

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 5.R

DATE: June 10, 2015

SUBJECT: Project Lead the Way – System Matrix Expansion

Since 2007, the Academic Affairs Council has had the opportunity to review the work done in high schools in South Dakota through [Project Lead the Way](#) (PLTW). This national program that works in conjunction with the South Dakota Department of Education provides coursework in STEM and Health Science that can be delivered through local school districts once approved as a delivery site by the DOE. The program intends to provide middle and high school students with exposure to engaging educational experiences that serve as a strong background in science and engineering by making the coursework relevant to students. During the [December 2007](#) AAC meeting, the council discussed awarding college credit for students completing the high school courses under the umbrella of this project similar to the approach employed through CLEP, DANTES, AP courses or IB coursework. An additional set of courses were reviewed for possible inclusion during the [June 2009](#) BOR meeting.

As institutions have worked to manage this course transfer process (see Attachment I for current equivalencies at SDSU & SDSM&T), a number of updates are necessary since equivalent courses no longer exist at the respective home institutions. Additionally, since the discussion in 2009 the DOE has continued to aggressively expand the course offerings available through the PLTW program. Currently, the courses noted below can be used as part of an approved STEM or Health Science program. PLTW also has a set of computer science courses in development that the DOE anticipates will be added as options for approved Information Technology courses sometime during Summer 2015 as the IT course standards are revised. Descriptions for the [Engineering](#) and [Biomedical](#) course are available for review by faculty in the respective disciplines.

AAC representatives should be prepared to discuss whether further expansion of PLTW coursework is warranted for the Regental system with a goal of developing a course equivalency matrix similar to other credit by examination options that are available to students.

(Continued)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Discussion and Recommendation.

Project Lead the Way

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<i>Course Code</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Career Cluster</i>
21004	Principles of Engineering	STEM
21006	Introduction to Engineering Design	STEM
21007	Engineering Design & Development	STEM
21013	Aerospace Engineering	STEM
21012	Civil Engineering & Architecture	STEM
21010	Computer Integrated Manufacturing	STEM
21008	Digital Electronics	STEM
14255	Biomedical Science	Health Science
14256	Human Body Systems	Health Science
14257	Medical Intervention	Health Science
14258	Biomedical Innovation	Health Science

South Dakota State University
Project Lead The Way: Course Equivalency Credit

Credit can be received in certain subjects through a variety of nationally recognized examinations including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, CLEP and, now, Project Lead The Way.

Once enrolled, students successfully completing Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses may apply for college credit from South Dakota State University. Three (3) semester credits can be awarded in the topic area of General Engineering and is subject to the following conditions:

- The student's high school must be certified by PLTW.
- The student has earned a grade of **85% or higher** on any PLTW courses.
- The college credit exam must be taken and passed with a grade of **at least 70%**.
- The student has successfully completed all three courses in the sequence.

To apply for credit at Academic Evaluation and Assessment:

- Bring a copy of your PLTW transcript verifying the grades and exam score—documentation from the school. This will include a "Grade Verification" form that has been signed by the teacher.
- Complete the SDSU "Application for Placement Credit" form.
- Pay a fee of [TBD].

When these steps have been completed, the equivalent course will be recorded on your transcript with an "EX" satisfactory grade for the appropriate number of credits.

Project Lead the Way Equivalency

PLTW courses	Required Score	SDSU Course Equivalent	Credit
Intro to Engineering Design	85% for Course & 70% on PLTW Course Exam	GE121, GE122, GE123	3 credits
Principles of Engineering			
Engineering Design & Development			

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
Project Lead The Way: Course Equivalency Credit

Credit can be received in certain subjects through a variety of nationally recognized examinations including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, CLEP and, now, Project Lead The Way.

Once enrolled, students successfully completing Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses may apply for college credit from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Three (3) semester credits can be awarded in the topic area of General Engineering and is subject to the following conditions:

- The student's high school must be certified by PLTW.
- The student has earned a grade of **85% or higher** on any PLTW courses.
- The college credit exam must be taken and passed with a grade of **at least 70%**.
- The student has successfully completed all three courses in the sequence.

To apply for credit at Academic Evaluation and Assessment:

- Bring or send a copy of your PLTW transcript verifying the grades and exam score—documentation from the school to the Academic and Enrollment Services Office, Room 201, O'Harra Building. This must include a "Grade Verification" form that has been signed by the teacher.
- Pay a fee of [TBD].

When these steps have been completed, the equivalent course will be recorded on your transcript with an "EX" satisfactory grade for the appropriate number of credits.

Project Lead the Way Equivalency

PLTW courses	Required Score	SDSMT Course Equivalent	Credit
Intro to Engineering Design	85% for Course & 70% on PLTW Course Exam	elective credit GE 101	3 credits
Principles of Engineering			
Engineering Design & Development			