

Committee on Educational Policy Online Course Credit Guidelines

As online modes of course delivery become a more routine part of higher education and degree programs are altering the landscape of higher education at a blistering pace, and UCSC is fully engaged in this process. What remains unchanged amid the transformations is UCSC's steadfast commitment to the pursuit of academic excellence. The transcripts of students receiving a bachelor's degree from UCSC may now include courses characterized by different modes of delivery: traditional seminars and lecture courses, hybrid or "flipped" courses, and fully online course offerings taken at UCSC, through UC Online or from another institution. The Committee on Educational Policy encourages faculty to evaluate courses on learning objectives, content, and modes of engagement specified in their syllabi, rather than exclusively on their mode of delivery. This is especially relevant to hybrid or online courses taken by students who transfer to UCSC to complete their baccalaureate degrees. Any and all courses undergo a rigorous vetting system accepted by UCSC for credit and/or major qualification to ensure the course contents meet the high standards for which the University of California is justly renowned.

For those of you who evaluate courses for articulation, please evaluate online courses in the same way you would evaluate any course: using learning objectives, syllabus comparison, extended course descriptions, and other course materials as appropriate. If we fail to articulate otherwise appropriate online courses for major credit, we run the risk of placing our students at a disadvantage and stressing our already overflowing classrooms with students taking redundant classes. Faculty members having trouble deciding if a course is appropriately rigorous or covers the material in appropriate depth are encouraged to reach out to CEP for help.

Committee on Educational Policy, 2013 – 14 June 11, 2014.