

Course Approvals

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Why Are Course Approvals Needed?

- Course approvals are needed to help ensure quality course offerings when a state adopted curriculum framework is not available.
- The process of obtaining course approval provides for an independent review of course content, instructional practice, and instructional materials.



Types of Course Approvals

- High School Courses Grades 9-12
- High School Courses Grades 5-8
- Concurrent Credit Courses for Weighted Credit
- Embedded Courses



When Is A Course Approval Needed?

- When a school wishes to teach a course for which there is no state adopted curriculum framework
- When a school wishes to offer weighted credit for a course that does not normally award an extra quality point
- When a school wishes to offer high school credit at grades 5-8
- When schools want to teach multiple courses through embedded curriculum



Who Should Complete A Course Approval?

- Course approvals most often come from a district level curriculum director.
- Counselors and administrators have also submitted courses approvals.
- Typically, classroom teachers would work with their administrators to submit a course approval.
- ADE specialists will work directly with school employees to help with the approval process.



When Should A Course Approval Be Submitted?

- A course approval should be submitted **no later than May 1** in order to be considered for the following academic year.
- The sooner requests are submitted, the sooner schedules can be finalized.
- Please make sure course approvals are secured before a visit from the Office of Standards.



What Is Required For Course Approval (Grades 9-12)?

- Course Outline
- Instructional Materials, Resources, and Equipment
- Targeted Student Population
- Examples of Application, Problem Solving, and Higher-Order Thinking
- Instructional Strategies for Diverse Learner Needs
- Examples of Assessments
- Examples of Hands-on-Activities



Course Outline

- This section is more than a list of topics.
- This section is more than a pacing guide.
- This section outlines **all** of the course content.
- This section must include links or connections to specific curriculum frameworks or standards on which the new course is based.



Instructional Materials, Resources, and Equipment

- This section could be used to describe **all** relevant and required materials, resources, and equipment needed by both teachers and students.
- This is not just textbooks.
- This section should include all safety materials needed for science lab experiences as well as any extraneous materials required for students.



Targeted Student Population

- Grade Level
- Prerequisites
- Admissions Policy Including Prioritization If Limited Sections



Examples of Application, Problem Solving, and Higher-Order Thinking

- This is expected no matter what the level of the course.
- This does not have to be a comprehensive list, but should include sufficient examples.
- It does not suffice to invoke only different levels of Bloom's without connection to specific activities or content standards.



Instructional Strategies for Diverse Learner Needs

- There is a misconception that this only applies to students with disabilities.
- This section should address the ways that different learning styles are met through instruction.
- Please think about all students when crafting a response to this section.



Examples of Assessments

- This does not have to include a comprehensive list of all assessments.
- Submissions should include samples of different types of assessments (formative, interim, summative) and scoring guides or rubrics.
- Also include references to the standards from course content that are being assessed by each example.



Examples of Hands-On Activities

- This section does not have to include a comprehensive list of all classroom activities which are considered hands-on.



What Is Required For Course Approval (Grades 5-8)?

- Grade level at which course will be taught
- Follow up curriculum to be offered through 12th grade
- Statement of assurance from superintendent
- **Credit must be awarded for these courses.**
- **Courses that meet any of the required 22 courses for graduation must be counted in the GPA.**



What Is Required For Course Approval (Embedded Curriculum)?

- All elements of 9-12 course approval
- Evidence that both sets of frameworks are being taught
- Statement of assurance, from the superintendent, that both sets of curriculum frameworks will be taught in their entirety



What Is Required For Course Approval (Weighted Credit)?

- All elements of 9-12 course approval (unless concurrent credit)
- Alignment to or extension of comparable Advanced Placement course



Other Course Approval Information

- Proper Submission Protocol
 - Hard Copies Required
 - Initial Submission by May 1
 - Email Confirmation Sent to Contact PersonOnce Request is Assigned to Content Specialist



Other Course Approval Information

- Feedback Protocol
 - Upon receipt of request, course will be assigned to a content specialist.
 - Content specialist will review course and provide feedback.
 - Feedback can be delivered electronically or in hard copy.
 - Course approval letters for files will be sent to superintendent.



Other Course Approval Information

- Course approval logs can be sent to school for verification of valid approvals.
- Please make requests for these records **prior** to a visit from the Office of Standards.
- Requests for this information will be handled in the order in which they are received by the Office of Curriculum and Instruction
- Please make all request to Thomas Coy (thomas.coy@arkansas.gov)



Curriculum Frameworks

- New Fine Arts Frameworks and Courses
 - Curriculum Frameworks and courses revised in summer of 2014
 - Approved by State Board of Education at the January 2015 meeting



Visual Art Curriculum Frameworks

- **Visual Art K-8 Revised**
- **Visual Art Appreciation**
- **Visual Art I-IV Revised (with appendices for Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Ceramics, and Sculpture)**
- **Art History Revised**
- **Art History Revised**
- **Studio Art 2-D Revised**
- **Studio Art 3-D Revised**

Survey of Fine Arts will no longer be available.

Theatre Curriculum Frameworks

Theatre K-8

Theatre Appreciation

Theatre I-III

Stagecraft I-III

Dance Curriculum Frameworks

Dance K-8

Dance Appreciation

Dance I-IV

Music Curriculum Frameworks

- General Music K-8
- Music Appreciation
- Beginning Band I-IV
- Band I-IV
- Introduction to Band
- Beginning Orchestra I-IV
- Orchestra I-IV
- Jazz Band I-IV
- Beginning Vocal Music I-IV
- Vocal Music I-IV
- Music Theory
- Music Lab (Appendices: Piano and Guitar)
- Music Technology

Survey of Fine Arts will no longer be available

ADE Course Approvals

A course approval will be necessary if:

- A district chooses to expand one of the ADE one-semester courses into a two-semester course
- A district chooses to create a new course

ADE Course Approvals

- If a district created a course which required course approval in the past, a new or re-submission **aligned to the new framework** will be required
- All course approval requests must be submitted by **May 1, 2015**, to be considered for the 2015-16 school year

Curriculum Updates

- New Social Studies Frameworks and Courses
 - Curriculum Frameworks and courses revised in summer of 2014
 - Approved by State Board of Education at the January 2015 meeting



High School Elective Courses

The following **one-semester** social studies courses **do not need** ADE course approval, and must be taught as written.

- African American History
- United States Government
- Psychology
- Sociology
- World Geography

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Instructional Materials

There will be

- Instructional materials for social studies that meet our frameworks
- A textbook caravan
- arcurriculumservices.com for more information on caravan – under Events tab when have dates/locations ...

Transitional Courses

- Established in Arkansas Code Annotated (A.C.A.) §6-15-2012
- Courses in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics
- More guidance found at the following link:

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/Learning_Services/Curriculum%20and%20Instruction/Resource%20Mat/Determining_College_and_Career_Readiness_Score.pdf



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Transition Options For ELA/Literacy

- Transitional Literacy Ready (496030)
 - SREB Training Required
 - Must Use Curriculum Modules from SREB
 - Career Focus Credit
- Transitional Literacy (496040)
 - Framework created by Arkansas Educators
 - Career Focus Credit
- Transitional English 12 (413010)
 - English 12 Credit
 - SREB Training Required



Transition Options for Mathematics

- Transitional Math Ready (439110)
 - Requires SREB Training
 - Requires the use of SREB created curriculum modules
 - Counts as a math beyond Algebra II/Career Focus Credit
- Algebra III (439070)
 - Counts as a math beyond Algebra II/Career Focus Credit



Computer Science

New Offerings

- Essentials of Computer Programming
 - Heavy emphasis in coding
 - Could be available in digital/online format
- Computer Science and Mathematics
 - Counts as a math credit beyond Algebra II
 - Must be taught by a licensed math teacher



Contact Information

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