

## **SACBC JLS High School Foreign Language Credit Explanation**

We, at SACBC Japanese Language School, work with Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) and New Haven Unified School District (NHUSD) to issue foreign language credits to students who have completed our High-School level Japanese language classes with satisfactory grades. The credit is based on “public school credit for language courses taken in private schools” as per California Education Code Sections 51243-51245; and they satisfy graduation requirements for high schools in FUSD and NHUSD. FUSD also agreed to apply the units toward University of California a-g requirement, while NHUSD will make the final decision upon receipt of credit applications from our student in September 2010.

**If you are going to High-School outside of FUSD and NHUSD, we strongly recommend that you contact your home high school principal directly to determine whether obtaining foreign language credits from outside private school study might be an option, or not.**

Basically, it is up to individual high school or the school district in which the student is regularly enrolled, whether or not they will accept or acknowledge credits for study carried out at a private foreign language school. We are also aware that some school districts count these units toward graduation, while others do not; even though they are listed in your transcript as additional achievements. Some high schools include these grades in your GPA calculation; some don't and just treat them as extra units.

When you attempt to obtain credit approval, your school district (or your school) generally asks whether the language school is accredited or not. As you may be aware, it is not possible for any Saturday-only single subject school like our Japanese language school to secure such an accreditation. In lieu of that, we, at SACBC JLS, help you to secure the authorization from your high school (private or public) by providing detailed course descriptions demonstrating that students are indeed receiving the level of foreign language study that meets the rigor equal to or above the standard set forth by the high school involved.

Local school districts oversee education up to the 12th grade, and it is governed by the county. On the other hand, baccalaureate education, such as UC and Cal State curriculum is governed by the state, and the county has very little influence on it. Historically, the California State University system has accepted foreign language credits students have completed at our school as they appear in their high school transcripts. However, UC's base criteria for foreign language credit issuance is based on whether the school is accredited by WASC (Western Association for Schools and Colleges), or not. Almost all Saturday only language schools do not qualify WASC accreditation, by default. All other private universities have their own criteria on their application requirement.

**In order for the coursework you have completed at SACBC JLS to be recognized by UC in the application and admissions process, the principal of the student's home high school must certify that the course is comparable to other college preparatory courses offered at the high school.** We can work with you to receive such an acknowledgement from your school principal; however, it is difficult, especially when your high school does not offer AP classes in Asian languages, as there would be no true comparison to make between the integrity of course work. We are currently working on obtaining program status for our courses which would be reviewed by the UC as a program established in their Doorways course list, however the work requires more time.

In regards to a UC application, each applicant must satisfy A-G requirements which is described at (<http://www.ucop.edu/a-gGuide/ag/a-g/welcome.html>), and, within that, there is a LOTE (Language other than English) requirement. You will see that there are three methods for satisfying the

requirement. Although our credits do not satisfy the UC standard; the applicant can meet the requirement by taking SAT-Japanese to demonstrate the required fluency or submitting a certification of proficiency by your home high school principal. Again, our school is more than happy to provide such documentation to describe your proficiency; however it is your responsibility to coordinate the effort and make sure the description we provide satisfies your home school's criteria of language proficiency. Needless to say, if you have completed study of a foreign language more than two years at your home high school, the LOTE requirement is already satisfied.

**Please contact your high school and the colleges you are applying to directly to find out details, as the rules described here are subject to change.**

### **How to apply SACBC JLS credits to eligible credit for High School language class**

As described, each School District (or High School) has its own rules and procedures pertaining to this matter. As for New Haven Unified School District and Castro Valley High School (School District is not involved for this process), we have had a history established with them of issuing credit; however, **it is your responsibility to confirm the registration procedure and the conditions, as they may change at any time.**

As an example, we will explain the FUSD rules and procedures for your reference.

#### **(A) Submit Application Form**

The application attached to this document has to be filled out and submitted to FUSD through SACBC JLS **no later than one week after the school year starts**. FUSD will redirect each form to the appropriate High School to request a signature from your principal. Once the form has been signed by your principal, the registration process is completed.

#### **(B) Submit SACBC JLS Credits report**

After the semester ends, SACBC JLS will send a letter to the FUSD to inform them of a student's grade. FUSD will take the necessary steps to convert SACBC JLS credits to a student's High School Secondary Language credits.

### **SACBC JLS rules to complete a required procedure**

In order for completion of the above procedure, SACBC JLS is required to submit each student's grade at the end of each semester to FUSD. FUSD will inform each student's high school of the grade and units earned, so that the result will be reflected in the transcript the following year.

#### **(a) Class attendance rule**

Student must attend SACBC JLS class at least 80% of total classes scheduled during a semester. In the event that class attendance ratio does not reach the required level, SACBC JLS may give a student an opportunity to make up the missed instruction by fulfilling specific home work or completing research projects assigned by his/her class instructor.

#### **(b) Required grade rule**

SACBC JLS has not set any minimum grade requirement for eligibility to apply for the above program. But SACBC JLS encourages each student will do his/her own best to learn Japanese in their classes.

### FAQ (Frequent Asked Questions) based on FUSD rules and procedures

**(Q1) If a student is eligible for earning credits from SACBC JLS as a High School secondary language credit, does the student still need to take a secondary language at their high school?**

**ANS:** [No. If the student is receiving credit for taking a foreign language at SACBC JLS, then the student does not need to take another foreign language class at their high school.](#)

- However, if you are going to high a school outside of FUSD, it is a question you should address to your school counselor. You should also consider if the college you are planning to apply for has special requirements for foreign language study or not.

**(Q2) If high school/school district permits you to convert credits issued by SACBC JLS as High School secondary language credits, are those credits also countable as required credits for graduation?**

**ANS:** [Yes the credits go towards student's high school graduation.](#)

**(Q3) Is there any minimum grade required to be eligible for converting SACBC JLS credits to High School credits?**

**ANS:** [Irvington High requires a "C" or better and the other high schools in FUSD require a "D" or better.](#)