



Concurrent Credit – ACC 132/133

What is Tax Help Colorado?

Tax Help Colorado is a program that uses colleges – primarily community colleges – to provide free income-tax return preparation to lower- and moderate-income working families in Colorado. In its eighth year, 18 colleges participating in the program assisted nearly 9,400 taxpayers at 27 sites -- at colleges and high schools -- to claim refunds of \$18 million in 2016.

How does the program work?

Students at the participating colleges/high schools take an accredited course on income tax preparation in the fall semester (ACC 132). This course gives them IRS certification to do free income tax preparation. In the spring semester, students who have taken the income tax class operate a free tax preparation service at the college, for which they receive college credit (ACC 133). The free tax sites typically operate from late January through the tax-filing deadline. Days and hours of operation vary from school to school.

Tax Help Colorado also provides service learning, combining classroom instruction with meaningful community service, enhancing the critical thinking capability of students and also enhancing their sense of community service, personal responsibility and civic engagement. Research demonstrates that Service Learning and other 'high impact' practices have been able to dramatically improve the higher order thinking skills, persistence level and success rate in students.

How are instructors trained?

Tax Help Colorado provides comprehensive, summer training for instructors. The new instructor training covers the ACC 132 curriculum, which is focused on tax law appropriate for the tax site and the software, internet based, provided by the IRS for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites. All instructors attend a one-day training in November to complete the certification process and discuss tax site operations and tax law updates.

How has the program worked with concurrent credit?

High school students across the state of Colorado are receiving concurrent high school/college credit, learning an important lifelong skill, building their resume with hands-on experience and a letter of commendation from the Governor, and experiencing the value of community service.

Adams City High School (5th year)

- a. ACC 132 & 133 is offered this year through Aims Community College.
- b. The students operate a tax site at their school on Saturdays through the tax season.
- c. The tax site was featured on 9 News' Education feature with Nelson Garcia, and more recently on Fox 31be sure and view the news clip! <http://kdvr.com/2015/03/08/teens-offer-tax-help/>

Alamosa High School (3 years)

- a) The Alamosa high students have come to Trinidad State Junior College – Alamosa Campus for ACC 132 and then worked the tax site (ACC 133) at TSJC – Alamosa.
- b) Last year's graduating seniors included photos of the tax site in their graduation slide show, this speaks volumes of what it meant to them!

Horizon High School & Mountain Range High School (4th year)

- a. ACC 101, ACC 132 & 133 are taught in a yearlong format through Front Range Community College – Westminster.
- b. Students work the tax sites at Front Range CC – Westminster & Brighton and Thornton HS.

Legacy High School (3rd year)

- a. ACC 101, ACC 132 & 133 are taught in a yearlong format through Front Range Community College – Westminster Campus.
- b. Students will work at the FRCC - Westminster site and Thornton High School.

Abraham Lincoln High School (2nd year)

- a. ACC 132 & 133 are taught on their campus concurrently through Community College of Denver utilizing a CCD adjunct instructor.
- b. Students will operate a site on their campus utilizing the CCD adjunct instructor.

Aurora Central High School (3rd year)

- a. ACC 132 & 133 are taught on their campus concurrently through Community College of Aurora.
- b. Students will operate a site on their campus.

Northglenn High School (2 years)

- a. ACC 132 & 133 are taught in a yearlong format through Front Range Community College – Westminster Campus.
- b. Students will work at the FRCC - Westminster site and Thornton High School.

Pikes Peak Community College (2nd year)

- a. Students from Doherty and Coronado High School came to campus for ACC 132 & 133. The students this year were FBLA members and on a business track.
- b. Students will work at the tax site at PPCC.

Thornton High School (2nd year)

- a. ACC 132 & 133 are taught on their campus concurrently through Front Range Community College – Westminster.
- b. Students will operate a site on their campus.

North High School (1st year)

- a. ACC 132 & 133 are taught on their campus concurrently through Community College of Denver.
- b. Students will operate a site on their campus.

Concurrent credit is an excellent fit for colleges in rural areas where it is more difficult to recruit students due to smaller class sizes or in metro areas where the demands for free tax assistance is great. *Tax Help Colorado* provides training for the high school instructors, works with the colleges to ensure a network of support is in place, and *Tax Help Colorado* staff is available at all times to assist with the needs of any of the instructors.

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