

ALTERNATIVE METHODS

AWARD OF CREDIT

VALENCIA COLLEGE

ALTERNATIVE METHODS AWARD OF CREDIT LOCAL AGREEMENTS & STATE ARTICULATION

Course work is awarded as equivalent based on the articulation agreements or industry certification at the local and state level. Students may also earn credit through local high school agreements Career Pathway, Internships and Service Learning courses at the college.

Official transcripts, licensure, and/or certification are required prior to assessment to the Academic Department Office. Outcomes are sent to the Records/Graduation District Office for processing.

A maximum of 45 credit hours toward the Associates in Arts degree may be awarded through alternative methods of earning credit.

State Articulation Agreements:

Advanced Placement: AP exams are given to students in high school who are enrolled in AP classes. Students will take the exam at the end of the coursework and will be awarded college level credit based on the scores earned.

- Students must submit an official copy of a valid score report showing a passing grade on an examination administered by the College Board.
- Valencia will award credit based on state guidelines as approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee.
- There are no grades or quality points associated with the awarding of AP credit. Credit awarded through AP is not repeatable for credit.

International Baccalaureate: The international Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum, offered in high schools around the world, is designed to prepare students for advanced work in many countries' postsecondary systems. Students may receive credit based on earning an International Baccalaureate diploma or by taking specific subject exams. To determine whether students are awarded college-level credit, students take IB exams (issued by the International Baccalaureate Organization) upon completion of their work. Scores ranged from 1-7. Students who have successfully completed the entire IB program and earned an IB diploma will be awarded college-level credit if they receive a score of 4 or higher on their subject exams. Students who do not hold an IB diploma but have successfully completed an individual subject exam will be awarded college level credit for that subject if they achieve a score of 5 or higher.

1. Student must submit an official report from the International Baccalaureate Organization showing a passing score in the subject exam.
2. Valencia will award credit based on state guidelines as approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee
3. There are no grades or quality points associated with the awarding of IB credit.
4. Credit awarded through IB is not repeatable for credit or grade forgiveness.

Excelsior College Examinations: The Excelsior College Examinations (formerly Regents College Exams or the Proficiency Examination Program), are developed by Excelsior College using national committees of faculty consultants and national studies to assess how well the tests measure the performance of students in actual college courses. Excelsior College Examinations are approved by the American Council on Education and Excelsior College itself is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSACS). To determine whether students are awarded college-level credit, students take Excelsior Examination. Credit awarded will be based on state guidelines as approved by the Articulation Coordinating

Committee. More information about Excelsior College Examinations can be found on-line at https://excelsior.edu/Excelsior_College/Excelsior_College_Examinations.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP): Exams are administered weekly by Valencia's Assessment Centers. Exams also are administered through the College Board on specific dates throughout the year.

1. Students taking CLEP at Valencia must submit paperwork to the Assessment Center. They will be limited to two examinations in one sitting.
2. Students must request that an official score report (from College Board) be sent to the Admissions and Records District Office. Official score reports are typically available 4-6 weeks after testing.
3. Upon receipt of the official score report, Valencia will award credit based on state guidelines as approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee.
4. There are no grades or quality points associated with the awarding of CLEP credit.
5. Credit awarded through CLEP may be used to forgive course work previously taken in which the student has earned a D or F.

Dantes Subject Standardized Tests (DSST): Defense Activity Non-Traditional Education Support: These are standardized subject tests designed to test a student's knowledge in a variety of college level subjects. Valencia will award credit based on state guidelines as approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee.

1. Student must have an official score report sent to Valencia from ETS (Educational Testing Services).
2. Upon receipt of the official score report, Valencia will award credit based on state guidelines as approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee.
3. Credit will be awarded only for courses that have been approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee.
4. There are no grades or quality points associated with the awarding of DANTES credit.

Military Credit: Credit awarded and posted on a student's military transcript while part of the military services may be transferred from the following: AARTS (used by Army National Guard and Army Reserve), SMART (used by Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard), or Community College of the Air Force.

1. The student must have an official transcript sent to Valencia.
2. Upon receipt of the official score report, Valencia will award credit based on college course offerings or by ACE guidelines.
3. There are no grades or quality points associated with the awarding of Military Credit.

Cambridge Advance International Certificate of Education (AICE): The AICE program is an international, advanced secondary curriculum and assessment program equivalent to the British system of "A-Levels."

1. Students must request that an official score report from the testing agency to be sent to the Admissions and Records District Office.
2. Upon receipt of the official score report, Valencia will award credit based on state guidelines as approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee.
3. Credit awarded through AICE may be used to forgive course work previously taken in which the student has earned a D or F. The selection of subjects examinations are taken from three curriculum areas- mathematics and science; languages; Arts and humanities.
4. There are no grades or quality points associated with the awarding of credit.

Local Articulation Agreements:

Career Pathways

The following partnerships are currently in effect between Orange County Public Schools, The School District of Osceola County and Valencia College. By participating in Career Pathways, high school students have the opportunity to earn Valencia College or tech center credits through technical assessments given during high school. Career Pathways helps prepare students for college and employment in selected programs developed around seventeen different career clusters.

The criteria for these partnerships are based on standards of good practice in accordance with the Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, policies approved by the District Board of Trustees, and learning-centered practices and principles.

The Valencia College Catalog defines college criteria regarding the award of credit and course substitutions/waivers. Learning-centered principles that guide the implementation of procedures for awarding credit are as follows:

- Ensure consistency college-wide in the implantation of procedures
- Ensure prompt and quick response to students
- Make the process reasonably transparent to both student and staff
- Maintain academic standards
- Minimize the workload of those who are responsible for evaluating transfer coursework

The credit is awarded based on areas of study in agreement with the Academic Departments and enrollment at Valencia in the following areas.

CHANGES to be incorporated

The Orange • Osceola • Valencia Career Pathways Career Clusters are :

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, A/V Technology and Communication
- Business, Management and Administration
- Education and Training
- Energy
- Finance
- Government and Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety and Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing, Sales and Service
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

Internship Program / Service Learning

One of the major premises underlying Valencia's educational model is that learning takes place in many different settings, both in and outside the classroom. Through Internship and Workforce Services, Valencia provides students with learning experiences that assist them in realizing their full potential in the workplace. Internships allow students to:

- Explore various career options or confirm career plans;
- Apply classroom learning to real work situations;
- Practice and strengthen interpersonal and technical skills; and/or
- Develop industry contacts to transition from school to work upon graduation.

Types of Internships

There are two types of internships offered at Valencia:

- **Internship Exploration** – A planned work based experience that provides students with career-exploration activities to confirm their educational plans. Most often, the Internship Exploration experience involves a single employer and with a specific agreement with Valencia. Under the supervision of an employer representative, the student performs work based on his/her educational goals. College credit is awarded for the Internship Exploration.
- **Internship** – A planned work-based experience that provides students with the opportunity to fine-tune skill sets learned in class in preparation for employment. Most often, the Internship experience involves a single employer and a specific agreement with Valencia. Under the supervision of an employer representative, the student performs work based on his/her program of study. College credit is awarded for the Internship. Some internships may include compensation.

How Credits Apply

A student may apply a maximum of four internship credits toward a degree; however, if an Associate in Applied Science or an Associate in Science degree requires more than four internship credits, the additional credits may be applied toward the degree. All required internship credits do not have to be taken in the same term. For example, students may enroll for a one-credit internship course for four terms or students may take a one-credit course one term and a three-credit course another term. Each internship period is one full term in length, and each credit earned requires 80 hours of work.

Service Learning

Service Learning integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Service Learning allows students to blend educational goals with their passions. At Valencia, students can participate in service learning as individuals through the service learning course SLS 2940 or SLS 2940H (Honors).

Together with the faculty member, students engage in reading and writing associated with their chosen service experience in order to enhance learning. In addition to these requirements, SLS2940H course content will satisfy one Honors Program learning outcome. SLS 2940 provides the opportunity for students to earn college credit while responding to real world needs, mutually defined in partnership with representatives from community/nonprofit agencies. Service Learning (SLS 2940) and Service Learning Honors (SLS2940H) provide students with a faculty-directed practical service learning experience in a community service setting. The community can be as close as a neighborhood just beyond the college campus or one located in another part of the world.

How Credits Apply

Students may complete a maximum of four Service Learning experiences (equivalent to four credits) while attending Valencia. Each experience/credit requires a minimum of 20 total hours of service. Service Learning credits may apply toward an Associate in Arts degree to fulfill elective credit requirements. In addition, the Service Learning course is a degree elective option in the Accounting, Computer Information Technology, Medical Information Coder/Biller, Medical Office Administration, and Office Administration Associate in Science degrees and in the Business Management, Marketing and Administration Associate in Science degree. The course also will apply toward elective requirements in the Customer Service, Medical Coder/Biller, Medical Office, and Office Administration technical certificates. Information about service learning is available online at valenciacollege.edu/servicelearning