

1D SBCCC 800.8 Challenge Exams/Proficiency

- (a) Challenge Exam/Proficiency. A departmental or institutional exam for a community college course used to determine if a student's subject matter proficiency is equal to or greater than the corresponding proficiency the student would have achieved had he or she completed the actual course.
- (b) Challenge Exam/Proficiency Standards
 - (1) Each college is responsible for ensuring the validity and reliability of institutional challenge exams/proficiency.
 - (2) Challenge exams/proficiency may be handwritten, computer-based, oral, practical, or a combination of these administration methods.
 - (3) Developmental courses (as defined in 1D SBCCC 400.3(b)) supplemental courses (as defined in 1D SBCCC 400.8(b)(1)), and courses including clinical practice (as defined in 1D SBCCC 400.1(c)(2)) are not eligible for challenge exams/proficiency.
 - (4) Challenge exams/Proficiency that are administered for courses contained in the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) may be provided when the exam is vetted, administered, and graded by a qualified instructor in the discipline.
- (c) Limitations on Students Eligible to Take Challenge Exams/Proficiency
 - (1) A student must meet all pre-requisite requirements before he or she is eligible to take the challenge/proficiency examination for a course.
 - (2) A student may only attempt a challenge exam/proficiency once.
 - (3) A student may not take a challenge exam/proficiency if he or she has already earned a grade for the course. A challenge exam/proficiency may not be used to supersede a grade a student already earned in the applicable course.
 - (4) Career and College Promise (CCP) students, as defined in 1D SBCCC 400.11, may participate in challenge/proficiency examinations to earn college credit but may not earn dual high school credit. To earn dual credit, students must enroll and successfully complete the college course.

- (5) If a CLEP exam in a subject is offered by the College Board, colleges may require a student to take the CLEP exam if he or she seeks to demonstrate proficiency in the subject area by examination.
- (d) Colleges shall award credit for the applicable course to a student who successfully earns a grade of “C” or higher on a challenge exam/proficiency.
- (e) If the college requires the student to enroll in the course to be challenged, for practical purposes the test should be administered and graded by the first week the course is offered but no later than course census. Individuals who are unsuccessful may choose to stay enrolled in the course to earn course credit.
- (f) If the college challenge/proficiency examination occurs outside of regular course enrollment, then an optional assessment fee may be charged to cover administrative cost per 1E SBCCC 700.6.
- (g) For students enrolled in the course, successful challenge/proficiency examination completion may result in the student falling below full-time student status which could negatively impact their financial aid status; therefore, students should consult with their advisors beforehand to discuss various options.
- (h) Federal Pell grant funds cannot be used to pay for challenge exams/proficiency.
- (i) Student hours shall not be reported for budget/FTE which result from challenge exams/proficiency except that the actual time required to take the exam may be counted in membership; students shall be registered in the class consistent with 1E SBCCC subchapter 300 or 1E SBCCC Subchapter 400 (1G SBCCC 200.95).
- (j) Challenge Exams/Proficiency are not calculated into a student’s cumulative grade point average.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;

Eff. [April 1, 2021](#).