

## Overview

Ohio Senate Bill 311 allows alternate pathways for those students who are eligible to receive high school credit through the use of Credit Flexibility Plans (CFPs). Spring Valley Academy students are now able to earn high school credit in three ways, or in a combination of these ways:

1. By completing traditional coursework.
2. By testing out or otherwise demonstrating achievement of the course content; or
3. By pursuing one or more “educational options” (e.g., distance learning, educational travel, independent study, an internship, music, arts, afterschool program, community service or engagement project and sports).

Ohio’s plan for credit flexibility is designed to broaden the scope of curricular options available to students, increase the depth of study available for a particular subject, and tailor the learning time or conditions needed (to shorten or lengthen the time necessary to complete a high school diploma and/or postsecondary degree). In these ways, students can customize aspects of their learning around more of their interests and needs.

The opportunity to take advantage of this program is just that, an opportunity, to gain knowledge and skills outside of the traditional school setting and one that is generated on the part of an individual student. Students approved for off-campus CFPs are required to adhere to the Spring Valley Academy Code of Conduct. Spring Valley Academy is not responsible for developing a Credit Flexibility Plan (CFP) for a student or for the cost incurred by a student’s participation in a CFP.

Spring Valley Academy **students** who receive credit for a CFP will have:

1. Completed a detailed application process outlining learning goals and expectations.
2. Received prior approval from the SVA Review Panel for their learning activity.
3. Stayed within the agreed upon timetable.
4. Met rigorous, measurable standards.

A review panel established by the principal or his/her designee consisting of representation from the learning experiences’ content area, school counseling department, administration, and other staff as appropriate, will determine the final awarding of credit. Their role will be to approve and set expectations utilizing the CFP Review Panel Approval Report.

## Mission Statement, Values and Vision Statement

Spring Valley Academy, a Seventh-day Adventist Christian school, is dedicated to nurturing each student in a personal relationship with God, developing academic excellence, and inspiring service to others.

- **CARING:** We demonstrate God's love by how we treat each other and our community.
- **COMPETENT:** We strive for the best at all times.
- **INNOVATIVE:** We inspire imaginative and flexible approaches as we educate for eternity.
- **JOYFUL:** We approach life seeking the positive, hopeful expression of God's creative powers.
- **RESPECTFUL:** We honor the rights and responsibilities of others and ourselves.

**Vision Statement:** Christian Education for Students to Know, Follow, and Share Jesus.



## Eligible Credit Flexibility Plans

Credit Flexibility Plans (CFPs) are educational experiences where the primary acquisition of knowledge and skills takes place outside of Spring Valley Academy's (SVA) classrooms. Spring Valley Academy is not responsible for any cost incurred from a student's participation in a CFP. Students are required to have prior approval for the CFP before the experience is initiated.

There are two types of CFP experiences: Learning-based and Assessment-only.

- **Learning-based CFPs** are those in which the student will be actively working to learn new content. At the conclusion of the experience, achievement of learning objectives must be demonstrated as defined by the approved CFP. These opportunities may include but not be limited to: independent study, private instruction, performing groups, internships, community service, apprenticeship, work study, and online courses.
- **Assessment-only CFPs** are those in which the student is able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of a course's content without participating in a new learning experience. Students will be required to take the appropriate cumulative Semester Exams and demonstrate skill achievement (lab demonstration, research papers, etc.) within 6 weeks of plan approval. The minimum achievement level for credit to be obtained using an Assessment-only CFP is 85%.

## Earned Credit from Credit Flexibility Plans

Students may use a CFP to earn credit and/or gain promotion in a course sequence. Spring Valley Academy will award a minimum of .25 credits (PE only) and a maximum of 3 credits for an individual CFP. Exceptions may be granted to students on a case by case basis with the approval of the principal or his/her designee.

Earned credit for a CFP will be based on the rigorous and measurable standards defined in the course competencies and student expectations, as outlined in the approved CFP. Successful completion of a CFP will be documented on a student's transcript in the same manner as credit earned traditionally. Each credit of a multi-credit CFP will be assessed and awarded individually. (For example, if a CFP is requesting 1 English and 1 history credit, the English and history standards will be assessed separately). A CFP cannot be used to earn additional credit for courses in which credit has already been obtained. (For example, you cannot earn Algebra I credit twice).

## Eligibility and OHSAA/NCAA Considerations

A student wishing to participate in high school athletics should be aware that Credit Flexibility learning experiences will be factored into his/her eligibility considerations. Students participating in athletics must adhere to Spring Valley Academy's academic eligibility requirements.

A senior wishing to pursue Division I or Division II NCAA athletics eligibility is encouraged to ensure that he/she will meet the appropriate requirements.

## Awarding Credit

A student may be eligible to receive credit upon satisfactory completion of the preapproved alternative coursework, activity, assessment and/or performance as required by the student's CFP. The following standards and guidelines apply to awarding of Independent Study and Credit Flexibility credit:

- The total number of credits that may be awarded is not limited.
- The successful completion of a preapproved course may result in credit being designated as fulfilling either required or elective credit toward graduation requirements.
- All courses, as applicable, must be aligned to the North America Division Department of Education Content Standards and/or the Ohio Academic Content and Technical Standards to receive credit.
- Credit from other districts and educational providers, including online providers, may be accepted in accordance with the Ohio Operating Standards.
- Curriculum Committee may award credit for custom learning activity(s) in the amount approved in advance based upon the equivalence up to 120 hours (one Carnegie unit) course. In preapproved cases, partial credits may be awarded where deemed appropriate
- The Curriculum Committee may award credit or partial credit for preapproved assessments, performances or work products that demonstrate mastery of content of any course offered at Spring Valley Academy. Elective credit for courses not offered at Spring Valley Academy may also be earned in this manner as preapproved.
- If a student transfers from another school district to Spring Valley Academy and the student has not completed the course requirements to receive credit, as approved by the other district, it is recommended that the student complete the course requirements at

the previous school district, if possible. If this is not possible, the Curriculum Committee may consider this a new application for credit.

- The Curriculum Committee may assign partial credit for partial completion as deemed appropriate.
- Credits completed in another district before transfer to Spring Valley Academy will count as credits toward fulfilling graduation requirements as awarded by the sending district. The registrar with support from the Curriculum Committee will review the transfer credit to determine equivalency to specific courses offered by Spring Valley Academy.
- SVA developed and/or approved tests/assessments used to determine advancement and course credits will be given annually in May to facilitate planning for the subsequent school year. Applications for credit by assessment are due on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>. To qualify for credit by assessment, the student must demonstrate mastery of content through examination, written assignments, projects, demonstrations and other items as specified in the Plan Agreement. A student failing to achieve successful completion may not apply for credit by assessment for the same course credit until the following school year. **Any credit by assessment for a particular course may only be attempted two times.**
- The Teacher of Record reserves the right to withdraw the student from a course (with penalty) for issues involving plagiarism and copyright violation.
- The student must complete all approved assignments/activities, etc., as approved in his/her Plan on or before the due date or the student may be withdrawn with penalty.
- Students in their senior year must complete all approved assignments/activities, etc., as approved in his/her Plan on or before May 1 of the intended graduation year.
- A student may request an appeal to reject the denial of a plan development, completion, or evaluation. A letter outlining the reason(s) for the appeal must be received by the Principal within 10 calendar days following notification of plan outcome.

## Determining Grades

Grades earned through Credit Flexibility will NOT be weighted. A letter grade will be awarded as determined by the Teacher of Record and will be posted on the transcript and included in the student's grade point average.

- If a student fails to make adequate progress through identified progress benchmarks or complete the Credit Flexibility Plan as agreed, the approval to further pursue the proposed credit may be revoked and/or a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.

- The final grade for the course must be posted before the credit can count toward graduation.
- If a student is unable to complete the course due to illness (with provided medical documentation) or other valid reason as determined by the registrar and the high school vice principal, an extension may be permitted. If the student does not intend to complete the credit and there has been an illness or other valid reason, the application **may** be withdrawn without penalty by the Curriculum Committee.
- Should a student transfer to another school district, upon request of the student or parent, the district shall forward a copy of the approved application to the new district for their consideration.

## CFP Review Panel Approval Report COMPLETED BY CFP REVIEW PANEL

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Does SVA require a prerequisite for this course? If yes, has the student completed the necessary prerequisite?
2. How many credits will be awarded for this CFP? If different from number requested, explain your decision.
3. Does this course have an SVA approved Course of Study? If yes, will this learning experience meet the pre-established competencies?
4. Are you satisfied with the way the student plans to demonstrate learning? If not, explain.
5. Who, in addition to the Review Panel, will evaluate the student's final learning proficiencies as outlined in the CFP?

- 6. Do you have recommendations for changes to the proposal and/or additional requirements? If yes, explain.
  
- 7. Have you confirmed that there's no IEP present? Attach, if applicable.
  
- 8. If applicable, attach the rubric that will be used in the evaluation.

**Credit Flexibility Plan: \_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_ Not Approved \_\_\_\_ Date**

Signatures of Review Panel:

Name (Print)	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**If, as a team, you have determined that this CFP application cannot be approved, clearly state why this CPF application has been rejected and return to the student for revision.**



*Directions: Please read the following statements, initial in the space provided by each statement, and sign below.*

**I Understand and Agree That:**

If my Credit Flexibility Plan (CFP) application is accepted, I will earn \_\_\_\_\_ credit for my work.

I have an up-to-date 4 year course plan.

I am responsible for scheduling and attending meetings with my CFP Mentor to meet the following requirements: check points, project guidance, work completion, panel presentation and attendance.

The grade I earn will appear on my transcript.

The drop date for CFP classes is 5 school days after the course begins and if I drop a CFP class, it may not be possible to enroll in a traditional class that is already in progress.

Failure to pass required state testing (OGT) may impact the approval of my application.

Academic honesty rules apply just as they do in a traditional class setting (see Student Handbook at [www.springvalleyacademy.org](http://www.springvalleyacademy.org)).

I must meet the attendance requirements set forth in my plan.

If I am in the school building when I am not scheduled in a traditional class, I will remain in designated areas and understand the Student Code of Conduct applies to me at all times.

I am responsible for monitoring and meeting graduation requirements.

*Athletic Requirements*

My CFP application is subject to approval by the Spring Valley Academy Credit Flexibility Access Panel. I further understand that completion of this form does not guarantee access.

**Signatures:**

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Flex Advisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approval:**

Credit Flex Access Panel Members:

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Panel Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If no, state the reasons:

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**General Outline for Committee Approval:**

Project Details	Measureable Outcomes	Time Frame/Date

*Please provide detailed outline for entire project and include a copy for this proposal*

**Detailed Outline for CFP Proposal for Mentor:**

Project Details	Measureable Outcomes	Time Frame/Date

## Community Mentor Waiver and Acknowledgement Form

*This form is only needed if a student is participating in an individual research, internship, community service/service learning, or educational travel option.*

1. I understand that my child will be participating in an educational option with a mentor who is not an employee of Spring Valley Academy, an accredited school within the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
2. I understand that all mentors undergo a background and security check and submit to Spring Valley Academy prior to participating in this project.
3. I understand that while my child is participating in this educational option, the Student Code of Conduct of Spring Valley Academy will fully apply, and all rules and regulations contained in the Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced and reported back to the school.
4. I understand that the assigned mentor will have the authority to direct and supervise my child in his/her studies.
5. I acknowledge that I have read and understand this Credit Flexibility Plan Community Mentor Waiver and Acknowledgement Form.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_