



Homeschool Credit Evaluation & Transcript Resources

It is important for classes to show a progression of content and represent high school-level work. Elective courses should also be included. It is most common for year-long academic classes (like Math, Science, English, Foreign Language, Social Sciences) to be given 0.5 credits per semester or 1.0 credit for the academic year. Classes such as American Government or Civics will usually be completed in 1 semester, which would be the equivalent of 0.5 credits on the transcript.

To ensure that the curriculum you are choosing and the content you are covering aligns with Colorado State Standards, it is best to consult the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) website:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/standards>

Logging the number of hours your child(ren) spends completing each course will help you in assessing the appropriate credit(s) for each class. One credit is approximately 120-180 hours of work of which the upper end of the range usually quantifies the amount of time spent for a lab-based science course and the lower end of the range quantifies the amount of time spent completing a year-long academic course. Generally speaking, this will break down to approximately 50 minutes per day for 5 days a week of instruction over the course of 36 weeks.

Logging hours will also help determine the value of the elective credit(s) your student(s) take. The lower end of the range (120 hours) is appropriate for elective courses that take the full year (equaling 1.0 credits for the high school transcript) and approximately 60 hours will be appropriate for elective courses that take half a year to complete (equaling 0.5 credits on the high school transcript).

Additional guidance on credits and hours can be found here:

<https://hslida.org/content/elert/archive/elertarchive.aspx?7642>

The Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) provides general guidelines on what classes would be best to include when homeschooling if your student(s) plan to pursue a degree in higher education from a 4-year college or university.

Guidelines can be found here:

<https://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Admissions/coursecompletion.html>

Please keep in mind: while these classes are *recommended*, they **do not** guarantee admissions to any college or university. Be sure to consult with the college or university admissions requirements to ensure your student is meeting the institution-specific admissions requirements.

For Concurrent Enrollment Classes, when counting credit on the homeschool transcript, a one-semester college course is comparable to a one-year high school course. If your child earns 3 college credits through concurrent enrollment for a course like ENG 121: English Comp 1 or PSY101: General Psychology 1, this is comparable to satisfying a full-year of a high school course (equaling 1.0 credits on the homeschool transcript for one semester of a 3-credit college class). High School and Concurrent Enrollment College credits are calculated differently because college credits are based on hours of instruction.

Homeschool Transcript Templates and other Transcript Resources:

There are many ways for homeschool families to prepare High School Transcripts. A quick search online will present many downloadable templates (for a fee and for free) that will help you in presenting high school coursework in a clear and concise manner.

Here are some resources with transcript samples and/or templates for you to consider:

Homeschool Legal Defense Association:

<https://hsllda.org/content/highschool/academics.asp#transcripts>

“The Homeschool Mom” website:

<https://www.thehomeschoolmom.com/high-school-beyond/high-school-homeschool-transcript/>

(When you download her free template, you will see that each tab in the spreadsheet gives you a different way to format your transcript)

“Let’s Homeschool High School” website:

<https://letshomeschoolhighschool.com/2016/06/01/download-high-school-transcript-template/>

“The Time 4 Learning” website:

<https://media.time4learning.com/uploads/homeschool-high-school-transcript-template.pdf>

“How to Homeschool Today” website:

http://www.howtohomeschooltoday.com/transcript_creator