



National Connections Academy Policy: Credit for coursework completed in a nonstandard program

Students may request to receive high school credit for courses completed in previous educational settings other than fully accredited schools, including home school, non-accredited public, private, alternative or international schools. There are three options for requesting and being granted credit by Connections Academy for coursework completed in a non-standard school program:

1) Portfolio: The student submits a portfolio documenting coursework, which may include:

- Samples of prior work
- List of texts used in prior courses
- Artwork
- Writing samples
- Report card from prior school/home school
- Student Interview
- Other materials as requested by the school counselor

The portfolio will be reviewed by each content area teacher. The content area teachers will make final decisions about credit(s) to be granted for the student's prior coursework.

For example, a student who shows sufficient evidence of having successfully completed Algebra I, Geometry, English 9 & 10, Earth Science, Biology, U.S. History, Government, and French I & II, will be granted credit by each content area teacher for each of the courses documented, and will be placed in Connections Academy at the grade level appropriate for the number of credits granted.

The school counselor and/or principal may review the student's portfolio along with the content area teachers, but the content area teachers will be responsible for determining if the student is indeed proficient in the specific subject and whether or not credit is to be granted.

2) Competency: Based on a portfolio of materials similar to, but perhaps less comprehensive than that listed in #1, the subject area teacher makes a decision about where to place the student. After the student has completed one full semester at Connections Academy, the subject area teacher reviews the student's progress in the Connections Academy course(s). If the student earns a passing grade in the Connections Academy course that follows a course taken in a non-standard school, the counselor will award credit(s) for the course(s) taken in the non-standard school. This method of placement is applicable **only** to foreign language courses and certain other courses that occur in a clearly linear sequence.

Students may use any combination of the above-listed methods for requesting credit. For example, a student may choose option #1 for mathematics and science courses, #2 for humanities courses, and #3 for foreign language.

3) Assessment: the student takes and achieves a passing grade (C-) on the Connections Academy exam(s) associated with the course. This may be the midterm and final exam or other proficiency exam as determined by the content area teacher. Alternatively, the student may take a state-approved standardized test. If the student achieves a score of “Proficient” or higher, he or she will be granted credit for that course. The test(s) must be taken in a school-approved, proctored setting.

Credits for courses completed in a non-standard school program are granted as described above, but no grades are assigned. Students receiving credit will be given a grade of “Pass,” which is not included in the calculation of the student’s G.P.A. These credits are not entered into the student’s records until the student has completed a full semester in Connections Academy. The transcript will reflect these credits as “Demonstrated Proficiency.”