

DUAL CREDIT COURSES FAQ

What is a dual credit course?

A “dual credit” course is a course taken through a two- or four-year institution of higher education for which a student earns high school and college credit upon successful completion of the same course.

What is the difference between dual credit and early entry courses?

Students participating in dual credit courses earn both college credit and high school credit and can use the same course to meet high school graduation requirements. Students participating in early entry coursework might only be earning college credit towards an associate degree. This early entry coursework is not used to meet high school graduation requirements, nor is it factored into high school GPA calculations. The tuition rate for early entry courses is significantly higher than dual credit courses. The early entry courses are usually charged the regular undergraduate tuition rate. Please note that some high schools may award high school credits for early entrance courses, depending on the school district's policies and practices. Before enrolling in an early entrance course, it is best practice to discuss credits with the high school counselor or principal.

Who is eligible to enroll in a dual credit course?

Students in grades 10, 11, or 12 who have obtained written permission from their school district superintendent are eligible to enroll in a dual-credit course.

How does a student enroll in early entry coursework?

Students interested in enrolling in college courses while in high school can enroll at North Dakota University System (NDUS) colleges and universities as an early entry student. Students should contact the college or university's website to apply as high school students taking college courses. Tuition and fees are the same as those paid by other college students taking the course. Students receive only college credit upon successful completion of the course.

How does dual credit appear on the high school transcript?

A dual credit course will appear on the student's official high school transcript as “DC”. The grade earned will be calculated into the student's cumulative high school GPA. The students earn both high school and college credit upon successful completion of the course.

How is dual credit recorded on the college transcript?

The dual credit course is recorded on the college or university transcript that coordinated the dual credit course.

How are dual credit courses provided to other colleges and universities in North Dakota?

If the high school participates in eTranscripts, the dual credit course and college course appear on eTranscript. If an eTranscript is provided to an NDUS college or university at the time of application, the dual credit courses taken in high school will be listed and official on the eTranscript. The students will not need to contact other NDUS colleges or universities if they notice a discrepancy or if they have taken additional college courses in high school.

Can early entry/dual credit courses be sent out-of-state or to non-NDUS institutions?

eTranscripts are not widely used at the national level. A college or university outside NDUS may require a student to request and pay for an official college transcript from each college or university from which a dual credit or early entry course was taken.

What benefits will be provided to students taking dual credit courses?

Taking challenging dual credit courses has been shown to provide students with the following benefits:

- Increases the likelihood of high school graduation.
- Provides a more streamlined transition to college.
- Improves the persistence needed to complete a college degree or credential.
- Increases the likelihood of college enrollment.
- Decreases the time spent in college so students can enter the workforce earlier.
- Saves potential tuition costs and thus reduces student loan debt.

Where can students learn more about the Dual Credit Reimbursement Scholarship?

Criteria for this scholarship may be found in [NDCC 15-10-38.4](#).