

Ivy Tech Community College

Dual Credit Faculty Credentialing Q&A

1. How is Ivy Tech's dual credit program accredited?

State statute requires dual credit programs to be reviewed and accredited by either the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) or through the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) process. Ivy Tech is currently accredited through the ICHE review process which utilizes NACEP standards as its guide.

2. Why is Ivy Tech required to follow policies and guidelines issued by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC)?

HLC is one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. Accreditation by a regional accreditor like HLC is a requirement by the United States Department of Education if an institution participates in federal financial aid programs (Pell, etc.).

3. Are all Indiana postsecondary institutions required to follow HLC policy/guidelines?

Yes, if they plan to continue as a regionally accredited institution.

4. What is HLC's guidance for faculty teaching "priority" liberal arts courses?

HLC's expectation is that faculty teaching "priority" liberal arts courses will have a master's degree in the content area or a master's degree outside the content area (i.e. education) with 18 graduate credit hours in the content area.

5. When does HLC's new faculty credentialing guidance become effective?

September 1, 2017. However, HLC has developed an application procedure whereby institutions may receive up to a five year extension (September 1, 2022). This extension would apply to dual credit faculty only and does not cover on-campus regular or adjunct faculty.

6. Who is filing the application for an extension for Ivy Tech?

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education will be filing an application on behalf of all public and non-profit independent postsecondary dual credit providers. The application deadline is December 15, 2016.

7. When will we know if the application has been approved?

HLC has promised a response within six weeks after the application has been filed.

8. Can institutions continue to utilize "alternative" credentialing methods during the extension timeframe, if the application is approved?

Any instructor not meeting new requirements will need to be on a "plan" showing they will be fully credentialed by the expiration of the extension, if granted. At this point, until an extension application is filed and acted upon, instructors need to be fully qualified by September 2017.



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9. Can teachers previously credentialed by alternative standards continue to teach dual credit?

Yes, during 2016-17. If an extension to the September 2017 deadline is granted, they may continue to teach dual credit under a “plan” designed to guide teachers toward meeting the new requirements by the end of the extension.

10. Are CTE dual credit offerings subject to HLC credentialing guidelines?

Yes, however, as currently interpreted, all credentialing standards currently in place for Ivy Tech CTE offerings meet HLC standards. The master’s degree in content or master’s degree outside of content with 18 graduate credits in the content area criteria only applies to “priority” liberal arts offerings.

11. Can a “teacher of record” or other alternative models be implemented?

Teacher of record is not considered a viable alternative based on the standards institutions are expected to follow. However, there may be room to explore distance or hybrid models which incorporate multiple schools/classes under the instruction of a single qualified instructor.

12. Why are four-year institutions allowed to use “teaching assistants” for undergraduate coursework?

HLC specifically excludes teaching assistants from their faculty credentialing guidelines. Additionally, most teaching assistants at four-year institutions are pursuing a doctoral degree and, therefore, already possess a master’s degree in the content area.

13. How is Indiana working to minimize the potential impact of HLC guidelines?

The Commissioner of Higher Education and State Superintendent have reactivated the Indiana Dual Credit Advisory Council. This council is reviewing all aspects of the issue and working to coordinate efforts to address various needs that have been identified (i.e. graduate coursework opportunities, teacher incentives, etc.)

14. Is the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) communicating with school districts about this matter so they understand it is more than an Ivy Tech issue?

IDOE staff attend all meetings related to this topic and will help schools understand that it is not an Ivy Tech specific issue.

15. Can we be certain all postsecondary dual credit providers will implement HLC faculty credentialing standards in a uniform manner?

All institutions have participated in ICHE sponsored meetings related to this topic and have expressed their intent to comply.



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