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OUTSTANDING CHANGE AGENT - POSTSECONDARY
PROFICIENCY CREDIT INITIATIVE
Anne Arundel Community College

Anne Arundel Community College in partnership with Anne Arundel County Public Schools implemented a Proficiency Credit Initiative to enhance the value of college credit earned in high school. The term "proficiency credit" was chosen to identify earned college credit; however, the credit is also referred to as "transcripted credit."

Since FY 2000, the college has awarded articulated credit for successful completion of a high school CTE program. However, students often faced challenges in successfully transferring articulated credit to four-year institutions. The goal of the Proficiency Credit Initiative was to replace articulated credit with proficiency credit that would have an associated letter grade. The letter grade for the college credit would have higher valuation and potential acceptance in transfer by four-year colleges and universities. The streamlined process of earning proficiency credit would add value to the high school CTE program and create a system where students, teachers, and college faculty would jointly partner for student success.

The proficiency credit initiative provides high school students a college transcript listing the course for which they have earned college credit. Within two weeks of taking a proficiency assessment, each student receives a Grade Results Letter, along with next-step suggestions. This quick turnaround of results provides encouragement for students to register for a college course while still in high school. To date, 581 proficiency assessments have been taken by high school students, and 476 (82%) have been successfully completed with a grade of C or higher and posted to the AACC transcript. To date, 52% of AACPS high school students receiving proficiency credit have enrolled at AACC in the fall following high school graduation.