

Frequently Asked Questions About SOAR Programs & Perkins Statewide Articulation

1. What is meant by SOAR?

SOAR stands for **S**tudents **O**ccupationally and **A**cademically **R**eady. The mission of SOAR is to prepare students for college and careers in a diverse, high-performing workforce.

2. What is a SOAR Program?

A SOAR Program is a PDE approved, Career & Technical Education Program that credits skills and tasks learned at the secondary school (high school) level to a postsecondary (college) degree, diploma or certificate program. SOAR programs prepare today's student for High Priority Occupations which are tomorrow's high demand and high wage careers.

For more information about specific SOAR Programs, use this link:

http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/programs_of_study/7686

3. What is a CTE articulation agreement?

A Career and Technical Education (CTE) Articulation Agreement is an agreement written between two institutions which permits skills and tasks learned at one institution (in this case, the secondary school offering the PDE Approved SOAR Program) to be accepted and applied toward a degree or certificate at a postsecondary institution. In SOAR Programs, the agreement is made between PDE representing the Secondary School Partners and Perkins-Allocated Postsecondary Institution Partners.

4. What is meant by Statewide Articulation?

Statewide articulation occurs when a specific Perkins Allocated Postsecondary Institution agrees to award college credit opportunities to any qualifying graduate of a PDE approved secondary school offering the SOAR Programs of Study across the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, hence a statewide articulation.

5. Where can I read about the SOAR Programs Statewide Articulation Agreement?

Articulation for advanced credit transfer is made possible when Perkins Allocated Postsecondary Institutions and Pennsylvania secondary schools offering SOAR programs agree to the terms and conditions stated in the Perkins Statewide Articulation Agreement. This agreement outlines the general agreement conditions between secondary and postsecondary institutions and student qualification measures allowing for the student to acquire postsecondary education credits leading to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

To view the agreement, go to [Perkins Statewide Articulation Agreement \(PDF\)](#) located on the BCTE programs of Study Articulation webpage at:

http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/programs_of_study/7686/articulations/679190

6. Why offer college credits for secondary school work?

Under the Pennsylvania State Five-Year Plan and, in accordance with the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Act), all Postsecondary Institutions receiving funds under the Act are required to award college-level credit or equivalent clock hours to a matriculated student and apply that credit toward the completion of the approved Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Program of Study, leading to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level, or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

7. Who are the current PA Secondary School Partners offering PDE approved SOAR Program(s)?

The current list of secondary schools which offer PDE approved SOAR Programs can be found on the BCTE Programs of Study Articulations Webpage link:

http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/programs_of_study/7686/articulations/679190

Go To this link:

[2009-10 CATS Approved Secondary Schools With POS Delivery](#) (pdf) Secondary schools listed are arranged by program offering.

8. Who are the current PA Postsecondary Institution Partners articulating credit with SOAR Programs?

Postsecondary Partners are listed on the College Transfer .net website at:

<http://collegetransfer.net/tabid/101/Default.aspx?from=4067>

By doing a refine search, one can locate a specific institution and its articulation opportunities in a specific SOAR program

9. How does a student qualify for SOAR postsecondary college credits?

Under the terms and conditions of this Agreement and based on the following principles, college-level credit will be granted to students matriculating into a partnering postsecondary CTE program when all the student criteria listed below is achieved and proper documentation is submitted.

Students must:

- A. Earn a high school diploma, achieve a minimum 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale in the technical courses and complete the Secondary School component of the approved PDE Program of Study.
- B. Achieve competent or advanced level on the Secondary School end-of-program assessment that is appropriate to the approved PDE Program of Study.
- C. Achieve proficiency on all of the approved PDE Program of Study Secondary Competency Task List.
- D. Furnish documentation necessary to the Postsecondary Institution upon written request. Documents should be student specific that verify that the student meets all secondary requirements of the approved PDE Program of Study.

10. What student documentation is required from a student who qualifies for advanced college credits offered at a partnering postsecondary institution?

The student must provide documentation that must include the following items, if applicable:

- High School Diploma;
- Official Student Transcript;
- Secondary Competency Task List with the signature of a secondary school technical instructor;
- PA Certificate of Competency or PA Skills Certificate in technical program area and
- Industry certifications earned.

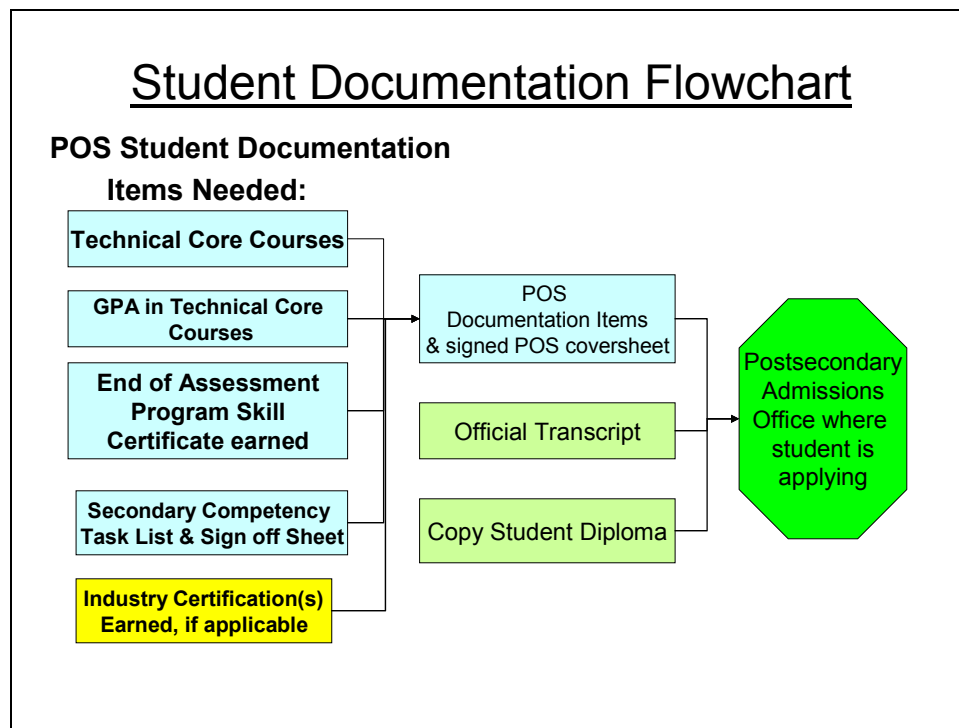
11. Are specific student documentation forms required to be submitted to a partnering postsecondary institution, when a student qualifies for advanced college credits?

Yes, student documentation can be located on the PDE/BCTE SOAR Programs Articulations webpage at: http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/programs_of_study/7686/articulations/679190

Under **SOAR Advanced College Credit Opportunities**, refer to these specific links: [Student Documentation Coversheet for Programs of Study Articulation Agreements \(PDF\)](#) and [Coversheet for Secondary Competency Task List \(PDF\)](#)

12. Is there a visual explaining the student documentation that will be provided to the partner postsecondary institution admissions office?

Yes, see below:



13. How should student documentation be submitted to a partnering postsecondary institution.

The student seeking admission into the partnering postsecondary institution should notify his/her appropriate guidance counselor that the appropriate student documentation materials need to be submitted on her/his behalf to the partnering postsecondary institution's admission's office. Secondary school guidance personnel should assist the student in forwarding the appropriate student documentation items to the partnering postsecondary institution's admission's office.

14. How many postsecondary credits can a SOAR student receive?

The credits awarded are CTE program specific and the amount varies among the partnering postsecondary institutions. To view current advanced credit opportunities articulated with postsecondary institutions, go to the equivalency search results at [CollegeTransfer.net](http://www.collegetransfer.net), located on the BCTE Programs of Study Articulations website at:

http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/programs_of_study/7686/articulations/679190

15. Are students required to complete all competencies on the POS Secondary Competency Task List?

Yes, Secondary school students must complete to industry proficiency level all the tasks listed on the Secondary Competency Task List in order to qualify for the course credits awarded at the partnering postsecondary institution.

16. Can a student complete a partial list of a POS Secondary Competency Tasks and in return be granted a lesser amount of advanced credit at the partnering postsecondary institution?

No, there is no such agreement for articulation of course credit on the statewide level given for partial completion of a specific sub-set of competencies on a SOAR Program Competency Task List.

17. Is there a time limit after a qualifying student graduates from a SOAR program to receive the college credits?

Yes, the student has three years from their date of graduation to apply and matriculate into the related CTE program at a partnering postsecondary institution to receive credit.