



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
College of Engineering
and Computing

Project Lead The Way/University of South Carolina Undergraduate College Credit Guidelines

Secondary school students from any PLTW certified school may apply for undergraduate college credit at the University of South Carolina, in the College of Engineering and Computing, for the following three PLTW foundation courses: Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, and Digital Electronics. Credit is awarded as follows: PLTW course Introduction to Engineering Design may be used for Introduction to Engineering Graphics and Visualization (EMCH 111); PLTW course Principles of Engineering for Introduction to Engineering (ENCP 101); and PLTW course Digital Electronics may be used for Introduction to Electrical Engineering (ELCT 101).

The University of South Carolina requires students applying for undergraduate college credit to meet the following requirements:

- an overall "B" or SAT Critical Reading + Math score of 1100, or equivalent ACT Composite score of 24, or PSAT score of 110.
- receive at least an 85 percent average in the course
- a minimum stanine score of 8 on the PLTW end of course exam with other evidence of student performance being a final grade at minimum a "B" in the PLTW course, or a minimum stanine score of 7 with other evidence of student performance being a final grade at minimum an "A" in the PLTW course.

For the students meeting these criteria, USC awards 3 semester hours of credit with proper application and tuition payment. USC's academic departments evaluate the acceptability of these credits in the same manner in which they evaluate and confer transfer credits. Applying for and receiving credit at USC for PLTW courses does not guarantee that those credits will be accepted in individual academic programs at USC. For South Carolina student residents meeting those criteria, USC will award three credits for each of the three courses, at a cost of \$66.00 per credit hour. Non-resident students are charged out of state tuition. Current cost per credit hour is located at <http://www.sc.edu/bursar/fees.shtml>.

When secondary school students receive USC undergraduate college credit for PLTW courses, a transcript is developed for them. This transcript shows the USC equivalent course name and number. If a former PLTW student enters USC, the letter grade received for the high school course is counted towards the students GPA. If the student goes to another university, the three credits are considered 'transfer' with no letter grade.

Since these students are receiving college credit for college-level work, there are certain rules that must be followed by every PLTW-certified school to ensure the integrity of the exam and process:

- The final end-of-course course exam must be administered as prescribed by PLTW.
- Students must take the exam immediately at the conclusion of the course.
- All end-of-course exams must be taken prior to June 30 of each calendar year for students completing the course that year.
- Students taking the end-of-course exam must apply for USC undergraduate college by July 15th.
- Students' must have their grade for the PLTW course sent from their school to the USC College of Engineering and Computing, Office of Student Services prior to the applicable application deadline date. Otherwise, if a student applies for credit and USC does not have a grade for their course, the application cannot be processed and must be returned to the student applicant.

These rules are in place to ensure that the college credit process is handled equally in all PLTW-certified schools, that all the students are tested based on the same curriculum and exam questions, and that those students receive credit based on the curriculum and knowledge in place at the time the course is taken. Several actions are not acceptable in the college credit process:

- End-of-course exams must be taken as prescribed by PLTW.
- Students cannot decide later in their high school career, or once attending a post-secondary school, that they want to receive PLTW undergraduate college credit for courses taken in previous years.
- Current end-of-course exam questions may not be used for review by the teacher..