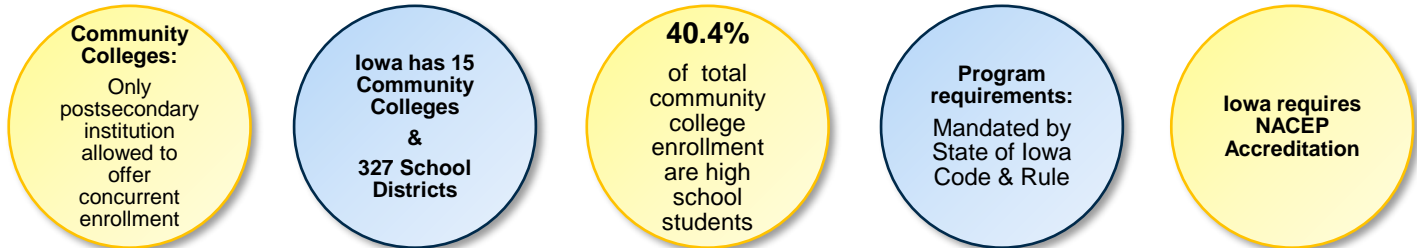


# State of Iowa Profile for NACEP Peer Reviewers



COMMUNITY COLLEGES &  
WORKFORCE PREPARATION

This state profile was created by the Iowa Department of Education in an effort to assist the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) peer review teams to have a greater understanding of Iowa's Concurrent Enrollment Program. Information provided is not exhaustive; however, it provides a snapshot of relevant information, state policies and laws that are applicable to all Iowa Community Colleges that participate in the state's Senior Year Plus Concurrent Enrollment Program.



## Concurrent Enrollment in Iowa

The concurrent enrollment program (CEP), also known as district-to-community college sharing, promotes rigorous academic or career and technical pursuits by providing opportunities for high school students in grades 9 through 12 to enroll in eligible nonsectarian courses at or through one of Iowa's 15 Community Colleges.

Administered as a single program, the courses may be taken at a high school, on a college campus or through online/distance education. The instructors may be a college employed instructor or a high school instructor serving as a community college adjunct faculty member. Even though there is variation in the mechanisms available, consistency in expectations for students, instructors, school districts and postsecondary institutions is mandated by state policy ([281 IAC Chapter 22](#)). However, in alignment with NACEP requirements, only those courses taught by a high school instructor are included with each institution's NACEP application for reaccreditation.

## Program Accreditation

The Department utilizes the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) accreditation process to ensure compliance with many state statutory requirements. The Department prepared a [crosswalk](#) which details the alignment between Senior Year Plus statutory requirements and NACEP standards. Compliance with state standards is also monitored through the state community college accreditation process.

## Community College State Accreditation Process

Community colleges are accredited by the Iowa State Board of Education. The [state accreditation process](#) supplements the HLC accreditation process by ensuring compliance with state standards not specifically reviewed through the HLC review. State evaluations occur on a 10-year cycle, with interim evaluations on the fifth year and comprehensive evaluations on the tenth year. Through the state accreditation process, Senior Year Plus programs are also reviewed, including the state's concurrent enrollment program.

### Senior Year Plus

Serves as an umbrella for a variety of programs designed to provide high school students access to courses that have the potential to generate college credit and include programs such as Advanced Placement, Concurrent Enrollment, Postsecondary Enrollment Options and Career Academies.

15 of NACEP's standards directly align with State of Iowa requirements for Concurrent Enrollment.

## Postsecondary Course Audit Process

As mandated by [Iowa Code 256.17](#), the Postsecondary Course Audit Committee (PSCAC) is charged with providing quality assurance initiatives for postsecondary courses delivered through Senior Year Plus programs. This includes setting the standards for concurrent enrollment and the process by which the Department of Education assess that program. The committee has focused on concurrent enrollment sections delivered at high school locations and piggybacks off the NACEP accreditation process for concurrent enrollment programs.

All 15 State of Iowa Community Colleges are NACEP Accredited

The [PSCAC audit plan](#) requires all community colleges maintain NACEP accredited status in order to demonstrate that the committee's criteria (for annually auditing courses) are met. The audit plan does not provide for an alternative means for demonstrating state standards are met. All community colleges must demonstrate standards are met through NACEP accredited status. The PSCAC audit process is coupled with NACEP accreditation and aligned with the community college state accreditation process. Concurrent enrollment courses provided by community colleges without NACEP accredited status will not be eligible for [supplementary weighted funding](#) (to school districts) per Iowa Code 256.17. This includes any delivery method of the concurrent enrollment course (i.e., offered/taught in the high school location, on-campus, online).

## Cost of Tuition and State Support

Students enroll tuition free. Tuition is paid for by the school district and cost of tuition is negotiated between the school district and community college. The state of Iowa annually supports participating districts with additional funds called supplementary weighted funding. Weighted funding is designed to help districts offset the costs associated with concurrent enrollment and encourage districts to offer programs and extend services deemed necessary or desirable which might not otherwise be provided.

Over \$25 million in funds is provided annually to school districts to support participation in concurrent enrollment.

## Faculty Qualifications & Quality Faculty Plan (QFP)

Iowa law establishes the process for community colleges to plan for the hiring and professional development of faculty. Concurrent enrollment instructors must be included in the colleges' institutional QFP (281 IAC 24.5(5)). Concurrent enrollment instructors must meet state minimum faculty standards, as well as the same college hiring requirements as instructors within the academic area employed by the college (281-IAC 22.3(1)).

## Student Admission Criteria

The program is open to eligible students in grades 9 through 12 (281 IAC 22.11). Students must meet the academic requirements of both the school district and postsecondary institution. While Iowa community colleges are open access institutions, they have college placement requirements for enrollment in certain courses. Students must meet any assessment requirements of the postsecondary institution including any placement exam requirements and have taken the appropriate course prerequisites, if any, prior to enrollment in the eligible postsecondary course (281 IAC 22.2(1)(c)).

No limit on the amount of college credit a high school student may enroll in, unless the community college has a per semester cap for all enrolled students.

## Mixed Courses & Auditing

Students are not allowed to audit a concurrent enrollment course. Students enrolled in the course must take the course for college credit. Students may not be enrolled for high school credit only (281 IAC 22.11(5)).

## Courses

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Courses must apply towards a two-year degree program or toward completion of a diploma program; the course may not apply solely to a community college certificate program. Courses may not be developed for concurrent enrollment students only; the course must be open to all registered community college students. However, sections of the course delivered at school district sites may be closed to regular college students, provided other sections are available for regular student enrollment. Additionally, the course must be included in the college course catalog or an addendum or amendment to the catalog (281 IAC 97.2(5)).

Nearly every Iowa school district offers access to concurrent enrollment programming; however, the depth of this access varies by district and corresponding community college service region.

The school board of each school district must annually approve courses to be made available through the concurrent enrollment program using locally developed criteria (281 IAC 22.11(3)).

## Year-long Courses

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In Iowa, spreading a postsecondary concurrent enrollment course over an entire year is not permissible. It is the expectation that concurrent enrollment courses are comparable and taught to the same standard and rigor of the postsecondary faculty teaching the course on campus.

## Geographic Extent of the Program

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Each community college has a defined service region and serves school districts within its designated region. Prevailing practice for each community college is to confine their concurrent enrollment practices to their own region unless there are extenuating circumstances (i.e., a college does not offer a certain program or course). The community colleges have also agreed that prior to entering into a concurrent enrollment contractual agreement which crosses a community college regional border, they will contact the community college in which the school is located to have the arrangement approved by each community college impacted, and included in the contract.

## Partnership Engagement

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Community colleges and school districts enter into contractual agreements to provide concurrent enrollment programming opportunities to eligible students (281 IAC 22.6). Additionally, [regional planning partnerships](#) with each of Iowa's Community Colleges support school districts in developing the best approaches for delivering high-quality career and technical education (CTE) and expanding college credit opportunities for high school students. Community colleges, school districts, area education agencies, representatives of economic and workforce development organizations, and business and industry work together to ensure students graduate from high school ready for college and career training.

## Senior Year Plus: Guide for Educators and Educational Administrators

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This [comprehensive guide](#) is designed to assist educators, counselors, and administrators in understanding the requirements and expectations of the Senior Year Plus programs. It contains program descriptions, requirements, timelines and other useful resources.