

Innovative Approaches: Locally Designed Subject Area Course Application



SOUTH CAROLINA

**STATE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

**State Accountability
Office of Federal and State Accountability
South Carolina Department of Education
1429 Senate Street, Room 501
Columbia, South Carolina 29201**

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AND STATE ACCOUNTABILITY**

**LOCALLY DESIGNED SUBJECT AREA COURSE APPLICATION
(Core Graduation Credit)**

State Board of Education Regulation 43-234 allows schools with grades 9–12 to award credit for a locally designed subject area course if the course is aligned with current state academic standards for the particular subject area and approved by the local board of trustees. The course will then be reviewed for approval by State Superintendent of Education.

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) approval is not required for locally designed courses for which students receive elective college preparatory credit as long as the courses are approved by the local board of trustees.

If honors credit is needed for any locally designed elective course, complete *the Locally Designed Honors Course Application*.

Email the completed Locally Designed Subject Area Course Application to **Nicole Ivery** at nivery@ed.sc.gov. Call her at (803) 734-6268 for questions or concerns.

An approved application is valid for three years unless new standards are written in the subject area. In such a case, another application must be completed and submitted to the SCDE.

SCDE Assigned Course Code:

Date Submitted:	
District:	
APPLICATION PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY:	
Name:	
Position:	
Mailing Address:	
Phone Number, including area code:	
E-mail address:	

2. Explain how the needs assessment conducted at the local level substantiates the need for the proposed course.

3. List the criteria for selecting students for the course, including prerequisite courses.

4. List the proposed teaching methodologies to be used in the course.

5. Attach a course syllabus or scope and sequence for this proposed course.

6. Identify the curriculum, textbooks, and materials that will be used in the course.

7. Demonstrate the alignment of the proposed course with SC Academic Standards using the attached chart at the end of this application.

Answer items 8–10 if honors credit will be given to the proposed subject area course; otherwise an approved course qualifies for CP weighted credit only. Any honors weighted course must meet the Uniform Grading Policy’s honors requirements listed below.*

8. Identify, in detail, that ways in which the honors level course surpasses the rigor of the CP level course.

9. Identify the curriculum, textbooks, and materials that will be used in the honors level course.

10. Attach the honors level syllabus to this application.

**The Uniform Grading Policy allows for honors designated courses under the following conditions:*

- A. An honors course must have a published syllabus that verifies rigor sufficiently beyond the College Preparatory (CP) requirements.*
- B. Textbooks and other course materials must be differentiated and more rigorous than those used in CP courses.*
- C. Honors courses may be offered in English, mathematics, science, and social studies. Honors weighting may be designated in other content areas for the third and fourth level of the courses, provided that the above standards are met. Honors weighting may not be designated in any physical education courses.*

One half of a quality point (.5) is added to the CP weighting for honors courses that meet the three criteria listed above.

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

I certify that this locally designed honor course for elective high school credit will be taught by a properly certified teacher, is aligned with the state-adopted academic standards, is consistent with the UGP, and was approved by the local board of trustees.*

_____ Date _____

Signature of the Teacher of the locally designed course for high school credit

Print Name

_____ Date _____

Signature of the second Teacher, if applicable

Print Name

_____ Date _____

Principal/Director of School where the course will be offered

Print Name

_____ Date _____

District Superintendent or Designee

Print Name

_____ Date _____

District Board of Trustees, Chairperson

Print Name

**Use additional signature sheets, if necessary, and attach it to this application.*