

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why is the course challenge process being limited to two credits?

The intent of this policy is not to “fast track” students, but to open up their timetables for other courses where there can be greater learning benefits. Further, it is considered that classroom experiences and interaction with other students are valuable and not necessarily replaced by a course challenge.

2. Why is the course challenge process being limited to only level 10 or 20 courses?

This policy allows students to challenge any course at the 10 or 20 level, usually prerequisite courses, to be able to earn 30 level credits. Due to the importance of 30 level courses, all students must cover the content of the courses to the fullest degree and be thoroughly assessed.

3. Can locally developed, modified, and International Baccalaureate courses be challenged?

No, only regular provincially developed courses may be challenged.

4. How would a teacher evaluator determine if a student is ready to challenge a course for credit?

Readiness to challenge a course is demonstrated if the student:

- Is aware of course outcomes and confident that the challenge process can be successfully completed at an exemplary level;
- has previous experiences and courses to provide exemplary knowledge, skills, and attitudes in the particular course to be challenged;
- shows exceptional talent or ability in an area or consistently excels in the particular area of study to be challenged; and/or,
- would benefit by moving to the next higher level course more quickly.

5. Would it not be easier to give an exam to determine whether a student should be given credit for a course?

In order to be fair to all students, it is essential that teachers use an appropriate array of assessment strategies before giving credit for the course. The challenge process should be based upon course requirements and upon current classroom assessment techniques. Therefore, the course challenge process should include a variety of assessment techniques and not be based solely upon the results of one exam.

6. Would the course challenge process require extra time for teachers and administrators?

Initially, time will be required to develop the Education Organization’s policy. Assessment strategies will also need to be chosen to reflect course outcomes and activities for each course available for challenge.

7. Does the course challenge process replace the waiving of prerequisite requirements in the languages?

No, schools may continue to request Registrar's approval to waive the prerequisite requirement to allow placement of a student at the appropriate level in the languages (cases where students do not choose to challenge for credit recognition).

8. Under current practices, schools are advised that when a student transferring into Saskatchewan is unable to receive credit recognition through an equivalency evaluation and claims to have taken the course, the school may "fast track" the student through the course in less than 100 credit hours. Can this practice continue?

In the past, principals have been advised that out-of-province transfer students who have taken the work previously and have been unable to receive equivalency recognition may be "fast tracked" through a course for credit at the Grade 10, 11 and 12 levels. They have been advised as follows:

- Students must demonstrate they have met the prescribed learning outcomes of a course;
- to receive credit recognition, students must meet the same standards as students who have taken the course for 100 credit hours;
- students are awarded a percentage mark for a course completed through this process; and,
- in order to be eligible to participate, a student must be enrolled in an Education Organization.

In practice, the assessment and evaluation strategies for determining whether students have met the prescribed learning outcomes of the course through the fast track process are determined at the school level. The fast track process should be equally as rigorous as the course challenge process.

9. How do students receive credit for a successful challenge process?

Upon completion of the course challenge, the school forwards a copy of the Education Organization's course challenge policy, the Intent to Challenge Course form and the [Secondary Level Mark Corrections form](#) to student.records@gov.sk.ca.