

R277-717 High School Course Grading Requirements Frequently Asked Questions

Comparable Courses

1. **What is a comparable course?** A comparable course must fulfill the same graduation course requirement as the original course. It does not need to be taught for the same number of hours nor in the same format (e.g. face-to-face, online).
2. **Who determines if a course is comparable if it was given in another state or accredited non-LEA provider?** Local school boards or their designees may determine if a course is comparable based on standards alignment, age-level, and rigor.
3. **Can an online course be comparable to a course that was originally taken traditionally?** Yes, as long as it meets the same graduation requirement and is offered by an accredited Utah LEA.
4. **Must a student repeat an entire year of a course to be eligible for grade replacement?** No, but every effort should be made to ensure that the new grade will replace a grade that covers the same standards.

Processes

5. **Does the student have to declare that they want to replace a grade in advance?** Yes, a student must inform the LEA that they intend to take a course for a repeated grade and the LEA must confirm that the comparable course fulfills the same credit requirements as the course that the student intends to replace with the comparable course grade. LEAs may develop and require a form for this purpose.
6. **How far back can a student repeat a course?** A student may retake any high school course.
7. **How many times can a student repeat a course?** There is no limit.
8. **What if a student gets a lower grade the second time?** The lower grade does not replace the better grade.
9. **If a student repeats a course within a school, how is that documented?** The original grade and course must be removed. The new grade and course shall appear on the transcript during the reporting period in which the course was taken.

10. **Will the transcript reflect that the student repeated a course?** No, a transcript may not indicate on the student's record that the student repeated the course.
11. **Are LEAs required to replace grades with grades from other entities?** Yes, if the other entity is a Utah LEA or an accredited institution approved by the local board.
12. **If a student has transferred schools, who gives the grade for the repeated course and where is that documented?** The transcript must represent the school and entity from which the course is taken.
13. **Can LEAs charge a grade recovery fee?** Yes, however fee waivers are applicable to grade recovery just as they are to credit recovery.
14. **What fees can be collected from students when taking a class, a second time?** Student fees are governed in the same manner as when taking a course, the first time.
15. **May packets be used to replace grades?** LEA policies govern the acceptance of packets. Packets that result in P/F may not be used for grade replacement; however, packets from accredited institutions that result in grades may be used for grade replacement at the discretion of the local board.
16. **When must a comparable course be completed?** Comparable courses must be completed before LEA deadlines for graduation reporting.
17. **What if a school does not have the capacity to accommodate students wanting to repeat?** Schools should make every effort to accommodate students in classes whenever possible. If there are insufficient seats or enrollment is limited in some way, schools should help students find other options.
18. **What is the role of competency or mastery programs in repeating courses?** Schools may allow students to replace grades based on local competency or mastery program guidelines in a manner consistent with what is allowed for earning original credit.
19. **How does grade replacement affect valedictorian status?** Valedictorian policies are locally adopted.
20. **When course grades are eliminated, will there be an impact to the WPU?** No

Concurrent Enrollment

21. **Can concurrent enrollment courses be repeated?** No. Concurrent Enrollment courses are college courses. USHE institutions award the credit and the grades that appear on the college transcript; the same grade must be recorded on the high school transcript. Because they are college classes, approval to change CE grades lies with the USHE institution that awarded credit. High school students may not repeat a college course through Concurrent Enrollment; they can only repeat it after applying to an institution and paying tuition.

Special Cases

22. **Will repeating a course have an impact on an athletic scholarship?** Possibly. Retaking a course may put a student at risk for ineligibility
23. **Will repeating a course have an impact on the Regents' Scholarship?** Possibly. Rules governing the Regent's Scholarship are set by the Utah System of Higher Education. Students should work with their counselors to determine any possible impact.
24. **How will repeating courses impact graduation?** The repetition of courses and the replacement of grades will impact GPA in a positive way; however, if too many courses are repeated within the school day, students may be short credits for graduation. Credit requirements for graduation are governed at a local level so students should work with counselors to ensure sufficient progress is being made towards graduation.

ADA Compliant 1/3/2017