

Instruction

CHALLENGING COURSES BY EXAMINATION

The Governing Board recognizes that there is a need to allow high school students to challenge a given course by examination to accelerate progress towards graduation and to achieve more flexibility in the selection of electives. This opportunity will permit a student to enroll in courses best suited to his/her educational objectives.

The examination shall be comprehensive and cover all course objectives. Successful completion of the examination shall be at a level which indicates mastery of the content and/or reasonable chance for success in the next higher course.

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)
(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

51225.3 Requirements for graduation

52017 Secondary school; additional inclusion in (school improvement) plan

Policy
adopted: May 25, 2004
reviewed: April 5, 2022

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California

Instruction**CHALLENGING COURSES BY EXAMINATION****Petition to Challenge Course Not Previously Taken**

One month prior to the end of the current semester, currently enrolled students interested in challenging a course shall file a petition form with their counselor. Entering ninth-grade students and new enrollees shall file a petition and take the examination within two weeks of the time of initial entry to high school classes.

The counselor shall inform the course instructor of the student's intent to challenge the course. The student shall be allowed to challenge the course by examination if his/her petition is signed by the counselor, department chair and parent/guardian. The student's petition shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Grades in courses of the subject area of the challenge
2. Recommendations from the teacher
3. Substitute courses to be taken by the student
4. Student's rationale or reasons for challenging a specific course

The challenge examination may be offered when the course is part of a sequence of courses normally taken in specific order or when the course is normally required for entry into another course.

1. During their enrollment in high school, students may challenge no more than four courses which meet graduation requirements.

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

2. A student may challenge a particular course only once.
3. A student may challenge only one course per semester. This may be a course in which the student is enrolled or any other approved course offering.
4. Students challenging courses in a subject area required for graduation by the State of California will not be exempt from the total number of semester units required by the State for graduation.
5. Courses not specifically required for graduation may not be challenged.
6. The physical education requirements and the driver education requirement may not be challenged.

CHALLENGING COURSES BY EXAMINATION (continued)**Test Content and Administration**

The district, principal and department chairpersons shall collaborate with teachers in the development of appropriate district-wide testing procedures and materials for the classes that may be challenged within each department. District and departmentally-developed standards and benchmarks shall determine the content and the type of evaluation to be used. The examination may be written, oral, by demonstration or any combination thereof.

The type of test administered shall depend on the course outline. The department chairperson or designee shall supervise the administration and evaluation of tests pertaining to the department.

Successful Course Challenge

1. The students must be “proficient” or score at least 80% on the district examination.
2. Only Pass and No Credit marks will be issued for a course challenged by examination. No units are awarded in the event of a successful challenge.
3. A Pass grade will meet graduation requirements.
4. Grade point average is not affected by course challenges.
5. The transcript will indicate that the requirements were met by “challenge”.

Petition to Challenge a Course Previously Failed

Any high school student interested in challenging a previously failed course will have the opportunity to take an examination to remediate the course(s) beginning with the semester following such failure. Students can take additional tests, when necessary, at the end of each semester thereafter. Testing content and procedures should follow procedures outlined in AR 6155 (b).

(cf. 6143 Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements)

1. A student may challenge any academic core course previously failed.
2. A student may challenge a particular course only once.
3. Students challenging courses in subject area required for graduation by the State of California will not be exempt from the total number of semester units required by the state for graduation.

CHALLENGING COURSES BY EXAMINATION (continued)

Successful Remediation

1. The students must obtain a passing score on the district examination.
2. Students will earn credits equivalent to one semester of coursework for each of the challenge exams they successfully complete.
3. A pass grade will meet graduation requirements.
4. Courses passed by examination do not meet A-G requirements for college entrance.
5. Grade point average is not affected by course challenges.
6. The transcript will reflect a “P” grade for any content area course that is successfully challenged.

Regulation
approved: April 26, 2004
revised: January 25, 2010
reviewed: February 28, 2022

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