



## CLRNCertified Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: October 3, 2013

The California Learning Resource Network, a state-funded technology service, reviews online courses for their alignment to **both** the content standards **and** iNACOL's Standards for Quality Online Courses. CLRNCertified courses are eligible for U.C. A-G approval.

### **[Message to course publishers about 2014 deadlines.](#)**

**Note:** Contact the University of California, not CLRNCertified, with questions regarding A-G requirements and course submission, or connect to their [Online Learning](#) page.

[View UCOP webinars about Online Course and A-G requirements.](#)

#### **1. What specific courses does CLRNCertified review?**

Courses reviewed by CLRNCertified are expected to be designed for and aligned to one of the course descriptions from California's adopted content standards, which include the Common Core State Standards. Please access [this page for a complete list of course titles](#) CLRNCertified reviews.

#### **2. Does CLRNCertified Certify teacher-created courses?**

Not normally. Courses created solely for school or district use, that are not sold to outside districts, will not be reviewed by CLRNCertified.

#### **3. What advice do you have for publishers or educators about creating high-quality courses?**

First, ensure that your course teaches a significant amount (think 80+%) of the Common Core or content standards for that course.

Secondly, make use of our [online course training tutorials](#), expanded versions of the training materials we use with our reviewers. Each of the five iNACOL sections and every online course standard is discussed in detail.

#### **4. Are courses created by a school or district for their own use eligible to be reviewed by CLRNCertified for CLRNCertified-Certification?**

No. Courses created for use "in house" are not eligible for CLRNCertified Certification. However,

if your courses are utilized by students outside your district, they may be reviewed and certified by CLRN. Please consult the University of California.

**5. Does CLRN Certify supplemental resources?**

No. While we do review supplemental resources, the CLRN-Certification process only applies to online course reviews.

**6. My course barely missed receiving certification. If we improve it, will you review it again?**

For previously reviewed courses that have been updated to meet additional content or course standards, we offer a Supplemental review once per year. See CLRN's [Online Course Re-review Policy](#) for more information.

**7. My course was certified. Can I use the CLRN-Certified term and badge in my advertising?**

Course publishers may utilize the CLRN Certified® term in association with specific course reviews and may display the CLRN-Certified® badge next to their certified products. Request copies print and web versions of the logo from [Melody McGill](#). The term "CLRN-Certified®" and the CLRN-Certified® badge are registered trademarks of the Stanislaus County Office of Education and may only be used with our permission.

**8. Will CLRN certify visual and performing arts courses?**

With visual and performing arts, content standards are divided between Proficient and Advanced standards. Music has 28 Proficient and 27 Advanced standards while Visual Arts has 25 Proficient and 28 Advanced standards. Given the number of standards and the uncertainty regarding which standards should apply to each course, we believe it would be unfair to apply the 80% requirement for content standards alignment. CLRN will continue to investigate if and how to certify these courses.

**9. How are world language courses certified?**

World language standards are organized by developmental stages, with each language requiring different lengths of time to proceed from level to level. The progression includes: **Stage I: Formulaic** - Learners understand and produce signs, words, and phrases; **Stage II: Created** - Learners understand and produce sentences and strings of sentences; **Stage III: Planned** - Learners understand and produce paragraphs and strings of paragraphs; and **Stage IV: Extended** - Learners understand and produce cohesive texts composed of multiple paragraphs. Each stage has exactly 18 standards. Given that each language requires a different amount of time to move between stages, we believe that the 80% requirement should apply to 18 standards, regardless whether they are entirely within one stage, or straddled between two stages.

**10. My courses have been approved by UC. Must they be CLRN-Certified?**

The UC Policy states that all previously reviewed courses will be grandfathered in for one year. Beginning February 2013, all online courses will need to be CLRN-Certified before submitting to UC during the 2013-14 cycle.

**11. What are the Online Course Power Standards?**

The Online Course Power Standards are 15 UC and CLRN agreed upon standards that must be met in every online course. Specific information is available here:

<http://clrn.org/search/clrnCertified.cfm>

**12. If CLRN Certification expires after three years, will the course be removed from the site at that time?**

CLRN expects that all courses are updated periodically (see Standard E3). If an updated course is not submitted before Certification expires, CLRN will remove the Certification badge, but will not remove the review from our site.

**13. When public or private schools create their own online courses, how may they receive A-G approval?**

Schools will submit their online courses separately to UC. In the new UC two-step process for teacher-created online courses, schools will first perform a self-review against the iNACOL standards for quality online courses using a new template created by CLRN and downloaded from UC. Schools will then submit their regular paperwork and the self-review to UC for A-G approval.

**14. When schools are using supplemental online resources in the classroom, (blended learning), how may they receive A-G approval?**

See the answer to #13 above.

**15. Regarding online science courses that don't have a wet lab, but in which a school creates or conducts a publisher prescribed wet lab, how will they receive A-G approval?**

Online publishers should first submit science courses to CLRN for certification. Once CLRN-certified, online publishers will submit the course to UC for "a-g" review. U.C. will review the course and approve it for area "d" based on the merit of the course itself, absent any wet lab. Individual schools will indicate that they would like to add that online publisher's science course to their "a-g" list and they will submit a supplemental wet lab component to UC for review. If the wet lab is approved by UC, the online publisher's science course and the school's wet lab is approved and the combined course/lab is added to the school's course list.

**16. If a district/school's online course receives UC's A-G approval, is that approval transferable to other districts that use the same curriculum?**

If an online school's homegrown course earns "a-g" approval, that approval does NOT transfer to other schools/districts using the same curriculum unless the school/district licenses or sells the specific course to other schools/districts. Because UC would have

no way of knowing whether the homegrown course could be administered in the way it was originally designed to be administered, the other school/district would have to submit a separate course submission. But if the course is licensed/sold, then it becomes a commercial product that presumably would be implemented as it was originally designed, and only in that case would the "a-g" approval carry over. If the online school would also like to be an online publisher, we have no objection to that.

**16. If a district enrolls students in an online course offered by another district and that district's course has received A-G approval, does the sending district (the district enrolling students in the online course(s), need to also request A-G approval for the courses?**

As the district offering the online course would issue the transcript, there is no need for the sending district to request "a-g" approval. Students taking the online course would just need to identify the "a-g" course(s) they completed at the offering district separately from any "a-g" course(s) they completed at their home high school when they fill out the UC undergraduate application.

**17. Our courses received AP approval from the College Board. In the past, the University of California automatically granted these courses A-G approval. Do we still need to submit these AP-approved courses to CLRN?**

Yes. As the College Board process for reviewing content isn't transparent, we've no idea if AP-approved courses actually address the Common Core state standards, California's other content standards, or iNACOL's online course standards. New AP online courses must be either CLRN-certified or must undergo self-assessment against the iNACOL standards before being able to submit to UC.

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