

Purpose/Background

Students learn at different rates and they acquire course proficiency and mastery in various ways. Some students may excel in a course without receiving direct teaching provided in a classroom or laboratory.

Senior high school students (i.e., grades 10, 11 and 12) registered in a Division school who believe that they already possess the attributes, skills and knowledge prescribed by the Program of Studies for a course, shall be permitted to show these abilities through special assessment opportunities.

Definition

Course Challenge is a provision that "permits senior high school students to receive a mark and credits for a course without taking instruction in the course" (Alberta Education; Accountability In Education Policy - Course Challenge); senior high school students, therefore, are allowed to participate in the summative - evaluation process; be given a final course mark; and, if successful, credits in that course.

Procedures

1. The Superintendent has the authority to establish Course Challenge procedures, which will be reviewed annually in consultation with senior high school principals.
2. Procedures - including those for appeals, fees, marks and credits - shall be consistent with Alberta Education Policy.
3. Principals have delegated authority to administer Course Challenges.
4. Course Challenges shall be administered by a senior high school – or designated Course Challenge Centre – according to the procedures only after the student is registered in a senior high school.
5. The senior high school Principal, or an Education Centre administrator, shall assign the administration and evaluation of the Course Challenge to a certificated teacher who has taught the course.
6. The senior high school Principal shall ensure that at the time of the decision, information is provided to the student on appeal procedures in relation to:
 - 6.1 The refusal of the student's application for a challenge examination, and
 - 6.2 The grade awarded as a result of a completed challenge assessment.

Reference:

- Section 18, 31, 33, 52, 53, 56, 196, 197, 222 Education Act
- Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12