



National Alliance of

Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships

Advancing quality college courses in high school

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For more information, contact:
Adam I. Lowe, Executive Secretary
(919) 593-5205 or alowe@nacep.org

Twenty-two colleges and universities earn national accreditation for concurrent enrollment programs

Partnerships with states drive program improvement at many institutions

The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) announced today that 22 colleges and universities in Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, and Utah have been granted national accreditation for their concurrent enrollment programs. NACEP accreditation validates the quality of college courses offered in high schools and ensures that the course content and student expectations match the standards of the sponsoring post-secondary institution.

“Iowa community colleges have had quality concurrent enrollment programs for a number of years, but preparing for NACEP accreditation has helped colleges demonstrate to the public that these offerings are of high quality,” stated Jeremy Varner, Education Program Consultant at the Iowa Department of Education. “The NACEP process has helped concurrent enrollment programs obtain the institutional resources to better involve faculty and provide greater oversight of the programs. I am very pleased with the progress concurrent enrollment programs have made as they worked to obtain accredited status.”

Concurrent enrollment programs at the following colleges earned initial accreditation or were reaccredited in 2012:

ARKANSAS

- North Arkansas College
- University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville
- University of Central Arkansas

INDIANA

- Vincennes University (reaccreditation)

MINNESOTA

- Central Lakes College
- Northland Community and Technical College
- St. Cloud State University
- University of Minnesota Duluth (reaccreditation)
- University of Minnesota Twin Cities (reaccreditation)

UTAH

- Salt Lake Community College (reaccreditation)
- Utah Valley University (reaccreditation)

IOWA

- Eastern Iowa Community Colleges
- Hawkeye Community College
- Indian Hills Community College
- Iowa Central Community College
- Iowa Valley Community College District
- Kirkwood Community College
- Northeast Iowa Community College
- North Iowa Area Community College
- Northwest Iowa Community College
- Southwestern Community College
- Western Iowa Tech Community College

For more information visit www.nacep.org

NACEP President Lynn Burbank remarked: “Through NACEP’s rigorous accreditation peer-review process, each post-secondary institution has demonstrated that it integrates high quality standards-based practices across its concurrent enrollment program. We are pleased to award this prestigious recognition to these twenty-two institutions.”

To earn accreditation from NACEP, concurrent enrollment programs conduct a self-study, document how their programs adhere to NACEP’s 17 standards, and are evaluated by peer reviewers from NACEP-accredited programs. NACEP’s standards were developed and refined over many years, serve as a model for quality standards in 15 states, and are adaptable to a wide range of higher education institutions.

“Historically NACEP-accredited programs have led the way in fostering statewide dialogue to promote effective practice,” noted Karen Hynick, System Director for College Transitions for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU). “NACEP’s standards provide a framework to guide institutions in implementing a quality concurrent enrollment program. In particular, the curriculum standards require faculty site visits to high schools to ensure the concurrent course is indeed the same course offered on the college campus. Faculty standards speak to the importance of ongoing, discipline-specific professional development for concurrent enrollment instructors.”

In all five states where programs were accredited in 2012, NACEP has worked for many years to improve the quality of concurrent enrollment courses offered by all higher education institutions, providing students an assurance that the courses they take are true college courses.

“NACEP accreditation demonstrates the commitment of North Arkansas College to academic rigor on- and off-campus,” said Gwen Gresham, Executive Vice President of Learning at North Arkansas College which sponsors one of the newly-accredited concurrent enrollment programs. “Northark’s mission is to ‘provide high quality, affordable, convenient opportunities for learning and community enrichment,’ and NACEP accreditation reinforces every element of that mission.”

The full listing of 83 programs nationwide currently accredited by NACEP can be found at:
<http://nacep.org/docs/accreditation/NACEPAccreditedPrograms.pdf>

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The **National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships** (NACEP) works to ensure that college courses offered in high schools are as rigorous as courses offered on the sponsoring college campus. As the sole accrediting body for concurrent enrollment partnerships, NACEP helps these programs adhere to the highest standards so students experience a seamless transition to college and teachers benefit from meaningful, ongoing professional development. To advance the field and support our national network of over 225 colleges and universities and 50 high school and state partners, we actively share the latest knowledge about best practices, research, and advocacy. Our annual conference in Seattle, Washington October 28-30, 2012 will once again be the premier destination for college officials, high school leaders, policymakers, and researchers interested in creating an effective academic bridge between high school and college.