

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF SPECIAL COURSES

Academic **Career and Technical Education** **Special Education**

Section A - SYSTEM INFORMATION - This section is to be completed for all requests.

Date of Application May 06, 2009

School System Obion County State System Number 660

Contact Person(s) Mrs Linda Short/Mrs. Nancy Hamilton
(person to contact if there are questions from the department)

E-mail shortl1@k12tn.net/hamiltonn@k12tn.net

Phone Number 731.885.9743 Fax Number 731.885.4092

Date of Approval by Local Board of Education _____ (Must be approved annually)

The information on this application is complete and accurate. Assigning the proposed instructor to this special course will not preclude having all State Board approved courses taught by appropriately endorsed teachers.

If the title of the Special Course includes the name of one of the NCLB core academic content areas (e.g., English Language Arts), the teacher must be documented as being "Highly Qualified" in that subject area.

Director of Schools Signature _____

- Total units of credit required by system for graduation: 23
- Anticipated enrollment in course. 60
- Grade level(s) eligible to enroll: 12
- Can course be counted as one of the **elective** credits in the total number of units required by the State Board of Education for graduation? Yes No

Section B - COURSE INFORMATION - This section is to be completed for all requests.

NOTE: Standards, Learning Expectations, and Performance Indicators must be attached to this application. These should follow the same format as those for current State-Board approved courses. If career and technical education credit is requested, correctly formatted competency profiles must also be attached.

1. Name of Proposed Course _____ ACT Preparation _____
2. Total units of credit available through proposed course: _____ 1 _____
3. Pre-requisite(s): **English I, II, III; Algebra I and II; Geometry; Biology; Chemistry; and American History.**
4. Justification for course/program (reason for including this course in the school program)

For the last twelve years, Obion County's ACT scores have lagged behind both the State's and the nation's average scores at all levels of ACT Testing (See appendix I for data from Obion County Central). Some intervention needs to occur to ameliorate this situation. It has been suggested that a dedicated class would improve the testing skills of our students, not only on the ACT, but on all standardized tests.

After many years of listing low test scores as a need to remediate at OCCHS, it was decided last year to implement a course designed to prepare students better to take the ACT Test, a test that students generally take the second semester of their junior year, or first semester of their senior year.

The premise of the course was quite simple: familiarize students with the testing format, allow them to practice using sample practice tests, and remediate at their own pace, those areas of the test in which they were weakest, with an eye to maximizing their personal scores. This would mean increased scholarship dollars for them and their parents.

The course was implemented in 2008-2009 with the approval of the school board and the Tennessee Department of Education. It was taught by Mrs. Tina Osborne first semester, then by Mr. Ron Ramage second semester. Forty-two (42) students are currently enrolled in the class, including one special education student.

Three baseline tests have been given over the course of the 2008-2009 school

year. Almost all students show an increase in scores in the various subtests, thus translating into increased composite scores. A fourth baseline test is planned for May.

For one class the average composite score stands now at 26.28 (approximately five points higher than the state average composite and four points higher than the national). The second class shows a composite average of 24.2. The average gain in composite scores has been five (5) points from the first baseline test to the third. The gains in composite scores have held up during regular testing for those students who have taken the actual ACT test during the school year and reported their scores to the instructor.

Despite the change of instructors in mid-year, it seems that this course has helped our students and their scores bridge the gap between their usual performance on standardized tests and state and national average performance on those same tests.

5. Describe briefly the nature of this course:

This course proposes to give potential students:

- **A comprehensive review of Standard English grammar, punctuation, and rhetoric.**
- **A comprehensive review of reading strategies.**
- **A comprehensive review of gaining information from statistical elements and graphical information sources**
- **A comprehensive review of skills taught in Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry.**
- **A comprehensive review of test taking strategies for improved student success.**

Students who elect to take this class will receive classroom instruction for one block per day, Monday through Friday, according to the requisite school schedule and calendar. Periodic evaluations will document their skill-level improvement.

6. Total number of hours of instruction: 180

7. Check **one** area of the curriculum in which credit is awarded. Credit must be awarded in a specific area, and cannot be requested simply as "elective credit".

If this is an academic course, is it a duplication of a CTE course? Yes X No.

If this is a CTE course is it a duplication of an academic course? Yes No.

Reminder: If more than one area is checked below, application will be returned to school district.

Fine Arts (HQ)
Business
Computer Technology

Science (HQ)
Social Studies (HQ)
Special Education

Career and Technical Education
Specify program area:

- Foreign Language (HQ)
- English Language Arts (HQ)
- Math (HQ)

Wellness & P.E.
Other (please specify) _____

8. Names/titles of individuals who developed the course:

- Mrs. Linda Short, Principal, Obion County Central High School
- Mrs. Kay Cooper, Guidance Counselor, Obion County Central High School
- Mrs. Tina Osborne, Media Specialist, Obion County Central High School
- Mr. Ron Ramage, Teacher, Obion County Central High School

9. Resources used to develop the course:

- Hammond, Wallie. **The Real ACT Prep Guide: The Only Official Prep Guide From The Makers Of The ACT**
- The Princeton Review. **Cracking the ACT, 2008 Edition (College Test Prep)**
- Kaplan. **Kaplan ACT 2008 Comprehensive Program**
- Randall McCutcheon and James Schaffer. **Increase Your Score In 3 Minutes A Day: ACT Reading**
- Steven Dulan. **McGraw-Hill's 10 ACT Practice Tests**
- Steven Dulan. **McGraw-Hill's Conquering ACT English, Reading, and Writing**
- Charles O. Brass, Suzanne Coffield, Joseph T. Conklin, and Anita Price Davis. **ACT Assessment (REA) - The Very Best Coaching and Study Course for the ACT (Test Preps)**

10. Goals of course/program (student learning goals):

The Students will:

- **Review English sentence structure.**
- **Review standard English punctuation, with emphasis on the comma, semi-colon, and colon, their uses and applications.**
- **Review the formation and use of contractions, verbals, participles, and rhetorical devices.**
- **Review proofreading skills.**
- **Review literary and logical sequencing.**
- **Review reading strategies and note-taking skills.**
- **Read for information.**
- **Review vocabulary appropriate to age level and reading level.**
- **Learn to retrieve information from graphical representations of data.**
- **Review test-taking skills and strategies.**
- **Review skills and concepts from high school math courses, i.e., Algebra I &**

II, Geometry, and Advanced Math. (Please see Appendix 2 for a comprehensive listing of curriculum standards to be addressed.)

11. Major units of instruction of course/program:

- **Reviewing the English you already know**
- **Proofreading**
- **How to Read/ Vocabulary Review**
- **Reviewing Tables, Graphs and Charts**
- **Math Review for Standardized Tests**
- **Practicing the ACT Test**
- **Test Taking Strategies**

12. Texts and/or supplementary materials to be used:

- **Hammond, Wallie. The Real ACT Prep Guide: The Only Official Prep Guide From The Makers Of The ACT**
- **Kaplan. Kaplan ACT 2008 Comprehensive Program**
- <http://www.actprepinfo.com>
- <http://www.actstudent.org/sampletest/index.html>
- <http://www.studyguidezone.com/acttest.htm>
- <http://www.princetonreview.com/college/testprep/testprep.asp?TPRPAGE=311&TYPE=ACT-TOOLS>
- http://www.testprepreview.com/act_practice.htm
- Other texts and media as appropriate.

13. Proposed instructional methods and activities:

- **Direct instruction where appropriate**
- **Directed review/reteaching of skills as needed**
- **Practice in standardized test-taking**
- **Review of materials and strategies proposed by the creators of the tests**
- **Creating success strategies for improving test scores**

14. Procedure for evaluating student progress:

- **Student progress during the course will be evaluated by periodic teacher-generated evaluation instruments, by the use of standardized tests, and through individual personal evaluation. Final evaluation will be done by taking the ACT Test and seeing if there is any score gain.**

15. Procedure for evaluating success of course:

- **The success of this course will be gauged by the ratio of improving student**

composite scores to those declining.

SECTION C - CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSE - Complete this section only if you are seeking to award credit in career and technical education.

1. Outline how this course fits into a career and technical education program sequence.
2. Interpret and summarize and attach labor market data to support the proposed course in the local area. Cite the source of the data.

SECTION D - TECHNOLOGY-BASED COURSE - Complete this section of the form only if you are seeking approval for a technology-based course.

1. This course is:
 A) Technology-based Intervention
Tech Based Intervention 3645
 B) Online Courses 8000 Series
 C) Video Distance Learning
2. For Technology-based Intervention, check appropriate area(s):
 Algebra Biology English
3. For online and video distance learning courses **ONLY**, who will evaluate coursework submitted by students enrolled?
4. Origination of course:
Type:
 Satellite On-line CD-ROM-based
Provider/Vendor: _____

Note: For technology-based intervention courses a correlation of the performance indicators of the gateway standards with the provided program must be attached.

SDE Authorized Section

Subject Area Content Specialist

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Signature: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied |
| Date: _____ | Course Code Assignment: _____ |

Comments:

Special course applications should be submitted to the Commissioner of Education at:

**Tennessee Department of Education
6th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0375**

SECTION E - COURSE SITE INFORMATION - This section is to be completed for all requests. Missing data will delay the approval process.

| <i>School Name</i> | <i>State School #</i> | <i>Years Course Offered at this School</i> (<u>1</u> , <u>2</u> , <u>3</u> , or <u>4</u> +)) | <i>School Year Course to be Offered</i> | <i>Semester Offered</i> <u>F</u> all or <u>S</u> pring <u>B</u> oth <u>F</u> ull <u>Y</u> ear <u>Su</u> mm <u>e</u> r | <i>School Format:</i> <u>T</u> raditional <u>B</u> lock <u>M</u> odified <u>B</u> lock | <i>For Video Distance Learning:</i> <u>B</u> ase Site <u>R</u> eceiving Site | <i>Facilities available for course/program</i> (Required for Career and Technical Education courses) |
|---|-----------------------|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| <i>Obion County Central High School</i> | 660-035 | 2 | 2009-2010 | Both | Block | | |
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SECTION F – INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION - This section is to be completed for all requests. Missing data will delay the approval process.

| <i>School Name</i> | <i>Teacher Name</i> | <i>Teacher #</i> | <i>Teacher Role</i> | | <i>Endorsement Code(s)</i> | <i>Industry Certifications</i> | <i>Technology Qualification</i> |
|---|---------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | <u>M</u> ain/ <u>B</u> ase | <u>C</u> onsulting/ <u>R</u> eceiving | | | |
| <i>Obion County Central High School</i> | Ron Ramage | 518241 | Main | | 007, 009, 110, 482 | | |
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APPENDIX #1

Here's the ACT data for Obion County Central High School for the last fourteen years:

Student Performance Data for Obion County Central High School

Average ACT Scores

| | EngTN | EngUS | Eng OC |
|-----------|-------|-------|--------|
| 1996-1997 | 19.6 | 20.3 | 19.7 |
| 1997-1998 | 19.6 | 20.4 | 18.6 |
| 1998-1999 | 19.8 | 20.5 | 20.3 |
| 1999-2000 | 19.9 | 20.5 | 20.5 |
| 2000-2001 | 19.9 | 20.5 | 19.6 |
| 2001-2002 | 20 | 20.2 | 19.4 |
| 2002-2003 | 20.5 | 20.3 | 19.7 |
| 2003-2004 | 20.6 | 20.4 | 19.9 |
| 2004-2005 | 20.6 | 20.4 | 20.2 |
| 2005-2006 | 20.8 | 20.6 | 20.3 |
| 2006-2007 | 20.7 | 20.7 | 20.3 |
| 2007-2008 | 20.7 | 20.6 | 20.4 |

| | MathTN | Math US | Math OC |
|-----------|--------|---------|---------|
| 1996-1997 | 19 | 20.6 | 18 |
| 1997-1998 | 19.1 | 20.8 | 17.9 |
| 1998-1999 | 19.1 | 20.7 | 18.9 |
| 1999-2000 | 19.1 | 20.7 | 18.7 |
| 2000-2001 | 19.2 | 20.7 | 18.4 |
| 2001-2002 | 19.3 | 20.6 | 17.6 |
| 2002-2003 | 19.6 | 20.6 | 18.6 |

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2003-2004 | 19.7 | 20.7 | 18.5 |
| 2004-2005 | 19.7 | 20.7 | 19 |
| 2005-2006 | 19.9 | 20.8 | 19.1 |
| 2006-2007 | 19.8 | 21 | 19.1 |
| 2007-2008 | 19.7 | 21 | 19.2 |
| | ReadingTN | ReadingUS | ReadingOC |
| 1996-1997 | 20.1 | 21.3 | 20 |
| 1997-1998 | 20.2 | 21.4 | 19.4 |
| 1998-1999 | 20.4 | 21.4 | 20.6 |
| 1999-2000 | 20.5 | 21.4 | 21 |
| 2000-2001 | 20.4 | 21.3 | 20.1 |
| 2001-2002 | 20.5 | 21.1 | 19.9 |
| 2002-2003 | 20.8 | 21.2 | 20 |
| 2003-2004 | 21 | 21.3 | 20.2 |
| 2004-2005 | 20.8 | 21.3 | 20.4 |
| 2005-2006 | 21.1 | 21.4 | 20.7 |
| 2006-2007 | 21 | 21.5 | 20.7 |
| 2007-2008 | 21.1 | 21.4 | 21.1 |
| | SciReaTN | SciReaUS | SciReaOC |
| 1996-1997 | 19.7 | 21.1 | 19.1 |
| 1997-1998 | 19.8 | 21.1 | 19.2 |
| 1998-1999 | 19.8 | 21 | 19.8 |
| 1999-2000 | 19.8 | 21 | 19.7 |
| 2000-2001 | 19.9 | 21 | 19.3 |
| 2001-2002 | 19.9 | 20.8 | 19.1 |
| 2002-2003 | 20.2 | 20.8 | 19.8 |
| 2003-2004 | 20.3 | 20.9 | 19.8 |
| 2004-2005 | 20.2 | 20.9 | 20.4 |
| 2005-2006 | 20.3 | 20.9 | 20.6 |
| 2006-2007 | 20.3 | 21 | 20.6 |

| 2007-2008 | 20.3 | 20.8 | 20.5 |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| | CmpTN | CmpUS | CmpOC |
| 1996-1997 | 19.7 | 21 | 19.3 |
| 1997-1998 | 19.8 | 21 | 18.9 |
| 1998-1999 | 19.9 | 21 | 20 |
| 1999-2000 | 20 | 21 | 20.1 |
| 2000-2001 | 20 | 21 | 19.4 |
| 2001-2002 | 20 | 20.8 | 19.1 |
| 2002-2003 | 20.4 | 20.8 | 19.7 |
| 2003-2004 | 20.5 | 20.9 | 19.7 |
| 2004-2005 | 20.5 | 20.9 | 20.2 |
| 2005-2006 | 20.7 | 21.1 | 20.3 |
| 2006-2007 | 20.6 | 21.2 | 20.3 |
| 2007-2008 | 20.6 | 20.8 | 20.4 |

Appendix 2—Standards Addressed By ACT Preparation

The following are the State Standards that will be addressed by this course:

English:

- The student will develop the structural and creative skills necessary to produce written language that can be read and interpreted by various audiences.
- The student will develop the reading skills necessary for word recognition, comprehension, interpretation, analysis, evaluation, and appreciation of the written text.
- The student will use, read, and view media/technology and analyze content and concepts accurately.
- Students will recognize, represent, model, and apply real numbers and operations verbally, physically, symbolically, and graphically.
- The student will investigate, model, and apply geometric properties and relationships.
- The student will collect, organize, represent, and interpret data and model situations to determine theoretical and experimental probabilities.

- Students will recognize, represent, model, and apply real numbers and operations and will demonstrate an understanding of properties and operations of the complex number system.