



Frequently Asked Questions about Dual Credit

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- 1. What are dual credit courses?** Dual credit courses are college courses that also count toward high school requirements. These courses may be taken at the high school or at a college and are taught by a high school teacher with appropriate credentials or by regular college faculty. The student earns college credit and high school credit for the course. The high school and college work together to determine appropriate high school credit to be awarded upon successful completion of the course.
- 2. What is the difference between dual credit and concurrent enrollment?** Concurrent enrollment means that a high school student is enrolled in and taking one or more courses at a college. Dual Credit may be viewed as a form of concurrent enrollment. Students may earn college credit through simple concurrent enrollment, but may only earn high school credit through the dual credit agreement between the high school and college.
- 3. Can a student earn high school credit for any college course?** No. It is the responsibility of the institutions entering into a dual credit agreement to ensure the following requirements are met:
 - Courses offered for dual credit by public two-year associate degree granting institutions must be identified as college-level academic courses in the current edition of the Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual adopted by the Board or as college-level technical education courses in the current edition of the Workforce Education Course Manual adopted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).
 - Courses offered for dual credit by public universities must be in the approved undergraduate course inventory of the university. Public colleges may not offer remedial or developmental courses for dual credit.
 - Courses offered for dual credit must provide advanced academic instruction that allows for mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for the appropriate high school course and that also goes beyond or into greater depth than those TEKS.
- 4. What kind of agreement is required for an institution to offer dual credit courses?** Each high school that offers dual credit must enter into an agreement with the institution of higher education to offer the courses. This agreement must be updated and approved by the governing board of each institution annually. Specific elements of the dual credit partnership must be addressed in the agreement, such as the courses available, student

eligibility criteria, class location, faculty specifications, course curriculum, grading, assessments, and transcription of credit.

5. **Can any student enroll in dual credit courses?** No. Dual credit students must have the approval of the high school principal or other official designated by the school district, must meet the entrance requirements of the participating institution of higher learning, and must be in the 11th or 12th grade or enrolled in an Early College High School. (See http://www.tea.state.tx.us/ed_init/sec/thsp/echs.html.) Additionally, dual credit students must demonstrate college readiness. More information on the details of college readiness requirements and exemptions from specific eligibility requirements can be viewed at http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/Rules/tac3.cfm?Chapter_ID=4&SubChapter=D.
6. **How many dual credit courses may a student take?** High school students may not be enrolled in more than two dual credit courses per semester. Exceptions to this requirement for students with demonstrated outstanding academic performance and capability (as evidenced by grade point average, ACT or SAT scores, or other assessment indicators) may be approved by the principal of the high school and the chief academic officer of the college.
7. **Who teaches and assigns a grade in a dual credit course?** Dual credit teachers must be regularly employed faculty members of the college or must meet the same standards (including minimal requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) and approval procedures used by the college to select faculty responsible for teaching the same courses at the main campus of the college. The participating college selects instructors of dual credit courses, and these instructors assign student grades. The method of providing that grade to the high school campus must be stated in the institutional agreement approved annually by both boards.
8. **Where are dual credit courses taught?** Dual credit courses may be taught on the college campus or on the high school campus.
9. **If a student takes dual credit courses on the college campus, does the time count toward a district's Average Daily Attendance (ADA)?** Time spent in dual credit courses counts toward a district's ADA. It is important to note, however, that for a district to receive FSP funding for a student taking a college course, documentation of the agreement between the school and college must be available (2006-07 Student Attendance Accounting Handbook, Section III(5-10)). Also, the student should not be charged tuition or for textbooks required for the course.
10. **Can a course be both a dual credit and an Advanced Placement (AP) course?** Yes, if the course meets the requirements of both. A College Board-approved Advanced Placement (AP) course must adhere to the AP course descriptions and be approved through the AP audit process.
11. **Who pays for the college courses?** Unless enrolled in an Early College High School, the student is responsible for all required college fees and tuition. Some districts choose to pay all or part of the tuition or the college may waive tuition. (See question 9.)
12. **What are the benefits of taking a dual credit course?** The student may earn college credit prior to graduating from high school. Additionally, if the student completes the course with a 3.0 or higher (B), it can be counted as an advanced measure for the

Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP). Students benefit most from earning dual credit for courses that help them meet graduation requirements established by the State Board of Education (SBOE). (See appropriate subchapter of TAC Chapter 74 Graduation Requirements here: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/index.html>.)

13. Is a district required to offer dual credit courses? No. However, legislation passed in 2006 (House Bill 1) includes provisions which require all school districts to implement a program by the fall of 2008 in which students will be able to earn the equivalent of 12 hours of college credit while in high school. These requirements may be met by offering dual credit for college courses, advanced technical courses, Advanced Placement courses, and/or International Baccalaureate courses.

14. What does HB 1 require of colleges regarding dual credit? On request, a public institution of higher education in this state shall assist a school district in developing and implementing a program designed to provide students with the opportunity to earn the equivalent of 12 hours of college credit while in high school. Colleges should work with districts to identify and provide opportunities for dual credit courses.