

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment is a successful acceleration mechanism that allows students to pursue an advanced curriculum relevant to their individual postsecondary interests. Over 37,000 students participated in Florida's dual enrollment program last year. According to the U.S. Department of Education, college credit earned prior to high school graduation reduces the average time-to-degree and increases the likelihood of graduation for the students who participate in these programs. There is also evidence that dual enrollment increases academic performance and educational attainment.

As the emphasis on career planning increases, more students will be encouraged to select an advanced curriculum that aligns with their postsecondary goals. With hundreds of dual enrollment courses available, there is great potential to further engage and motivate students to take academically rigorous courses that capture their interests. As with all acceleration options, students must be advised based on individual needs and carefully monitored to ensure continued success. Guidance counselors plan an important role in communicating accurate information to students and parents, fostering a positive understanding of the merits of dual enrollment and developing collaborative relationships with college advisors and peers.

In 2006, legislation was passed as part of the A++ initiative that clarified statutory language relating to district GPA weighting requirements for dual enrollment courses. In addition, the legislation made a strong statement regarding the need to increase access to dual enrollment courses for all eligible students. Specifically, subsections (5) and (16) of s. 1007.271, F.S., now read:

- (5) Each district school board shall inform all secondary students of dual enrollment as an educational option and mechanism for acceleration. Students shall be informed of eligibility criteria, the option for taking dual enrollment courses beyond the regular school year, and the minimum academic credits required for graduation. District school boards shall annually assess the demand for dual enrollment and other advanced courses, and the district school board shall consider strategies and programs to meet that demand and include access to dual enrollment on the high school campus whenever possible. Alternative grade calculation, weighting systems, or information regarding student education options which discriminates against dual enrollment courses are prohibited.
- (16) Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2006-2007 school year, school districts and community colleges must weigh dual enrollment courses the same as advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, and Advanced International Certificate of Education courses when grade point averages are calculated. Alternative grade calculation or weighting systems that discriminate against dual enrollment courses are prohibited.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is dual enrollment?

Dual enrollment is an acceleration program that allows high school students to simultaneously earn credit toward high school completion **and** a career certificate, or an associate or baccalaureate degree at a Florida public institution.

2. **What is early admission?**

Early admission is a form of dual enrollment permitting high school students to enroll in college or career courses on a full-time basis on a college or technical center campus. As with all dual enrollment programs, students earn both high school and college/career credits for courses completed. Participation in the **career** early admission program shall be limited to students who have completed a minimum of 6 semesters of full-time secondary enrollment, including studies undertaken in the ninth grade.

3. **Who is eligible for dual enrollment courses?**

Students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be a student in a Florida public or nonpublic secondary school, or in a home education program;
- Have a 3.0 unweighted grade point average to enroll in college credit courses, or a 2.0 unweighted grade point average to enroll in career certificate courses;
- Pass the appropriate section of the college placement test; and
- Meet any additional admissions criteria specified by the postsecondary institution in the district interinstitutional articulation agreement.

4. **What courses are available for students to take through dual enrollment?**

There are hundreds of rigorous courses available to students through dual enrollment. The FACTS.org course menu for the ePEP student academic planner has a comprehensive list of the dual enrollment courses offered throughout the state. Also available online at www.FACTS.org, under Advising Manuals, is the *Dual Enrollment Course Equivalency List*, which is updated annually and approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) and the State Board of Education. This list identifies specific dual enrollment courses guaranteed to satisfy high school graduation subject area requirements.

Districts also may offer additional dual enrollment courses that are not included on the *Dual Enrollment Course Equivalency List*. Any dual enrollment course not on the equivalency list must count, at a minimum, as an elective toward high school graduation. However, districts are not prohibited from granting subject area credit for those courses not included on the list, if appropriate. Many of these additional dual enrollment elective courses will serve to increase the curricular options available to students when choosing courses for the newly required major and minor areas of interest. *Note: Remedial, physical education skills, and some recreation courses are not available for dual enrollment.

5. **When and where are dual enrollment courses taught?**

Pursuant to s. 1007.271, F.S., students who are eligible for dual enrollment shall be permitted to enroll in dual enrollment courses conducted during school hours, after school hours, and during the summer term. Dual enrollment courses are available on the high school campus, local career education center, community college or state university. In 2006, House Bill 7087, commonly known as the A++ bill, included language that requires district school boards to include access to dual enrollment courses on the high school campus whenever possible.

6. Can a student take dual enrollment courses beyond the 24 credits required for high school graduation?

Yes. Dual enrollment students should be subject to the same district policy as non-dual enrollment students. For example, if a non-dual enrollment student completes 24 credits by December of his or her senior year and is allowed to continue taking high school courses in the spring term, then the dual enrollment student should also be permitted to take dual enrollment courses in the spring term. Similarly, if the student who completes the 24 credits in December has the option to graduate early, then the dual enrollment student should have that option as well.

The rule of thumb should be that if a student is eligible to take additional high school courses beyond the 24 required credits, then the student should also be eligible to take additional dual enrollment courses.

7. Are dual enrollment courses considered rigorous?

As college-level instruction, dual enrollment courses are rigorous courses that represent one of the accelerated mechanisms by which high school students can advance their course of study and postsecondary goals. Dual enrollment faculty must have college-level teaching credentials and eligible students must prove college readiness evidenced by GPA and college placement exam scores.

8. How are dual enrollment courses weighted by the public school district?

Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2006-2007 school year, the revised language for s. 1007.271, F.S., requires districts to “weight dual enrollment courses the same as advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, and Advanced International Certificate of Education courses when grade point averages are calculated. Alternative grade calculation, weighting systems, or information regarding student education options which discriminate against dual enrollment courses are prohibited.” The 2006 Legislature also specified that, “for the purpose of class ranking, district school boards may exercise a weighted grading system pursuant to s. 1007.271.”

This new provision relating to GPA weighting includes all dual enrollment courses, including career education courses. There should also be no differentiation between the weighting of 1000 and 2000 level courses or courses that do not appear on the *Dual Enrollment Equivalency List*.

9. Who pays the college tuition for dual enrollment courses?

Tuition and fees for dual enrollment courses are waived. There is no cost to school districts for college tuition. Students who attend a Florida public college or university are exempt from registration, matriculation, or laboratory fees for courses taken through dual enrollment.

10. Who pays for textbooks?

Section 1007.271(14), F.S., specifies that, “Instructional materials assigned for use within dual enrollment courses shall be made available to students from Florida public high schools free of charge.” In addition, early admission is listed in subsection (7) as “a form of dual enrollment” so

all of the same statutory provisions apply. Students enrolled in home education programs or nonpublic secondary schools must provide their own materials.

11. Do school districts lose funding when students enroll in dual enrollment courses?

No. School districts report each semester of instruction that is eligible for high school and postsecondary credit as 75 membership hours for the purpose of FTE calculation. This FTE funding is provided to the district regardless of whether the dual enrollment course is offered on the college campus or the high school campus. The 75 membership hours was intended to alleviate a discrepancy between seat time on the college campus and seat time for the same course offered on the high school campus.

12. Why aren't dual enrollment courses listed in the Course Code Directory?

Dual enrollment courses are college courses that have been identified with a prefix and number by the Statewide Course Numbering System (SCNS). For students who are officially dually enrolled in an area career and technical center, community college or state university course as provided for in s. 1011.62(1), F.S., the course number and title used by the postsecondary institution to schedule the student must be recorded in the student's school district records and must be reported by the district to the Department of Education.

13. What are the dual enrollment courses that count toward a Bright Futures Scholarship?

The Bright Futures Comprehensive Course Table (CCT), https://www.osfaffelp.org/bfiehs/fnbpcm02_CCTMain.aspx, lists all courses considered for state scholarships. Dual enrollment courses can be found by scrolling to the bottom of each subject area list of courses. The CCT provides a good online advising resource for identifying courses that are weighted by the state for Bright Futures Scholarship consideration. The CCT also includes a column that identifies "core" courses considered by the State University System (SUS) for admission purposes.

14. Will dual enrollment courses transfer to other colleges and universities?

Dual enrollment college credit will transfer to any public college or university offering the statewide course number and must be treated as though taken at the receiving institution. However, if students do not, upon high school graduation, attend the same college or university where they earned the dual enrollment credit, the application of transfer credit to general education, prerequisite, and degree programs may vary at the receiving institution.

15. Is dual enrollment right for everyone?

The dual enrollment program is an opportunity to take challenging courses and accelerate education opportunities. Students who successfully complete dual enrollment courses will save time toward their college degree and save money with free tuition and textbooks. Students should understand, however, that dual enrollment courses are college courses and the amount of work necessary to succeed in dual enrollment courses may be much greater than in high school courses. In addition, dual enrollment courses become a part of a student's permanent college transcript and are calculated into the student's permanent postsecondary GPA. It is important to do well in these courses to realize all the benefits of dual enrollment.

16. How can school districts expand curricular options available to students via dual enrollment?

Through updating the annual interinstitutional articulation agreement with postsecondary institutions, school districts can increase the number of dual enrollment course offerings available to students. For example, the A++ legislation specifically encourages school districts to enhance dual enrollment course offerings on the high school campus. The community college or university may send faculty members to the high school campus to teach a dual enrollment course or a high school teacher with the appropriate credentials to teach at the postsecondary level may teach the course at the high school. Students also have the option to travel to the college campus to take a course.

For questions relating to the dual enrollment program, please contact:

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