

**Authority:** FOOTPRINTS FOR LEARNING SOCIETY  
**School:** FOOTPRINTS FOR LEARNING CHARTER ACADEMY  
Last Updated: July 17, 2024

**HOLISTIC AUTHENTIC PURPOSE DRIVEN ENTREPRENEURIAL GLOBAL**

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## **COURSE CHALLENGE SECONDARY FLCA PROGRAMMING**

### **OVERVIEW:**

At *Footprints for Learning Academy* we offer CHALLENGE COURSES as an EXTENSION of our individualized blended learning model for our Grade 10, 11, 12 students. This process follows Administrative oversight and follows important AB ED Guidelines.

Course challenges are intended to:

- meet the diverse needs of students
- encourage students' ownership of their learning
- acknowledge the learning that students acquire in a variety of settings, not necessarily limited to schools

The course challenge provision allows any student registered in senior high school to challenge the outcomes of a course by participating in a formal assessment process, rather than taking the course. This provision allows senior high school students who believe that they have acquired the knowledge, skills and attitudes as defined by the program of studies for a given course (and are ready to demonstrate that achievement) to participate in a summative assessment/evaluation process.

The course challenge process must assess a student's achievement of the depth and breadth of the outcomes of the course. Assessment procedures for course challenges must include a variety of formats and strategies.

Important Administrative Information from Alberta Education:

<https://www.alberta.ca/education-guide-course-challenge.aspx#:~:text=The%20course%20challenge%20provision%20applies,successful%2C%20credits%20in%20that%20course.>

The senior high school principal shall report a student's achievement in a course challenge according to the requirements in [Reporting Student Achievement in Senior High School Courses](#) in the Student Assessment in Senior High School section.

A student who successfully demonstrates through the course challenge process that they possess the outcomes for the course to at least the acceptable standard, shall be awarded a final course mark and credits for the course challenged, except in diploma examination courses, which require the school-awarded mark to be blended with the diploma examination mark before a final course mark or credit is possible.

The percentage mark for the course challenge is to be reported in PASI.

The principal must ensure that the student challenging a course is aware that, upon the student's successful completion of a course challenge, waived prerequisite credits and either a percentage mark or a "P" for pass are granted by the principal for courses lower in the course sequence. If a student wishes to receive a percentage mark on their Alberta Transcript of High School Achievement for prerequisite courses, the student must successfully challenge each individual course. In this situation, it is recommended that the student challenge the course sequence in sequential order (i.e., 10-level, then 20- and 30-levels respectively). Otherwise, upon a student's successful completion of a course challenge, waived prerequisite credits and a "P" will be granted by the principal for courses lower in the course sequence.

For example, if a student wishes to challenge Spanish Language and Culture 30-3Y and also earn percentage marks for Spanish Language and Culture 10-3Y and Spanish Language and Culture 20-3Y, then the student should challenge the course sequence in sequential order. Otherwise, the student who only challenges Spanish Language and Culture 30-3Y will receive a "P" for Spanish Language and Culture 10-3Y and 20-3Y. For more information, see [Waiver of Prerequisites](#).

If a student chooses to take the course in the same semester in which they attempt a course challenge, either successfully or unsuccessfully, the school shall submit both marks and the higher mark will appear on the student's Alberta Transcript of High School Achievement.

A student shall attempt a particular course challenge only once. If the student is unsuccessful, but wants credit in the course or wishes to raise their mark, the student is required to take the course.

#### School Authorities

Each school authority shall have a policy that governs the administration of course challenges in the senior high schools under the jurisdiction of that authority.

Each school authority shall establish procedures to communicate to parents and students the availability of and procedures for course challenges.

A school authority shall make arrangements to provide appropriate course challenge assessments for the full range of senior high school courses offered by the school authority, except for those courses in the [Exceptions](#) section above.

A school authority may choose to accommodate requests to challenge courses not offered by the school authority by arranging with other school authorities for such challenges. A student who undertakes such a course challenge shall assume all expenses, other than those normally assumed by a school for assessment (e.g., personal transportation). A student wishing to challenge Français courses should be referred to a Francophone regional authority.

#### TIMEFRAME

- One month is allotted for the coordination, presentation of CHALLENGE PORTFOLIO, and testing for Credits and Grades in a Core Secondary Course..

#### PROCESS

1. Students and Parents apply in writing to Administration.
2. Payment is set at \$100.00 per student per course for 5 credit courses.
3. Payment is to be received before the start up of the Challenge Portfolio.
4. PASI registration will be confirmed
5. Alberta's Program of Studies will be followed.
6. Teachers will provide a Challenge Portfolio that assesses the essential AB ED Learner Outcomes in a Course.
8. Within the PORTFOLIO, a FINAL EXAM will be administered.
9. Class Grades AND Credits will be posted on PASI.

\*Supervision and coordination of the Diploma Exam will be offered - As the Challenge Process for these courses in only for the Class Awarded Grade.

#### Diploma Exams

All students registered in Biology 30, Chemistry 30, English Language Arts 30-1, English Language Arts 30-2, Mathematics 30-1, Mathematics 30-2, Physics 30, Science 30, Social Studies 30-1 and Social Studies 30-2 are required to write an in-person Diploma Exam in order to receive credits and a final mark.

Diploma Exams usually occur during the first two weeks of August. Schedules are subject to change by Alberta Education at any time.