following requirements are met:

1. The workload required by the online course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom setting;
2. The content of the online course is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where appropriate;
3. The course engages students and has interactive components, which may include, but are not limited to, required interactions between students and their teachers, participation in online demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs;
4. The program of instruction for such online coursework is planned, ongoing and systematic;
5. The courses are:
 - a. taught by teachers who are certified in Connecticut or another state and have received training on teaching in an online environment, or

- b. offered by institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or regionally accredited; and
- 6. The School Director has determined, in his or her professional judgment, that, given the student's academic and disciplinary history, the student is appropriately suited to engage in online coursework.

Additional Requirements

Online courses are to be used toward satisfying credit requirements for high school graduation only. Students who have been pre-approved, or who are taking the course directly through Stamford Academy, PPT or Section 504 team, shall receive such credit upon completing the online course and obtaining a passing grade.

Any expense incurred for taking any online course, other than an online course offered directly through Stamford Academy, PPT or Section 504 team, shall be the responsibility of the student and shall not be the responsibility of the Stamford Academy Board of Directors.

Online Credit Recovery

If the dropout rate of Stamford Academy reached eight percent (8%) or higher in the previous school year, Stamford Academy shall establish an online credit recovery program for those students who are identified by certified personnel as in danger of failing to graduate. These students shall be allowed to complete on-line coursework that is compliant with requirements 1-5 above. Stamford Academy shall designate, from among existing staff, an online learning coordinator who shall administer and coordinate the online credit recovery program.

Legal References

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-223g

ADOPTED: February 28, 2019

REVISED: NA