



# Advanced Course Network

Fall 2020 Handbook



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## **Student & Family Guide**

### ***What is PrepareRI?***

PrepareRI is an initiative to prepare all Rhode Island youth with the skills they need for jobs that pay. It represents a strategic partnership between the Rhode Island government, private industry leaders, the public education system, universities, and nonprofits across the state.

PrepareRI's goal is to ensure every student in Rhode Island has a clear pathway to a good job. Whether you plan on starting to work after high school or after college, PrepareRI wants to make sure you have as many opportunities as possible.

### ***What is the Advanced Course Network?***

The Advanced Coursework Network (ACN) offers four types of courses offered by colleges, schools and districts, community-based partners, and the Department of Labor and Training (DLT) approved training programs, to help expand course options for students around the state, outside of their traditional school day. All courses in the ACN offer students high school credit and many offer college credit or other postsecondary credentials. The school or district which the student attends is responsible for deciding the type of credit awarded (i.e. core credit, elective, etc.).

### ***Why Should I Participate in Advanced Courses?***

Whether you or your student is planning on attending college or planning to go to work after high school, we have courses for you! The courses will help you to gain real world experience in your desired field of work, and/or will also give you the opportunity to test out college level courses and potentially help put you ahead in college.

### ***What Types of Courses are Offered?***

All courses are offered with face to face, blended, or fully online options.

The four types of courses offered include:

1. Work-based Learning – Hands-on learning with industry professionals
2. Career Credential courses - Courses that result in an industry-recognized credential
3. Dual Enrollment – College courses that must be minimum 3 credits that are offered by the private colleges and universities in Rhode Island that result in college credit
4. Advanced Placement – College-level coursework that culminates in an AP exam. Many colleges accept high AP exam scores as college credit.



## ***How Do I Apply?***

Students should apply at [www.bit.ly/ACN2021](http://www.bit.ly/ACN2021)

1. Please note: every student will be required to make a new username and password and profile starting in May 2020; there is an updated list of required information for every student.

## ***Required Student Information to Apply:***

1. First Name & Last Name
2. Date of Birth
3. LASID Email address (try to use a personal email, many school emails will not allow outside emails to go through)
4. Phone number
5. Username: Prepopulated (system will generate, firstinitiallastname, not case sensitive, and if multiple students with same use numbers)
6. District: drop down menu
7. School: drop down menu
8. What grade will you be in, in September 2020:
9. dropdown Parent/Guardian Name:
10. Parent/Guardian phone number:
11. Parent/Guardian email:
12. Do you have an IEP plan at school: Yes/No
13. Do you receive Multilingual learners supports in school: Yes/No
14. Gender: M, F, Other
15. Race/Ethnicity: drop downs

## ***What is the timeline for the application process?***

- May 1 - Approved courses for Fall 2020 are posted
- May 4 - Registration opens for students
- May 29th - Registration ends for students
- September 2020 - Fall courses begin with mandatory two week Add/Drop windows.
  - *Please note: This Add/Drop period gives you the opportunity to add a course or drop a course if you no longer can participate. If you no longer plan on taking a course you must drop that course during this 2 week period to not be held responsible.*



## ***Frequently Asked Questions:***

### ***1. Who pays for the courses?***

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) pays for the Advanced Course Network (ACN) using state funds. Additional dual enrollment courses are offered through Governor Raimondo's PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund, allowing any public high school students to access dual enrollment courses with University of Rhode Island (URI), Rhode Island College (RIC), and Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) at no cost to the student or their family.

### ***2. What happens if a student takes a dual or concurrent course and receives a failing grade?***

If a student takes a dual or concurrent course and receives a failing grade, that grade stays on the student's permanent postsecondary transcript. This is an important consideration as it can jeopardize a student's application to colleges and certain types of financial aid. Students should consult with their schools to make sure that they are academically prepared to do well in college-level coursework.

### ***4. Can homeschooled or private/parochial school students take advantage of the Advanced Course Network and/or dual and concurrent enrollment with the public institutions?***

Yes, these opportunities are available to home school and students enrolled in private schools. However, the state funding is designated for students enrolled in a public school and so these students would be responsible for the associated costs of taking a course, and they would have to register directly with the school or Providers.

### ***5. Can I take an ACN course if I have graduated from high school?***

The ACN was created for high school students to challenge themselves during high school and get ahead in college. Students who have graduated high school are no longer eligible to participate.

### ***6. Are these course credits transferable to other universities and colleges?***

All students can earn transcripted credit by taking college level courses in the ACN and through the PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund. Students are able to send transcripts to the institution they plan to attend full-time. Each institution of higher education that receives these



transcripts will have their own policies and procedures for reviewing credit taken at other institutions so depending on the institution there is no guarantee that they will transfer. If a student is aware of an institution/program that they want to enroll in after high school, they should call that institution's admission office to obtain their credit transfer policy.

**7. *Is there a course limit to the number of courses I can take as part of the ACN?***

We want students to be successful so they are currently eligible to take: one course over the summer through the ACN, and no more than two at a time during the fall and spring semesters.

**8. *Is there a course limit to the number of courses I can take as part the PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund?***

Students are limited to two courses per fall and spring semesters for dual enrollment coursework with RIC, URI, or CCRI, unless enrolled in a full-time program (example: Running Start). The PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund does not limit participation in concurrent enrollment coursework per semester, however local high schools may enforce their own policies.



## **Schools Guide**

### ***What is PrepareRI?***

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### ***What is the Advanced Course Network?***

Enriching experiences with advanced coursework help students get a head start on postsecondary success, master the skills required of a lifelong learner, and be prepared for jobs in sectors critical to Rhode Island's future prosperity. The Advanced Course Network is designed to help districts and schools meet this need by creating opportunities for Rhode Island students to envision, pursue and realize their individualized graduation pathway. Districts and schools have the option of joining the Network as Members, in which they allow their students to enroll in coursework offered by the ACN. Coursework is offered by Rhode Island Local Education Agencies (LEA), Community-Based Organizations, and Institutions of Higher Education.

### ***School Assurances***

***Network Member Commitments - General Assurances.*** The local education agency shall be responsible for:

1. Assigning at least one school-level person to be the point of contact for the ACN, this individual's contact information will be shared publicly. This [these] individuals must sign these assurances
2. Awarding high school or middle school credit, respectively, to all students who participate and successfully complete a Network course
3. Confirming through a RIDE-approved online process that the student requests to enroll in courses are academically-appropriate and logistically feasible
4. Educating students and families about the ACN, including the benefits and risks. Primarily, enrolling in a Postsecondary course means that student grades will become permanent on their transcript if they do not withdraw before the add/drop period closes



# Advanced Course Network

## Expanding Opportunities

5. Supporting student registration and enrollment including completing a student approval process on the ACN technical platform during the month of May
6. Ensuring ACN participation is aligned with students' Individual Learning Plans (ILP), personal interests, and academic/ career goals
7. Ensuring equitable access to and equitable participation in the ACN, by addressing the needs of students, teachers, and other beneficiaries in order to overcome barriers to equitable participation
8. Ensuring that students are not restricted from participating in coursework as a result of school or district-level technology (including but not limited to email filters)
9. Sending the designated ACN representative to attend a mandatory annual orientation.

**RIDE Commitments - General Assurances.** The RIDE Advanced Course Network shall be responsible for:

1. Managing the Advanced Course Network and supporting partnerships that provide expanded course opportunities to students across the State
2. Approving course offerings by Provider
3. Hosting student registration and enrollment through the ACN online portal
4. Facilitating communication between Schools, Providers and Students by providing annual contact information available on the CAN online platform and on RIDE's website
5. Reporting final grades through the online portal to schools for inclusion on student transcripts
6. Managing available Advanced Course Network funds and associated course fees
7. Evaluating the Advanced Course Network program and course offerings
8. Reporting on and communicating broadly about the Advanced Course Network.

### **Timeline**

- May 1 - Approved courses for Fall 2020 are posted
- May 4 - Registration opens for students
- May 29th - Registration ends for students
- September 2020 - Fall courses begin with mandatory two week Add/Drop windows.





## **Provider Guide**

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### ***How do we apply to become a provider?***

- RIDE will post information about updated application windows for Providers during the 2020/2021 academic year on the RIDE website here: [www.ride.ri.gov/advancedcoursework](http://www.ride.ri.gov/advancedcoursework)
- There will be information and technical assistance sessions available for interested Providers in Fall 2020 for a Spring course start date.
  - To view the previous online ACN application, [click here](#).

### ***Advanced Course Network (ACN) Updates:***

1. **No Summer courses in 2020**
2. The ACN will be moving to a new platform in January, 2021
  - a. Providers will be receiving training on a new technical ACN platform in December
3. Course type changes: No more non CTE-approved career credential courses and Dual enrollment courses must be minimum 3 credits (to align with RIDE accountability reqs)



## ***Timeline Academic year 2020/2021***

- April 7th - Provider application deadline due
- April 14th - RIDE notifies Providers about ACN course portfolio for AY2021 (\*please note, there will be no Summer 2020 courses this cycle)
- April 21st - RIDE will send out updated MOAs to Providers
- May 1 - Approved courses are posted for students to apply
- May 4 - Registration opens for students
- May 29th - Registration closes for students
- September 2020 - Fall ACN courses begin with mandatory two week Add/Drop windows

## ***Timeline changes:***

- There will only be one RFP cycle for each academic year (released in February) that will include the following sections
  - Summer (no Summer courses in 2020)
  - Fall/Spring Yearlong
  - They will be reviewed by RIDE in March, announced in April
- There will be a one month enrollment window in May for students
- Every course will have a mandatory two week Add/Drop window

## ***Provider Payment Information***

- Two equal payments for Semester courses
  - Fall: October 15, December 15
  - Spring: March 15, May 15
  - Summer: July 15, August 15
- Four equal payments for yearlong courses (Oct 15, Dec 15, March 15, May 15)
- On the application, Providers will list: one fixed administrative cost to be a Provider on the ACN (regardless of number of courses approved) and, one per pupil amount for students by course (regardless of class size).
- When determining your requested per pupil amount, please include all variables including:
  - Materials
  - Multilingual learner supports
  - exam fees if applicable
  - transportation costs.
- There will no longer be minimum enrollment stipulations to run a course.
- RIDE will maintain state ACN funding to support students who require accommodations and modifications for their selected ACN course.



# Advanced Course Network

## Expanding Opportunities

- Students will be required to self-identify during the enrollment process on the ACN portal and qualified supports will be determined by RIDE, in conjunction with a student's current Individualized Education (IEP) plan and communicated as appropriate to the Course Provider.

### ***Provider Accountability***

1. Mandatory attendance every day that the course meets
2. Revised course outcomes: Participation metric for all courses: 90% credit attainment for the class (class size determined after mandatory add/drop window)
3. Performance metrics by course type:
  - a. Dual Enrollment: 80% of students in the class earning a "C" or higher
  - b. AP: 80% earning a 3 or higher on the AP end of course assessment
  - c. Work-based learning: 80% of students in the class earning a "C" or higher
4. New accountability system: At the end of each cycle (Fall, Spring, Summer, Yearlong) each course on the network will be assigned a Tier based on the two types of course outcomes referenced above, participation and performance.
  - a. Tier 1: 90% of the students complete, and 80% of students receive a "C" or better
  - b. Tier 2: Either 90% of students complete, OR 80% of students receive a "C" or better
  - c. Tier 3: Fewer than 90% of students complete, and fewer than 80% of students receive a "C" or better
5. In the AY2021 cycle, these Tiers will be publicly reported by course on the ACN platform so students and families can make better informed decisions about their ACN options.
6. If any course is classified as Tier 3 for two or more cycles, it will not be eligible to be approved for funding on the ACN in future cycles.
7. In the AY2122 cycle, these Tiers will impact Provider payment.
8. Progress reports will be due once per semester-long course and twice per yearlong course.
9. Providers have one week to input outcome data for every course and that data will be standardized: A, B, C, D, F, W for "Withdraw" "Contact RIDE"

For additional questions about the Advanced Course Network  
please email: [advancedcoursework@ride.ri.gov](mailto:advancedcoursework@ride.ri.gov)