

## Getting the Most Out of Dual Enrollment Courses

**What is “dual enrollment”?** Dual enrollment is when high school students enroll in college courses prior to high school graduation. When successfully completed, dual enrollment courses may simultaneously earn students both high school and college credits.

**Why should high school students consider dual enrollment courses?** Dual enrollment offers a variety of benefits, including:

- Dual enrollment gives students a realistic idea of what college classes and coursework will be like. This can help ease their transition from education.
- Dual Enrollment classes can be less expensive when taken as a high school student, rather than as a college student. This allows students to earn college credit at a reduced rate.
- Dual enrollment courses allow students to explore areas of academic interest. Because it’s fairly common for college students to change their major at least once, taking a college class while still in high school can help students identify areas of interest before officially declaring a major.
- Perhaps the biggest benefit of dual enrollment is that high school students may start accumulating college credits, helping them graduate college early or on time.
- In some cases, dual enrollment may provide an opportunity for a high school student to work towards completing a college program (i.e., occupational endorsement, certificate or associate degree program) while in high school, ready to enter the workforce upon high school graduation with skills to earn a livable wage and/or afford pursuing additional education.

**What should students considering dual enrollment be aware of?** Students should work closely with their high school counselor, and the college(s) they plan to attend, to fully understand dual enrollment:

- Dual enrollment courses are real college classes for real college credit. The final grades will go on the student’s college transcript, potentially affecting cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA). Depending on college policy, GPA can impact academic standing and financial aid.
- Each college institution may have individual dual enrollment policies. This may affect how a withdrawal, non-completion, or poor grade will impact their academic standing. Institution policies will also impact if a course provides credit towards degree requirements or electives.
- The institution the student plans to attend is the best source for more specific information, including current program requirements.