

Understanding Change in Policy for Credit by Advanced Coursework, and Departmental Exam

Utah State University has long had a series of policies that allow students to receive credit through a variety of exams or advanced coursework. Recently, changes to these policies were approved to indicate credit earned by using the credit (CR) designation. CR will be added to the transcript when students meet the requirements for the credits indicated in the Catalog. This brief is intended to highlight each of these policies.

The following are the policies that allow students to receive credit:

Credit by Advanced Coursework (Language Credits)

Students who are proficient in a foreign language offered by Utah State University may earn lower-division credit through successfully passing a more advanced course. Applications for these credits should be made in the Department of Languages, Philosophy, and Communication Studies. Students will be required to pay a posting fee.

From July 31, 2017 on students who receive credit by advanced coursework will receive a CR (credit) grade posted to their transcript, with a designation that it was earned by advanced coursework. Credits earned through this option cannot be used to meet the minimum USU course requirement and are treated as transfer work.

Credit by Departmental Exam

Undergraduate matriculated students may challenge a course for credit by taking a departmental examination. Departments determine if a course is appropriate for challenge. Challenge examinations survey knowledge of the course content and may include papers, projects, portfolios, etc.

Interested students should contact the instructor and/or department to find out whether a challenge exam is available and whether he or she has a reasonable chance of passing. Students are required to pay a course-specific examination fee.

Students who pass a departmental examination apply through their department and pay a posting fee to receive a CR (credit) grade posted to their transcript for that course. Credits earned through departmental examination cannot be used to meet the minimum course requirement.

These updates to the policies change how students who receive credits by examination – language or any other department – will have these credits applied to their transcript. For language tests, this change is based upon the date the language test was taken and is summarized in the chart below.

Test date or Completion of Advanced Coursework	Transcript Application
July 31, 2017 and before	Students will receive a letter grade based on their test score
August 1, 2017 and after	Students will receive a CR grade