

**Launch UC****College Credit Plus | Dual Enrollment |  
Early College | Tech Prep**120 University Pavilion  
2618 University Circle  
Cincinnati, OH 45221[ccp@uc.edu](mailto:ccp@uc.edu)[www.uc.edu/launch](http://www.uc.edu/launch)[www.uc.edu/ccp](http://www.uc.edu/ccp)**House Bill 62 – Opponent Testimony****April 8, 2025****House Education Committee**

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 62. My name is Lorrie Bishop, and I am the Director of Launch UC, the University of Cincinnati's initiative for early enrollment programs, including College Credit Plus. I am here today on behalf of the University of Cincinnati in opposition to the changes proposed in House Bill 62.

I would like to begin by providing an overview of how UC utilizes College Credit Plus (CCP). UC views CCP as an opportunity to influence college-readiness, college confidence, and academic rigor. We currently partner with 72 school districts, 49 of them are embedded partnerships. Geographic representation of our CCP students includes rural, urban, and suburban school districts, 78% of our students hail from the 513 area code, and include students from Hamilton, Clermont, Butler, Brown, Clinton, Warren, Preble counties and beyond. Rural and urban schools represent 80% of our embedded partnerships. UC is proud to serve more than 4,000 students taking over 11,000 courses this academic year. We are proud to partner with our secondary schools to offer these intentional pathways to students who are directly competing with our undergraduate students at a significantly discounted rate. The benefit of CCP lies squarely with the student.

Over the last three years, we have re-invested in the embedded CCP model, where qualified high school teachers are paired with a UC faculty mentor and are approved to offer our courses in their high school classroom. Participation in the embedded space has increased more than 55% in that time. In the 24/25 academic year, we have more than 200 courses being offered in this modality, we will have close to 300 this coming academic year. This model provides access to rigorous, university-level coursework to students who otherwise do not have the means to take classes on a college campus. In fact, we have doubled our CCP admission rate in our most rural partnerships. In addition, we have a robust community of students taking classes on one of our campuses or online, with 63% choosing online. Across all three modalities, online, in person and embedded, there is less than a .01 GPA differential, with our average CCP student GPA of 3.6. UC recognizes and champions the inherent long-term value of early access through programs such as CCP in the GPA attainment, time to completion, lower drop/fail/withdraw rates, and retention rates of former CCP students upon matriculation.

Through College Credit Plus, we have seen amazing successes for our students and school district partners alike. Pipeline programs, such as our Early IT, Lindner College of Business, Engineering, Allied Health, and Education College and Career Tracks, provide students from more than 50 partner schools provides rigorous, intentional coursework applicable to both associate and baccalaureate degrees. Through our partnership with Grant Career Center, students can earn a Mechanical Engineering

Technology degree at the same time as their high school diploma. Students participating in our Early IT program, offered through UC's CCP program at 24 rural and urban schools, have guaranteed admission to our School of IT, begin as Sophomores, and are paid co-op eligible in their very first semester. Further, our partner schools report positive impact of CCP programming through increased scores on school report cards, improved college-going rates, and higher scholarship rates among their students.

With that background in mind, House Bill 62 presents clear challenges for our ability to continue offering College Credit Plus. Our primary concern relates to mandatory tuition changes to our online offerings. CCP students enrolled in more than 3,000 credit hours in the 24/25 academic year. CCP students displace full-tuition undergraduate students when enrolling in online classes. We estimate a further reduction for tuition in this modality will cost the University of Cincinnati over \$1 million annually. Since we are already offering these courses at a significantly reduced rate, any further reduction diminishes our ability to continue offering these programs to students. I can also assure you that these offerings are academically rigorous—our online CCP students are taking classes right alongside with our traditional undergraduate students. It truly is a collegiate level academic experience.

We are also well aware of burdens instructional materials have posed to local school districts. At UC, we have done our best to minimize those burdens. For example, the majority of our embedded courses are not required to purchase textbooks or materials as we are often able to approve instructional materials already in use at the school. In instances where instructional materials are required, we work closely with the school partner to identify the most cost-effective way to procure those materials, whether that's through Follett, our instructional materials provider, or directly with the publisher. Our intention is to continue finding innovative solutions to this challenge in collaboration with our K-12 partners.

We are thankful of the amendment today to create a new College Credit Plus study committee. It is time to put all CCP stakeholders together—higher education, K-12, students and families—to revisit the entire program's efficacy. It has now been over a decade since the program began, and is now appropriate for us to examine if CCP is delivering on its intended goals. However, we think it is premature to move forward with the original provisions in this bill until the study committee can report back to the General Assembly on its findings and recommendations.

In summary, we believe CCP aligns with our mission to open doors to higher education for those who might not pursue it otherwise. CCP is one of the state's most important tools to address access and affordability in education. It is powerful in delivering knowledge, skills and abilities aligned to our community's workforce needs. But House Bill 62 does too much too quickly that jeopardizes our ability to offer these courses to students. We would encourage a different path forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Lorrie Bishop  
Director, Launch UC  
College Credit Plus | Dual Enrollment | Early College | Tech Prep  
[lorrie.bishop@uc.edu](mailto:lorrie.bishop@uc.edu)

