

IS DUAL CREDIT THE RIGHT OPTION FOR ME?

We applaud your decision to consider enhancing your high school education and get a jump on your postsecondary career by taking dual credit. However, it is important you consider whether this approach is the best one for you. The following are some things you may want to consider as you contemplate your decision.

STUDENT READINESS

Dual credit is a great fit for most students who show interest, maturity, and academic readiness, but it may not be a perfect fit for every student.

Important factors to show student readiness for dual credit:

- Self-direction and motivation, as college-level courses require performance at the level of any other college student.
- Organizational, time management, and study skills.
- Self-discipline and motivation, especially for online dual credit courses.
- Reading and writing skills.
- Strong computer/technology experience, especially for online dual credit courses.

IMPACT ON STUDENT RECORD

It's important to understand that dual credit courses impact not just the high school transcript but also the college transcript.

Factors to consider with the student record and dual credit:

- Grades earned become part of both the student's permanent high school and postsecondary GPA.
- Poor performance in dual credit courses can impact the continued participation in the dual credit program and the students' postsecondary careers. This may include college admissions, scholarship opportunities, academic standing, and financial aid eligibility.
- If students are struggling, encourage them to communicate with the course instructor and seek out academic support services. Early action on the student's part can help them get on track and be successful.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Students taking on-campus or online courses may be exposed to discussions, readings, and visual material at the college level and will be expected to adhere to the same performance standards as any other college student as set forth in course outlines and syllabi.
- Dual Credit students are treated no differently than any other college-level student.
- Students should be prepared to do most of their learning on their own.
- Help students learn by instilling the message that their academic success depends on them taking responsibility for their own education and behavior.
- The general rule is that for every hour spent in class, college students should spend 2-3 hours out of class reading, studying, and completing assignments. Students enrolling in online courses should plan for 10-15 hours per week for each course.
- By participating in the high school dual credit program, students give consent for the postsecondary institutions to disclose academic information, including, but not limited to, academic standing, progress, and grades to their high school.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

STUDENT'S ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Establish your account as soon as possible after receiving an acceptance email.** These accounts should be established by the student and the student only.
- **Check your university or college email regularly.** This email is used for many administrative and financial notices that you do not want to miss.
- **Become familiar with the postsecondary institution's academic calendars.** This may differ from your high school calendar/schedule.
- **Make your tuition payment by the designated due date of the semester.**
- **For online students: Log in to your Course Access system regularly.** This system handles almost everything related to your course, so access it often.
- **Become familiar with course requirements and deadlines.** The course syllabus provides this essential information.
- **Complete coursework on time.** Each institution or course instructor has their own policy on whether late work submission is accepted.
- **Contact the course instructor with questions.** A course instructor can't help you if he/she doesn't know what help you need, so make sure to reach out when you have questions.

PARENT/GUARDIANS' ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Support and empower your student.** You are a student's most important resource. By encouraging them and assuring them that college is important and that they can succeed, you can help them far more than anyone else. Make an intentional effort to check in, talk about what they are learning, and ask if they are seeking out support as needed.
- **Refrain from contacting course instructors regarding course-related information or issues.** Per the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), instructors are not allowed to share information with parents. Instead, encourage your student to communicate with their course instructor when questions or concerns come up.

HIGH SCHOOL DUAL CREDIT COORDINATOR'S ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Support and empower dual-enrolled students.** The high school dual credit coordinator, who may be the high school counselor, is the primary support for dual-enrolled students. It is the student's responsibility to work with his/her school counselor each term to determine, first and foremost, that all requirements for high school graduation are met and which college courses are most appropriate.
 - **Refrain from contacting course instructors regarding course-related information and issues.** Rather than initiating contact with course instructors, encourage your students to communicate with their course instructor when questions or concerns come up. If the instructor is nonresponsive or you feel their response is inadequate, contact the Dual Credit coordinator at the postsecondary institution.
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