



PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAREER AND COLLEGE READY GRADUATES PROGRAM

A Report to the:
Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

Submitted by The State Board of Community Colleges
and the State Board of Education

S.L. 2015-241, Section 10.13, as amended by S.L. 2016-94, Section 10.5 and
S.L. 2018-5, Section 9.4

October 15, 2021

Report to the NC General Assembly:**Career and College Ready Graduates Programs (CCRG)****S.L. 2015-241, Section 10.13, as amended by S.L. 2016-94 and S.L. 2018-5****BACKGROUND**

S.L. 2015-241, Section 10.13 amended by S.L. 2016-94, Section 10.5 and S.L. 2018-5, Section 9.4, Career and College Ready Graduates, requires the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC), in consultation with the State Board of Education (SBE), to develop a program that introduces the college developmental mathematics and developmental reading and English curriculums in the high school senior year and provides opportunities for college remediation for students prior to high school graduation. Implementation of select model partnerships began in the 2016/2017 academic year. Professional development for high school faculty began in the 2018-2019 academic year and continued into the 2020-2021 academic year. The program has been phased in by cohorts developed by the Department of Public Instruction beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year with statewide implementation in January 2021. Despite school challenges during COVID-19, there were 102 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) who participated to some degree with the CCRG online content.

CCRG Session law requires that high school students enroll in the program if they have not met readiness indicators established by the SBCC by their junior year. High schools are required to use the curriculum approved by the SBCC, in consultation with the SBE. The SBCC is also required to determine the appropriate measure of successful completion to ensure students are prepared for coursework at a North Carolina community college without further remediation in mathematics, reading or English. Professional development was prepared and delivered by the professional development sub-committee of the Career and College Ready Graduate Alignment Partnership (CCRGAP) committee during the 2020/2021 school year. The CCRG courses were delivered by high school faculty after completing training requirements during the spring semester of 2021. The NC Community College System (NCCCS) is providing oversight for the program. The NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) partners with the NCCCS to ensure effective implementation continues to improve across the state.

Aligned with the NCCCS RISE placement and remediation program, the NCCCS selected the NROC platform to deliver the CCRG curriculum. NCDPI procured the NROC platform for all NC public high schools starting in fall 2021 and was available for school use in the spring and summer semesters 2021. NCDPI note: As of Summer 2021, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) has no funding appropriated by the NC General Assembly for the Career and College Ready Graduate (CCRG) program platform. If there is no allocated funding for the CCRG platform, NCDPI will not be able to deliver the program as designed.

In working to design the program, the NCCCS and NCDPI are partnering to support the goal of students

successfully graduating from public high schools who are career and college ready. In doing so, both the NCCCS and NCDPI are engaged in developing additional strategies to target specific academic deficiencies.

CURRENT STATUS

CCRG Implementation

As previously reported, CCRG content was first taught in high schools statewide in Spring semester of 2021 with a focus on high school seniors.

- Beginning in January 2021 and continuing through August 2021 high school students are able to access the mathematics CCRG content modules through NROC/EdReady at any time to master the modules. High School seniors who have not met readiness indicators may also access the mathematics content by enrolling in a fourth math course that includes the NROC/EdReady content.
- Eligible students access the CCRG modules for English when they enroll in English IV. Students who successfully demonstrate mastery of the content prior to high school graduation enter NC community colleges meeting college readiness standards for English and reading.
- Professional development provided during 2021 included guidance for school districts on the procedures for noting a student's participation in CCRG in the NC Student Information System, PowerSchool.

Professional Development

Continued professional development is planned to begin in August 2021 and will include several webinars led by NROC and NCCCS with support from NCDPI. The webinars will feature LEA Administrators, CCRG Math Teachers, and CCRG Enhanced English IV Teachers sharing their "lessons learned" from Spring 2021 CCRG implementation. These subject matter experts will also share pacing guides, lesson plans, sample grading guidelines, student activities, and other materials they have created with the LEAs. These materials will be housed in the already existing "CCRG Resources Course" which is managed by NCCCS faculty on NCDPI's Canvas site. The "CCRG Resources Course" was first developed as part of the professional development during the 2020-2021 year. Training materials continue to be added to this course which can be accessed by all LEA personnel. NROC has created a CCRG resources website that is continuously updated with materials for CCRG Administrators and Teachers.

NCCCS and NROC plan to also host "Office Hours" in the Fall semester of 2021 where LEA personnel can drop-in and ask questions as needed.

Professional development and support for CCRG is also being planned for Spring 2022 and will be made available to LEAs and high schools as those plans are finalized. NCCCS will continue to provide webinars and other support materials as appropriate to help LEA Administrators and teachers navigate CCRG implementation each semester.

NCDPI will be supporting NCCCS professional development with NROC by communicating with LEAs, providing regular updates, helping to facilitate “office hours” and working with the NROC Project/EdReady platform to ensure access, data sharing, and progress continues with the vendor for CCRG program.

Program Outcomes

Session Law 2018-5, Section 9.4 requires that the SBCC and the SBE report annually to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on progress of implementation. This report should include the “impact on remediation rates by high school in both mathematics and reading and English for recent high school graduates entering a North Carolina community college or constituent institution of The University of North Carolina.”

Since Spring 2021 CCRG High School graduates are currently applying to colleges for Fall 2021, the enrollment data of these graduates into the community colleges is not yet available. By October 2022, NCCCS can provide data regarding the number of students entering a community college during the 2021-2022 academic year who received developmental course credit through CCRG. In addition, the NCCCS will provide the percentage of students entering a community college having received CCRG content in high school who completed a college level English or Math Course within their first academic year of college enrollment. The NCCCS will be able to disaggregate this information by unweighted high school GPA.

Note: CCRG does not impact the individual remediation programs at UNC Institutions.

Initial Program Outcomes, based on statewide summary from NROC to NCDPI, as of June 28, 2021:

Number of students who participated in the NROC/EdReady platform:

CCRG English: 5200

CCRG Math: 4736

Number of credits earned based on Tier Tests from January-June 2021:

English Tier 1 Credits: 206

English Tier 2 Credits: 38

Math Tier 1 Credits: 1562

Math Tier 2 Credits: 854

Math Tier 3 Credits: 546

Students will give permission to the specific NC community college when they enroll for data to be sent from NROC to the college to use for placement purposes.

CONCLUSION

The NCCCS Career and College Ready Graduate Alignment Partnership team and NCDPI believe the current plan has strong potential for success as it is designed to ensure that:

1. Input and participation from the community colleges, NCDPI, LEAs and high school teachers will continue and strengthen as the program increases statewide participation. The possible need for multiple strategies to sufficiently address the statewide need was identified and supported. Permitting LEAs to adapt content implementation based on local needs will support more effective implementation.
2. The program is built on policies, such as Career and College Promise and Developmental Education policies and practices already in place as well as partnerships with work that has already occurred within the State.
3. Students who successfully master the Tier Tests will enter the community college remediation-free and will be placed in credit-bearing courses.
4. Students that were not able to complete the entire program will still be able to reduce their developmental education footprint when enrolling at their community college.

Some challenges remain with the sustainability of the CCRG program.

- Although the statewide pilot phase of RISE has ended and colleges have been provided flexibility in serving students based on local needs, benchmarks for remediation remain in place as developed by the RISE program and CCRG Tier test scores will be accepted at colleges for placement into college level courses. As the NCCCS continues to evaluate its Developmental Education practices, the System Office will continue to work collaboratively with NCDPI to ensure students receiving CCRG content and passing the assessments provided through CCRG enter college without the need for further remediation.
- Lack of legislative funding for the chosen CCRG platform and staff at NCDPI create challenges to support this initiative.

CCRG PROGRAM DETAILS, previously reported.

CCRG Student English Eligibility and Exemptions

Any NC high school student who has an **unweighted GPA (UGPA) between 2.2 and 2.799** as a high school junior after the completion of the first semester or second semester is required to take English with the CCRG content in the senior year of high school.

Students with an unweighted GPA below 2.2 may opt into CCRG English. Students who are eligible for a CCP College Transfer Pathway are exempt from CCRG courses.

If students meet any one of the following criteria in English, they will be exempt from the CCRG English content.

- Cumulative high school UGPA- 2.8 or higher
- SAT ERW- 480 or higher
- ACT English- 18 or higher
- ACT Reading- 22 or higher
- AP Language & Composition- 3 or higher
- AP Literature & Composition- 3 or higher
- IB English A- 4 or higher
- Cambridge International Exam: AS Level English Language- grade C or higher
- Cambridge International Exam: A Level English Language- grade C or higher
- Cambridge International Exam: AS Level Language and Literature in English- grade C or higher
- For CCP/CIHS students*: College GPA 2.8+ **and** 6+ UGETC credits earned with a grade of C or higher
- For CCP/CIHS students*: Completions of ENG 111 **or** ENG 110 with a grade of C or higher

*CIHS students are those attending early colleges, middle colleges, or other cooperative innovative high schools.

CCRG Student Math Eligibility and Exemptions

Any NC high school student who has an **unweighted GPA (UGPA) between 2.2 and 2.799** as a high school junior after the completion of the first semester or second semester is required to take CCRG math content in the senior year of high school.

Students with an unweighted GPA below 2.2 may opt into CCRG math. Students who are eligible for a CCP College Transfer Pathway are exempt from CCRG courses.

If students meet any one of the following criteria in math, they will be exempt from the CCRG math content.

- Cumulative high school UGPA- 2.8 or higher
- SAT Math- 530 or higher
- ACT Math- 22 or higher
- Math 3 EOC- 4 or 5
- AP Calculus AB- 3 or higher
- AP Calculus BC- 3 or higher
- IB Math (Higher Level) - 4 or higher
- IB Advanced Math (Higher Level)- 4 or higher
- IB Mathematical Studies (Standard Level)- 4 or higher
- Cambridge International Exam: AS Level Math- grade C or higher
- Cambridge International Exam: A Level Math- grade C or higher

- Cambridge International Exam: A Level Mathematics- Further- Grade C or higher
- For CCP/CIHS students*: College GPA 2.8+ **and** 6+ UGETC credits earned with a grade of C or higher
- For CCP/CIHS students*: Completion of MAT 110, MAT 121, MAT 143, MAT 152, **or** MAT 171 with a grade of C or higher

*CIHS students are those attending early colleges, middle colleges, or other cooperative innovative high schools

In addition, to clarify on the above placement criteria, the following items were considered:

- Community college faculty, high school English teachers, and NC DPI curriculum specialists reviewed the CCRG Enhanced English IV course. There is agreement that this course can satisfy the English IV high school graduation requirement. The course is listed as English IV on the transcript and will satisfy the UNC minimum admissions requirement.
- Community college faculty, high school math teachers, and NC DPI curriculum specialists reviewed the CCRG Math course. This course can count as a fourth mathematics credit for high school graduation but not as a fourth level mathematics course. Since this is not a fourth level mathematics course, it will not satisfy UNC minimum admissions requirements.
- Each course will include assessments that align to placement benchmarks at the community college. Scores on these assessments will determine placement at the community college upon completion of the CCRG English and math courses.
- The overall grades for the English and Math courses with CCRG curriculum will determine credit for high school graduation.
- Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children guidelines will apply as appropriate for most beneficial placement.

CCRG Content

English Language Arts

The CCRG English content has been developed to align with the ELA Standard Course of Study as well as NCCCS student outcomes.

- The CCRG content for English Language Arts will be integrated into English IV with specific program enrollment guidance to indicate students who are receiving this content.
- For CCRG content guidance, refer to the NCCCS.
- For CCRG implementation guidance, refer to the NCDPI.

Mathematics

The CCRG content for mathematics involves mastery-based modules through the chosen NROC/EdReady platform.

- The CCRG mathematics units may be integrated into another existing mathematics course or offered during an intervention time frame. The CCRG mathematics units may also be delivered through a stand-alone course during their senior year.

- The CCRG mathematics content does not satisfy a fourth level mathematics course and does not meet UNC System Minimum Course Requirements for admission because it does not build on Math 3.
- The standalone CCRG Math course will earn a fourth mathematics credit towards high school graduation requirements.
- For CCRG content guidance, refer to the NCCCS.
- For CCRG implementation guidance, refer to the NCDPI.

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