



SACRAMENTO  
STATE

## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO ACCELERATED COLLEGE ENTRANCE (ACE) PROGRAM

### California Academic Decathlon – ACE Collaboration Frequently Asked Questions

This educational partnership provides an opportunity for secondary junior- and senior-level students to earn up to three-college credits a year while preparing for competition in the California Academic Decathlon. CSUS has tailored an independent study course, EDS 99 *Special Problems*, around curricular materials published by United States Academic Decathlon. The lead teacher at each high school will need to submit a proposal. The course can be structured as variable credit (one credit for each 30 hours of directed instruction and activities), but most often will be listed as 3-units of credit. Grading will be Pass/No Pass. The current ACE cost for the course is only \$15.00.

1. Which high schools participating in the Academic Decathlon may access the CSUS - Accelerated College Entrance (ACE) Program?

The assigned service area for CSUS roughly includes the following counties: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba.

Schools in other counties are advised to contact their closest CSU to see whether that campus will host a similar class for their Academic Decathletes.

2. Whom do I contact?

Dr. Bruce A. Ostertag or Ms. Sarah Cannon (contact data below) of the ACE Program. For more information on ACE opportunities, please go to:  
<http://edweb.csus.edu/Projects/ace>.

3. What will I need to apply for inclusion in this college-level credit for students?

- a. The regional coordinator (i.e., county office) or high school teacher/coach will submit a proposal for consideration which includes the following information: coach/teacher's resume(s) and contact information, a course outline detailing logistical considerations for Decathletes meeting curricular requirements (total number of instructional hours, schedule of meetings, assignments, general grading policy for a "Pass/No Pass" experience), the high school name(s) and address(es), the name and phone number of the principal(s), and an estimated number of students. Application requests for the upcoming competition will need to be made no later than early-November.
- b. Once the proposal is approved, the ACE Office will follow up with a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) as well as student application packets by early-January. The applications must be returned by the first week of February along with a recent copy of the student's high school transcript, a check for \$15.00 per student payable to Sacramento State University, and a spreadsheet containing all of the participants names, SSNs, name of Coach, and high school(s) attending. Purchase Orders from the school or region that cover a group of students are also acceptable (preferred).

[continued]

4. Are the credits transferable to other colleges?  
Yes. Each student will be registered for an official Sacramento State Course, EDS 99 *Special Problems*. When s/he applies for a transcript, it will look like any other CSUS transcript. How another university uses these units will be up to them and will vary. Generally, other institutions will consider them “elective” units in some capacity.
5. Will the high schools need to submit a new proposal each year?  
No. Once the Decathlon activities are approved for a school and an MOU is in place coaches/teachers will only need to implement the application procedures for students (see 3b above) and alert the ACE Office as to the earned grades when the experience is completed.
6. Can the students repeat the class for additional credits in subsequent years?  
Yes. A junior- or senior-level student can earn up to 6-units of college credit for this Academic Decathlon experience through ACE (two years of study and competition).
7. Generally students who participate in Accelerated College Entrance Programs must have at least a 3.0 GPA; yet, one-third of the team members are required to have GPA’s of 2.9 or below. Can they be included in ACE and how would this be done?  
Yes, they can be included. When an Academic Decathlon Coach/Teacher signs the individual Student Applications this verifies that the Decathlete can be expected to perform successfully in this experience and achieve a “Pass” grade. ACE will trust the professionalism and judgment of the Coach/Teacher that the participating decathletes will meet the academic requirements and rigors of this experience at a college-level of study.
8. Do the Decathletes receive a CSUS transcript?  
Yes, if ordered. To request a transcript, the Decathlete will be taking the same steps as any other Sacramento State student. The CSUS web page with the information needed to access transcripts is: <http://webapps1.csus.edu/admr/content/record/transcript>
9. Can a sample proposal be provided?  
Yes. Just contact the ACE Office for a copy.

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