

October 13, 2009

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS PRH CHANGE NOTICE NO. 09-07 AND RELATED PAG CHANGES
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: LYNN A. INTREPIDI
Interim National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: PRH Chapter 3, Section 3.14: Concurrent Training
and
PAG Chapter 3, Section 3.14: Concurrent Training

1. Purpose. To inform the Job Corps community of revisions to the Policy and Requirements Handbook (PRH) regarding student participation in concurrent training programs, and related changes to the Program Assessment Guide (PAG).
2. Background. On June 10, 2004, PRH Change Notice 03-07 was issued to establish requirements for concurrent enrollment of Job Corps students in external and supplemental training and education programs.

The intent of the initial policy revision was to promote coordination among a wide variety of publicly funded workforce development programs in order to weave together a cost-efficient system of delivering services to students as mandated by our enabling legislation.

Since the implementation of the policy, centers have had difficulty enrolling students into advanced career training (ACT) programs without the need for remedial studies in the content areas and competencies outlined in PRH Section 3.6, Center-Based Learning Standards, due to the various enrollment requirements imposed by most accredited postsecondary institutions.

Enrollment in postsecondary education fully supports the Secretary of Labor's Goal 3 – "To ensure that students have the knowledge and skills that prepare them to succeed in a knowledge-based economy..." and Goal 9 – "Help workers who are in low-wage jobs or out of the labor market find a path into middle class jobs."

President Obama has placed community colleges at the center of his plans to revitalize the American economy. He proposed significant new spending for job training programs, improvements in basic skills education, facilities, and free online education. The President's goal is to help an additional 5 million Americans earn degrees and certificates at community colleges in the next decade, which relates to his larger goal of having the United States achieve the highest graduation rate of any country in the world.

Robert G. Templin Jr., president of Northern Virginia Community College, said that President Obama was endorsing those movements and suggesting that "we need to rethink the process" of how students enter community colleges. Too many students today need remedial work, get discouraged by that, and drop out, "and the Obama message is that community colleges need to change," Templin said. Many Job Corps students want to enroll in college, but due to the barriers created by the requirement in the previous version of Section 3.14, have been discouraged or otherwise advised that they do not meet the enrollment requirements. As community colleges need to change, so does Job Corps.

Most community colleges require students to take placement exams or otherwise provide transcripts to support achievement in comparable courses, for which Job Corps instructional programs may not qualify. Moreover, colleges offering degree programs (ACT) generally establish their own course requirements, for which some courses are prerequisites that do not apply as a credit requirement for the intended degree course of study. Job Corps policy has always been to accept the degree or curriculum requirements of the approved concurrent enrollment program.

The National Office of Job Corps continues to support ACT programs and desires to expand student participation in community colleges and universities to expand students' academic and career technical skill credentials and their placement opportunities. Thus, we have eliminated the barrier that requires centers to provide remedial instruction as a prerequisite, while leaving the determination of acceptance to the accredited postsecondary institution, as approved by Regional Offices.

3. Explanation of PRH Changes. Changes in PRH Chapter 3, Section 3.14, Concurrent Enrollment, are as follows:

- a. Deleted the previous R3.c.3, which read: Must qualify on college placement tests to be eligible for the ACT entry requirements without the need for remedial studies in the content areas and competencies outlined in Section 3.6, Center-Based Learning Standards.
- b. Inserted new R3.c.3, which reads: Must qualify on college placement tests to be eligible for the ACT entry requirements of the accredited postsecondary institution.

4. Explanation of PAG Changes. Changes in PAG Chapter 3, Section 3.14, Concurrent Enrollment, are as follows:

- a. Changed the title of Section 3.14 from “Concurrent Career Technical Training Program” to “Concurrent Enrollment” to agree with the PRH Section 3.14 title.
 - b. Deleted the previous R3.c.3, which read: Must qualify on college placement tests to be eligible for the ACT entry requirements without the need for remedial studies in the content areas and competencies outlined in Section 3.6, Center-Based Learning Standards.
 - c. Inserted new R3.c.3, which reads: Must qualify on college placement tests to be eligible for the ACT entry requirements of the accredited postsecondary institution.
5. Action Required: Addressees are to ensure that this Change Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.
6. Effective Date. October 15, 2009.
7. Inquiries. Inquiries should be addressed to John Chowning at (202) 693-3102 or chowning.john@dol.gov.

Attachment

- A – PRH Cover
- B – PRH Chapter 3
- C – PAG Chapter 3