SDUHSD Transfer Credit for Language Other Than English (LOTE)
from <u>Unaccredited</u> Schools

Key Terms/Concepts:

- **Accreditation:** The process by which high schools (private or public) become authorized to issue high school diplomas - accreditation is granted by one or more of six regional accrediting agencies. These agencies are independent of the University of California (UC) and independent of state government - they are independent accrediting agencies and accreditation verifies to other high schools and to colleges that the school meets minimum requirements and rigor. All SDUHSD schools are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). WASC offers two types of accreditation - full accreditation (for schools offering coursework leading to a high school diploma) and supplemental accreditation (for programs offering supplementary education programs). Except as noted below for some language programs, SDUHSD only accepts credit from schools with full accreditation.

- **University of California Office of the President (UCOP/UC):** The UC has minimum subject area requirements for admission referred to as "A-G." Individual schools that are fully accredited (see above) can submit courses to UC for "UC approval." When UC approves a course, this verifies that the course meets UC requirements and fulfills one of their A-G admissions requirements. Each high school (public or private) maintains its own "UC-approved list" of courses. UC will not allow schools that are not fully accredited to submit courses for approval so these schools are not able to offer any courses that are "UC-approved."

- **College Board AP Audit:** Advanced Placement (AP) is a College Board trademarked designation. In order for a school (public or private) to offer a course using the AP designation, the school must submit an application (audit) for each AP course to College Board on an annual basis. If approved by College Board for that year, these courses may be offered by the school and the school may use the AP designation. College Board does not require that a school be accredited to receive AP authorization. However, the UC still requires full accreditation for a school to fulfill A-G requirements so an unaccredited private school may offer College Board approved AP courses but UC will not accept these courses for credit because the school is not accredited and thus cannot create a UC course list. A passing score (3 or better) on an AP language test will be accepted by UC to fulfill the "E" (LOTE) requirement.

- **UC's Principal Certification Process:** The UC currently allows a school or district to certify that a course taken by a student at another unaccredited school meets all of the standards expected of a UC-approved course and is comparable to other UC-approved language courses in that school or district. Ultimately, only UC has the authority to determine whether the course meets their LOTE requirement, but historically the UC has accepted all such language courses that SDUHSD has "certified" in this way and we have no indication that UC plans to change this practice. Based upon this process, SDUHSD will place such approved courses on a student's transcript, include the course in the the student's UC GPA calculation, and indicate it meets the UC's "E - Language Other Than English" (LOTE) entrance requirement in our district UC A-G reports just as we do with our own UC-approved courses. **UC does not accept principal certification for any online coursework.**

SDUHSD Historical Practice prior to 2017:

- Students who took language courses outside of our district at unaccredited schools had the courses placed on the SDUHSD transcript via the Principal Certification process.

- When placed on a student's transcript, the name of the private school where the course was taken, the title of the course, and grade earned was included. To post a course on a transcript, we used the SDUHSD course code for our own district language courses.

- The use of our own district course code indicated that the course was the <u>same</u> as SDUHSD college preparatory courses and also indicated that the course was actually "UC-approved" because the internal district language courses are all UC-approved.

SDUHSD Practice from 2017 forward:
- The UC directed SDUHSD to stop using our own district UC-approved A-G course code for courses from unaccredited schools because courses from these schools, while they may be comparable to our UC-approved college preparatory courses and eligible for Principal Certification, are not actually UC-approved. Instead, we are asked to continue using the Principal Certification process to determine the equivalency of such courses but to create a separate course code which does not indicate UC-approved status.
- These courses will be included on the student's transcript, in the student's UC GPA calculation, and in the UC A-G reports as they always have. By doing so, we are certifying to the UC that we view these courses as comparable to the college preparatory UC-approved courses offered through our district.
- If the course to be transferred from an unaccredited school is a College Board authorized AP course, SDUHSD will include the AP designation in the course title and give the same GPA weight to the course that a student would earn if they took the course in SDUHSD. If the school does not have an authorized AP Audit, SDUHSD will not include the AP designation in the course title and will post the course as a non-honors/non-weighted course in the GPA.
- Historically, the UC has always accepted courses that SDUHSD certifies as meeting the E-LOTE requirement. The UC has told us that they intend to continue to view "certified" LOTE courses as meeting entrance requirement and we have no indication of any change in this practice but ultimately this is up to the UC, not to SDUHSD.

SDUHSD Transcript Notations:
- Any time a student has taken a UC-approved course from a fully accredited school, the course has a "P" notation on the SDUHSD transcript. If the course receives a weighted grade (5.0 scale), the course has an "+" notation on the SDUHSD transcript. Any course on the transcript which is not UC-approved does not have the P or + notation.
- Courses transferred into SDUHSD from an SDUHSD-approved unaccredited school are, by definition, not UC-approved and therefore will not have the P or + notation. These courses will still be included in the UC GPA and UC A-G reports.

Additional Notes:
- For decades, SDUHSD has had students take LOTE courses from unaccredited schools and transfer them into SDUHSD for transcript placement. We have never had the UC deny such a course as meeting the E-LOTE requirement.
- Each university has its own practices around admissions and course evaluation. We align our practices to fulfill the requirements of the UC/CSU system and cannot offer any guarantee on how universities outside of the UC/CSU system will evaluate such LOTE courses. To our knowledge, we have not had a student who was denied the use of such classes for college entrance by any university. We recommend that student's contact colleges directly for confirmation.
- AP language tests with a score of 3 or higher will satisfy the entire UC E-LOTE requirement
- SAT Subject Examinations: The following scores currently also satisfy the entire UC E-LOTE requirement:
  - Chinese With Listening: 520
  - French/French With Listening: 540
  - German/German With Listening: 510
  - Modern Hebrew: 470
  - Italian: 520
  - Japanese With Listening: 510
  - Korean With Listening: 500
  - Latin: 530
  - Spanish/Spanish With Listening: 520

Links to Relevant Websites:
- UC A-G Course Search: https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist#/list/search/institution
- UC E-LOTE Guidelines: http://www.ucop.edu/agguide/a-g-requirements/e-language/index.html
- AP Course Search: https://apcourseaudit.epiconline.org/ledger/
- WASC Directory: http://directory.acswasc.org/