

Accelerating Students through Concurrent ENrollment (ASCENT) District Checklist

Create a Cooperative Agreement with a “Qualified” Institution of Higher Education

In order for students to enroll in the ASCENT program, Local Education Providers must have a signed Cooperative Agreement on file with the Institution of Higher Education.

Students may concurrently enroll into any state university or college, community college, junior college, local district college, or area vocational school, a postsecondary career and technical education program described in title 23, C.R.S or an educational institution operating in this state that meets the following qualifications:

- Does not receive state general fund moneys in support of its operating costs;
- Admits as regular students only persons having a high school diploma or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate;
- Is accredited by a regional accrediting agency or association;
- Provides an educational program for awarding a bachelor’s degree or a graduate degree;
- Is authorized by the department of Higher Education to do business in Colorado; Maintains a physical campus or instructional facility;
- Is determined by the United States Department of Education to be eligible to administer federal financial aid (i.e., “Title IV eligible”).

Identify and Select Qualified Students for the ASCENT Program

By September 1st, districts submit to the Colorado Department of Education a number of current 12th graders who will be eligible for and who are interested in the ASCENT program during the 2011-2012 school year (i.e., current seniors who plan to remain enrolled at the high school in order to participate in a 5th year program). Please submit this number to Charles Dukes via email at: dukes_c@cde.state.co.us.

Eligible students for the ASCENT program must:

- Complete, or be on schedule to complete, at least 12 credit hours (semester hours or equivalent) of postsecondary course work prior to the completion of his or her 12th grade year*;
- Not be in need of basic skills coursework as defined by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education’s (CCH) remedial education policy;
- Have been selected for participation in the ASCENT program by his or her high school principal or equivalent school administrator;
- Have satisfied the minimum prerequisites for the course(s) before his or her enrollment in the course(s); and
- Have not participated in the ASCENT program in previous years.

**Note: International Baccalaureate (IB), College Level Education Program (CLEP), and Advance Placement credits do not count towards postsecondary course work.*

Graduation Requirements

Districts must ensure that all college credit hours earned concurrently apply toward the students' high school graduation requirements as defined in the students' academic plan. Additionally, an ASCENT program participant shall not be considered a high school graduate until he or she has completed his or her participation in the ASCENT program and any remaining graduation requirements.

