Dual Credit Defined

What are Dual Credit courses?

Dual Credit, also called Dual Enrollment, allows North Dakota high school students to take college courses and earn high school and college credit. These one-semester courses are available to sophomores, juniors, and seniors and may help meet graduation requirements.

Students are responsible for tuition, fees, and books. Classes are taught by approved instructors in person, online, or through Interactive Video Network. Most students need a 3.0 GPA and permission from their school superintendent to enroll.

How do students enroll in a Dual Credit course?

Students typically enroll in Dual Credit courses through their high school. They should speak with their counselor to choose the right classes based on their academic goals, college plans, and intended major. Students will also need permission from the school's superintendent regarding the number of credits they are eligible to take.

If the high school doesn't offer Dual Credit courses, students can explore online options through the North Dakota Center for Distance Education or specific colleges. Students are responsible for course costs, materials, admission fees, tuition, and transportation costs. Financial assistance is available through the Bank of North Dakota for eligible North Dakota students who may need help covering the costs of Dual Credit tuition.

How do students know they are ready for Dual Credit courses?

Dual Credit courses are college-level classes, so students must be prepared for the workload and academic challenge. Readiness depends on maturity, study habits, financial responsibility, and self-motivation.

Students should check requirements such as minimum GPA, course limits, and other rules. These courses require significant time and effort, which could impact grades and the overall schedule. Before enrolling, students should consider possible conflicts with activities, sports, and family plans.

Taking Dual Credit classes can strengthen a resume, but success is crucial. Poor performance may affect future college admissions, so students should enroll only if they can handle the coursework.

How many college credits can students take through Dual Credit?

The school district superintendent determines the number of college credits a student can take through Dual Credit and includes this information in the enrollment approval. A three-semester-hour college course counts as a full-semester high school course.

How does Dual Credit appear on the student's high school transcript?

Dual Credit courses will be listed as "DC" on a student's high school e-transcript, and the grade will count toward their high school GPA. The course will also be recorded on the college transcript from the school that offered it. Students earn both high school and college credit for these classes.

Will Dual Credit courses be transferred to colleges and universities in North Dakota?

If a student's high school uses e-transcripts, their Dual Credit courses and college credits will appear on the e-transcript. These courses will be listed as official records if the student applies to a North Dakota University System (NDUS) college or university.

For colleges outside NDUS, students may need to request and pay for an official transcript from each school where they took Dual Credit courses.

What are the benefits of taking dual credit courses?

- Dual Credit provides an avenue for students to meet Choice Ready requirements
- College credit is received for courses taken and passed
- Tuition is frequently reduced for credits
- Access provided to courses not offered at the high school
- Opportunity to explore academic interests before choosing a major
- Demonstrates ability to handle advanced coursework
- Opportunity to experience college-level work before committing to a degree