

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Note: Student participation in co-curricular activities is determined by eligibility requirements. Academic review status guidelines apply to students who do not meet eligibility requirements.

Policy 101-12

Students participating in co-curricular activities must have at least an overall 2.0 grade point average (GPA) and be passing in courses required for graduation. "Participating," as used in this policy, does not include participation in rehearsals, practices, or tryouts. Activities which are essential and integral in any particular course are not affected by the policy.

The Hawaii State Department of Education shall establish guidelines to implement this policy.

Participation or Eligibility Requirements:

Student must have at least a 2.0 GPA in the previous year or semester (quarter grades are to be used if no year or semester grades are available). Student must be passing courses required for graduation. (Core courses: 18 credits as specified in #1 below.)

The grades used to determine the GPA for eligibility to participate in co-curricular activities shall be year grades or semester grades (depending on whether courses are year or semester courses), or quarter grades only when no year or semester grades are available.

- a. To determine GPA eligibility for Quarter 1, use grades (year or semester depending on whether courses are year or semester courses) from courses taken the previous year and/or summer. (If second semester/year grades are not available, use the fourth quarter grades.)
- b. To determine GPA eligibility for Quarter 2, use first quarter grades.
- c. To determine GPA eligibility for Quarter 3, use first semester grades or second quarter grades if semester grades are not available.
- d. To determine GPA eligibility for Quarter 4, use third quarter grades.

The grade point average shall be computed on the grading scales as follows:

<u>Regular Courses</u>	<u>Advanced Placement Courses</u>
A = 4.0	A = 5.0
B = 3.0	B = 4.0
C = 2.0	C = 3.0
D = 1.0	D = 2.0
F = 0	F = 0

1. *What are the core courses required for graduation?*

The core courses required for graduation are:

English	4
Social Studies	4
Math	3
Science	3
World Language/ Fine Arts/ Career Technical Education	2 (2 credits in one of the specified courses)
Physical Education	1
Health	½
Personal/Transition Plan	½
	18 Credits

2. *What about the non-core courses or electives (6) required for graduation?*

In addition to the 18 core courses, current graduation requirements state that a student must earn six elective credits to receive a high school diploma. For 2.0 GPA eligibility purposes, electives are not considered required courses as long as the student has the opportunity within his/her remaining high school career to complete the six electives to meet graduation requirements. All courses are expected to be completed in four years (grades 9-12). Note: Department of Education authorized summer school courses, E-school courses, and correspondence school courses may be used to meet GPA and/or course requirements.

3. *What are some examples of eligibility and non-eligibility?*

Eligible to Participate

- a. *In the first quarter, Mary, a ninth grader, had a 2.0 GPA, passed all core courses required for graduation, but failed a non-core course. Is she still eligible for co-curricular activities?*

Yes. She had at least a 2.0 GPA and passed her core courses.

- b. *In the third quarter, Fred (a junior) had A's in Band, AP Physics, and AP English, and one C in Psychology. He had F's in Electronics and French, which are elective courses. He had a 2.66 GPA. Is he eligible?*

If Fred needs the Electronics and French classes to fulfill the Career Technical Education or World Language core course requirements: No. He did not pass core courses (Electronics and French).

If Fred fulfilled his World Language/Fine Arts/Career Technical Education core course requirements and is not a senior: Yes. He passed core courses. Electronics and French would be considered elective courses.

- c. *In the first semester, Sara had a 2.0 GPA. She had an F as her quarter grade for Algebra 1A, but a D for the semester grade. Is she eligible?*

Yes. She had at least a 2.0 GPA for the semester and passed the math course.

- d. *In the fourth quarter, Daniel received an F for U.S. History. He received a D for U.S. History for the year. His GPA for the year was 2.5. Is he eligible to participate in co-curricular activities?*

Yes. He had at least a 2.0 GPA for the year and passed the U.S. History course for the year.

- e. *Sam has been on homeschooling during his freshman and sophomore years. He is now enrolling in a public school. Is he eligible to participate in co-curricular activities?*

Yes. He should be treated as an incoming ninth grader.

Not Eligible to Participate

In the previous quarter, Andrew (a senior) had a 2.0 GPA, passed all core courses required for graduation, but failed a non-core course, one of the six electives he needs to meet graduation requirements. Is he eligible?

No. Though he had at least a 2.0 GPA, as a senior he also needs to be passing any non-core course needed to meet graduation requirements.

4. *What is the difference between official and non-official participation?*

Generally, activities such as representing the school in an honorary capacity and competing or participating in the name of the school would be considered official. Practices or rehearsals would be considered non-official.

5. *What are the differences between course-related and non-course-related activities?*

A course-related activity is one that is an essential and significant part of a particular course. "Essential and significant part" means all the following criteria are met:

- a. must be an activity of an ACCN course;
- b. must have the teacher directly involved in planning, organizing and carrying out the activity; and
- c. must have all students in the class participate and involved in the activity.

All schools are expected to display good faith effort in carrying out the spirit of the course-related vs. non-course-related issue. Examples of course-related and non-course-related activities follow.

Course-related activity

- a. *A student is a member of the concert band. The student is also enrolled in a band course that is taught by the concert band leader and a class requirement is that all enrollees participate in the concert band.*

The student's participation in the concert band would be exempt from the academic requirements. The activity meets all the criteria listed above.

- b. *An advanced math class instructor, who coordinates the math league competitions, requires all the students in that class to participate in math league competitions.*

If a student were enrolled in that class, the student's participation would be exempt from the academic requirements. The activity meets all the criteria listed above.

Non-course-related activity

- a. *A student is not enrolled in any math course. However, the student participates in math league competitions.*

The student's participation would NOT be exempt from the academic requirements. The activity and the student's participation do not meet the criteria listed above.

- b. *A student is on the school tennis team. The student is also enrolled in physical education where tennis is taught among other sports.*

The student's participation on the school tennis team would NOT be exempt from the academic requirements. The activity does not meet criteria 5b and 5c above.

Non-course-related activity

- a. *A student is not enrolled in any math course. However, the student participates in math league competitions.*

The student's participation would NOT be exempt from the academic requirements. The activity and the student's participation do not meet the criteria listed above.

- b. *A student is on the school tennis team. The student is also enrolled in physical education, where tennis is taught, among other sports.*

The student's participation on the school tennis team would NOT be exempt from the academic requirements. The activity does not meet criteria 5b and 5c above.

6. *What about clubs? Is participation in service clubs exempt from the academic requirements?*

Yes. Participation in clubs, including service clubs, **on campus** is exempt from the academic requirement. **However, students in clubs may not officially represent their clubs in activities off-campus unless they meet the eligibility requirements.**

7. *At what point does an athletic league become involved in academic eligibility questions or appeals?*

If eligibility issues pertain to league competition(s), the league should work with its respective complex area level(s). If the issue deals with the academic status of a student, the matter should be channeled through the school.

NOTE: If the student does not meet the policy eligibility requirements, i.e., have at least a 2.0 GPA and be passing courses required for graduation, then the academic review status guidelines must be followed for the students affected.

Academic Review Status Guidelines:

A student deemed ineligible shall be granted academic review status. There is no limit on the number of tryouts.

1. *Must a student have a 2.0 GPA in order to try out for an activity?*

No. The student may try out for any activity. However, a student who is ineligible can declare **academic review status** by submitting the **Academic Review Status Declaration Form** (OCID Form 2.0A). The initial grade check for participation in co-curricular activities will be conducted on the Friday following the first or second week of the new school year. Grade checks for subsequent quarters (2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters) will commence on the Friday of the second week of each new quarter. For events/activities that continue for a longer period, i.e., several weeks or months (for example, student government, sports, etc.), grade checks must be made a minimum of every one to two weeks until the quarter/semester grades are distributed. At each

designated grade check point, students on academic review status who meet the participation requirements of the policy, become eligible to participate until the next grade check point. (See Academic Review Status Guidelines, # 3 and #4.)

2. *Is 1.6 the lowest grade point average that a student may have to apply for academic review status?*

No. Any student who does not meet the required 2.0 grade point average for co-curricular participation shall be granted academic review status.

3. *A student has been deemed ineligible for participation in co-curricular activities. Can the student:*

- a. *Run for student council office since the position will be assumed in a future quarter?*
- b. *Run for a place on a prom court which is scheduled in another quarter?*
- c. *Participate in spring football training?*

Yes. However, the student may officially participate only if all eligibility requirements are met and maintained while the student is on academic review status.

4. *Can a student on academic review status go on a trip with a team, club or group as long as the student does not officially perform or participate?*

Yes, as long as the trip does not interfere with the student's regular instruction. In other words, the major consideration should be whether there will be loss of instructional time on the student's part.

5. *If a student qualifies for academic review status, is the student eligible to participate in fall camp and all preseason games?*

The student can participate in practices but not in any formal activities or events. If the fall camp is considered "practice," then the student can participate. He/she cannot participate in preseason games until grade checks show that the student is passing all subjects required for graduation and has at least a 2.0 grade point average.

6. *Michelle has failed English for the third quarter. However, she passed all of her second quarter classes and had a 2.5 GPA for first semester, thereby being eligible to participate in co-curricular activities during third quarter. She is representing her school at a state speech tournament that takes place 5 days after the end of third quarter but before the Friday of the second week of the new quarter. Is she able to participate in the tournament?*

Yes. As noted in **Guidelines for Implementing the Academic Requirements for Participation in Co-curricular Activities** (page 3, #4), "Eligibility shall be determined on a quarterly basis two weeks (the Friday of the second week of the quarter) after the end of a quarter." Therefore, since the student was eligible to participate in co-curricular activities during third quarter, the student remains eligible until the second Friday of fourth quarter at which time eligibility will be determined for fourth quarter.

7. *What is the recommended procedure for maintaining records on a student's academic review status period?*

The student's **Academic Review Status Declaration Form** should be filed as part of the student's school records. The principal and designated staff are responsible for ensuring compliance.

8. *Tim is on academic review status and has a grade check on Monday. He is passing all of his classes and currently has a 2.7 GPA. Can he participate in a volleyball game Monday evening?*

Yes. He is meeting the policy requirements of having at least a 2.0 GPA and no failures in courses required for graduation.

9. *Janet is on academic review status. During the grade check conducted on Monday, she has a 2.3 GPA but one teacher said that she was failing a course required for graduation. Can she participate in the league softball game the next day?*

No. She is not eligible to participate because she is failing a course required for graduation. She has to wait for the next grade check in two weeks to determine whether or not her grades meet the minimum requirements for participation.

10. *Can a student who became ineligible at the end of the fourth quarter, perform/participate in activities conducted during the summer?*

Yes, as long as the participation is "non-official involvement," per the academic review status guidelines.

11. *Can a student who became ineligible at the end of the year or second semester go to summer school to meet the eligibility requirements?*

Yes. For purposes of meeting eligibility requirements, a summer course grade may be used.

12. *What kind of support services can a school provide?*

The kinds and types of support services will depend on available resources and may differ from school to school. The important consideration is that help is provided to the student(s). Some schools have used service clubs such as the National Honor Society to provide tutorial assistance and volunteer teachers, coaches, and advisors to supervise study halls and tutorial sessions. Parents and community volunteers have also been used.

13. *Whose responsibility is it to ensure tutorial and/or other support help?*

The principal has the ultimate responsibility. However, all school staff as well as parents are responsible and should work together. The burden for support help should not be placed solely on those responsible for the activity.