

Dual credit is a process through which a student may earn high school credit for successfully completing a college course that meets or exceeds all the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) of any specified high school course. The “dual credit” earned is college credit and high school credit for one course. The courses through which a student may earn dual credit may be taken at the high school or at a college and are taught by college faculty or a high school teacher with appropriate credentials. The high school and college work together to determine appropriate high school credit to be awarded upon successful completion of the course.

Enrollment in Dual Credit

To be eligible for enrollment in a dual credit course offered by a public college, students must meet all the college's regular prerequisite requirements designated for that course (minimum score on a specified placement test, minimum grade in a specified previous course).

College Credit Program

Dual credit is one of four programs specified in law as a way to satisfy the requirement to provide students the opportunity to earn the equivalent of 12 hours of college credit while in high school.

Benefits of Completing a College Course for Dual Credit

There are numerous advantages connected to dual credit for both the student and the state, including the following:

- Earning college credits while in high school increases the likelihood that a student will complete high school and enroll in and persist in college.
- Rigorous and meaningful coursework in high school prepares the student for success in college.
- College credit hours earned in high school provide a way to satisfy Advanced Measures requirements for the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).
- Students leave high school already having begun their post-secondary degree, leading to reduced college costs.
- Students complete their college degree earlier, leading to earlier entrance into the workforce, which benefits both students and the economy.

2008-2009

- Number of courses for dual credit attempted: 137,087
- Percent of those successfully completed: 86%
- Number of students in grades 9-12 earning at least one dual credit: 74,253
- Percent of students in grades 9-12 earning dual credit: 6%
- Percent of students in grades 11-12 earning dual credit: 11%
- Percent of districts where at least one dual credit was earned: 76%

Dual Credit Studies

Currently, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) are studying the issues around dual credit funding to determine the costs to the state, school districts, institutions of higher education, and students and parents. The report will include recommendations on how the state could provide all students with opportunities to earn 12 semester hours of college credit before graduating from high school, how to ensure efficient use of state resources regarding dual credit programs, and how to promote the ability of students to access high quality dual-credit college courses. This study, mandated by House Bill 3646 (81st Texas Legislature), is being conducted by the Texas A&M University Education Research Center and is due to TEA by January 1, 2011.

The State Auditor's Office is conducting both onsite and remote audits of the state's dual credit programs in order to identify issues that may need to be addressed in order to improve the program. The audits include selected community colleges and the local school districts that are associated with that particular college. The preliminary reviews should be completed by the end of May, 2010.

Resources:

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) - §74.25

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074c.html>

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) - §§4.81-4.85

[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=T&app=9&p_dir=P&p_rloc=102457&p_tloc=&p_ploc=1&pg=5&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=4&rl=85)

[sl=T&app=9&p_dir=P&p_rloc=102457&p_tloc=&p_ploc=1&pg=5&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=4&rl=85](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=T&app=9&p_dir=P&p_rloc=102457&p_tloc=&p_ploc=1&pg=5&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=4&rl=85)

Texas Education Agency (TEA) - Dual Credit

http://www.tea.state.tx.us/gted/Dual_Credit_QA61907.pdf

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) - Dual Credit

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=6363B260-FBB8-C8E6-1AEEDA05F8ACE4A4>

College for All Texans

<http://www.collegefortexans.com/>