

### **Challenging Courses By Examinations**

Students may use the challenge process for accelerating progress toward graduation and/or to achieve more flexibility in the selection of electives. The emphasis of this challenge opportunity is to permit students to enroll in other courses within the district curriculum better suited to the students' educational goals.

#### Procedure

1. A list of courses for which there are challenge exams shall be made available in the counseling office.
2. The student shall file a challenge petition form for each course to be challenged with his/her counselor.
3. The challenge petition form shall require the signature of the parent/guardian.
4. The challenge petition form shall include:
  - a. Grades in courses of the subject area of the challenge
  - b. Recommendations from teachers
  - c. Substitute courses to be taken by the student
  - d. Student's rationale of reason for challenging a specific course
5. Students may not challenge more than four courses which meet graduation requirements.
6. The course of study, syllabi, and all suggested reading lists shall be available for the student's observation or study.
7. A course may be challenged by a student only once.
8. The procedure for challenging courses shall be described in the district Guide to High School Courses.
9. Courses may not be challenged for which a grade has been given.
10. The counselor shall explain to the student interested in challenge exams the appropriateness of the selected courses for challenge in relation to the student's educational goals.

#### Criteria for Course Selection

1. All classes required for high school graduation except physical education and drivers education may be considered for challenge exam development.

2. Courses for challenge exam development shall be selected and approved by the Instructional Program/Design Department.

#### Test Format

All challenge exams shall include at least three of the following four elements.

1. A multiple-choice section based on course objectives.
2. An essay section based on course objectives.
3. An oral interview section based on course objectives.
4. A practical demonstration or experiment.

#### Test Development

1. Tests shall be developed by a districtwide committee at the district level under the direction of the Superintendent or designee of Instructional Program/Design and the appropriate subject area coordinator.
2. All test items shall be field tested and validity characteristics analyzed.
3. The criteria for passing all sections shall be determined by the appropriate subject area curriculum committee.

#### Test Administration

1. The multiple-choice test section, if given, shall be available on a regularly scheduled basis and can serve as a screening tool to determine administration of the remainder of the test.
2. The subject area coordinator in conjunction with the Superintendent or designee of Instructional Program/Design shall determine the location and frequency of the test administration.
3. Reliability characteristics for all sections shall be considered by the district subject area curriculum committee.

#### Credit and Grades

1. A student who passes the challenge exam shall receive graduation course and unit credit.
2. Passing scores shall be 80 percent or better or a score of five or better on a six point rubric. A grade of A will be awarded for scores in the 90 percent range or a score of six on a six point rubric. A grade of B will be awarded for grades in the 80 percent range or a score of five on a six point rubric. This grade shall be the average of three of the four tests: the multiple-choice test section, the oral interview section, essay section, and the practical demonstration or experiment section. This grade shall be included in the grade point average.

3. The transcript shall reflect that the credit and grade was earned by the challenge process.

Regulation FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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