

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment is an acceleration mechanism that allows students to pursue an advanced curriculum relevant to their individual postsecondary interests. Each year, more than 50,000 students participate in Florida's dual enrollment program, and the number is continuing to grow. 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, 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 play an important role in communicating accurate information to students and parents, fostering a positive understanding of the merits of dual enrollment and helping collaborative relationships with college advisors and peers.

Dual enrollment is one of a number of acceleration options available that enable students to pursue a rigorous curriculum for high school graduation, as well as earn credit toward a degree or industry certification. The ACC Credit-by-Examination Equivalencies report (<http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/pdf/ACC-CBE.pdf>) lists a number of examination programs in which students may earn college credit for successful completion of an exam. Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) also include coursework for a high school diploma. Other included examinations are the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), DSST and Excelsior, in which students complete only the exam for college credit.

Students may also participate in career dual enrollment for courses that will lead to an industry certification. Many industry certifications will articulate to college credit toward a degree. A listing of articulated industry certifications may be found at http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/artic_indcert2aas.asp

Frequently Asked Questions

General

1. What is dual enrollment?

Dual enrollment is an acceleration program that allows students in grades 6-12 to take postsecondary coursework and simultaneously earn credit toward high school completion and an industry certification or an associate or baccalaureate degree at a Florida public or eligible private 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. 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 four (4) semesters of full-time secondary enrollment, including studies undertaken in the ninth grade.

11. What if a student does not have the required GPA?

Participation in dual enrollment by students who do not have the required GPA is at the discretion of the postsecondary institution and the school district. Exceptions may be granted on an individual student basis if both educational entities agree and the criteria for exceptions are included in the Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement.

There is no minimum GPA requirement for home education students.

12. May the school district establish additional dual enrollment eligibility requirements?

No. Only a Florida College System board of trustees is permitted to establish eligibility requirements in addition to those specified in s. 1007.271, F.S. These additional requirements must be included in the Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement.

13. May the school district deny participation in the dual enrollment program to a qualified student?

No. According to s. 1007.271, F.S., school districts may not deny dual enrollment participation to students who meet statutory eligibility requirements and any additional college readiness requirements established by the Florida College System institution and included in the Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement.

14. May the college establish additional dual enrollment eligibility requirements?

Yes. A Florida College System institution board of trustees may establish additional eligibility requirements in the Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement. These additional requirements may not arbitrarily prohibit students who have demonstrated the ability to master advanced courses from participating in dual enrollment courses.

15. May public postsecondary institutions and school districts limit dual enrollment eligibility based on grade levels?

No. All students in grades 6-12 who meet high school GPA and common placement testing requirements may participate in dual enrollment. The Florida College System institution board of trustees may establish additional initial student eligibility requirements to ensure student readiness for postsecondary instruction. These additional requirements may not arbitrarily prohibit students who have demonstrated the ability to master advanced courses from participating in dual enrollment courses.

16. May the Florida College System (public postsecondary) institution delay registration for dual enrollment students until the drop/add period?

No. Access to dual enrollment may not be limited based on capacity or space available. Therefore, dual enrollment students must be allowed to register during the general registration period.

17. May a student who does not meet eligibility requirements or students who wish to take ineligible courses participate in dual enrollment, but pay their own tuition and fees?

No. Under the dual enrollment program students must meet eligibility requirements to enroll in eligible courses. Students in the dual enrollment program take courses that will apply to both an industry certification or degree and a high school diploma. Dual enrolled students also must be exempted from the payment of tuition and fees. High school students who have not met dual enrollment eligibility

area of the college or university. However, there is no statutory prohibition for students to take dual enrollment courses at a postsecondary institution outside of the service area. Students should check with their school district and the postsecondary institution of interest to determine if such opportunities exist. Regardless of any agreements established with a college or university outside of the service area, a school district is still required to establish a Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement with the public postsecondary institution that serves the district. It is recommended that dual enrollment outside the postsecondary institution service area be determined on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with the postsecondary institution within the service area. There may be high schools within a school district served by a public postsecondary institution that are closer in proximity to an institution outside the service area. In cases like this, the school district, high school, in-service area public postsecondary institution and institution closest in proximity may establish a Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement to allow eligible students to participate in dual enrollment.

28. How many credits must a student take in the early admission dual enrollment program?

Early admission students must enroll in a minimum of 12 college credit hours per semester, but cannot be required to enroll in more than 15 college credit hours per semester.

29. May an early admission student participate in high school activities?

School district policies vary regarding student participation in high school activities. However, students in early admission programs are eligible under the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) to participate in high school athletics.

High School Graduation

30. May a student take dual enrollment courses even after completion of high school graduation subject area requirements?

Dual enrollment students should be subject to the district policy as non-dual enrollment students. For example, if a non-dual enrollment student completes high school graduation requirements but has not graduated by December of his or her senior year, 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.

31. May a student take dual enrollment courses beyond the high school graduation date?

No. If a student is projected to graduate from high school before the completion date of the postsecondary course, the student may not take that course through dual enrollment. However, the student may pay tuition and fees as a regularly admitted postsecondary student if permitted by the postsecondary institution.

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

Section 1003.437, F.S., specifies that "For the purposes of class ranking, district school boards may exercise a weighted grading system pursuant to 107.201." For districts that use a weighted grading system, s. 1007.271(18), F.S., states that "school districts and Florida College System institutions 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."

This provision relating to GPA weighting includes a

34. What dual enrollment courses count toward a Bright Futures Scholarship?

The Bright Futures Comprehensive Course Table (CCT), https://www.osfaffelp.org/bfhs/fnbpcm02_CCTMain.aspx, lists all courses considered for the Bright Futures state scholarships. Dual enrollment courses are found by scrolling to the bottom of each subject area course list. For each course, the CCT displays the number of credits applied, its application to the different scholarship levels and if the course is identified as “core” by the State University System for admissions purposes.

Courses offered through dual enrollment that are not on the CCT should be referred to the Office of Articulation in the Florida Department of Education for action.

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

Postsecondary courses taken through dual enrollment will transfer to any public college or university offering that 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 does not transfer credit to general education, prerequisite and degree programs may vary at the receiving institution if the course is not offered by the receiving institution. In addition, students who attend out-of-state colleges should check with their intended institution to inquire whether dual enrollment credit will be accepted for transfer. Transfer policies for postsecondary courses taken through dual enrollment are consistent with those for students who take postsecondary coursework as a regularly admitted postsecondary student.

36. Is a student who completes dual enrollment credit considered a freshman for state university admissions?

Yes. According to Board of Governors Regulation 6002, first-time-in-college freshmen are defined as students who have earned a standard high school diploma from a Florida public or regionally accredited high school, or its equivalent, and who have earned fewer than twelve (12) semester hours of transferable college credit after receiving a standard high school diploma or its equivalent.

Dual Enrollment Funding

37. Do students pay the college tuition for dual enrollment courses?

A student who is enrolled in a dual enrollment early admission program through a Florida College System institution or state university is exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, pursuant to s. 1009.25, F.S. The fee exemption includes application, registration, tuition and laboratory fees for courses taken through dual enrollment.

38. How are the dual enrollment costs shared between the school district and the public postsecondary institution?

For dual enrollment courses offered on a public postsecondary institution campus, the school district pays the standard tuition rate per credit hour from the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). For 2014-2015, the standard tuition is \$2.33 per contact hour for career certificate programs, \$71.98 per credit hour at a Florida College System institution and \$105.07 at state university. For dual enrollment courses offered on the high school campus by college faculty, school district must reimburse the college for costs associated with the proportionate salary and benefits of the instructor and other actual costs. For dual

46. If a student already is enrolled for six secondary courses (one full FTE) is the district still required to pay for dual enrollment courses outside of school hours?

Yes. A school district must pay the standard tuition rate for any dual enrollment taken during the school year, either before, during or after school. A school district may not deny an eligible student from participating in the dual enrollment program even if the student is taking six secondary courses during the school day.

47. Does the school district get a tuition refund for student withdrawals?

Policies regarding tuition payments will vary among school districts and colleges. In the Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement the school district and public postsecondary institution will determine the methods of payment for student withdrawals. However, the school district may not charge a student for the dual enrollment tuition if that student withdraws from the course.

48. Are students required to pay for textbooks?

Section 1007.271(17), 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. This provision of instructional materials includes electronic access codes for these materials. This exemption for public school students from paying for instructional materials prohibits up-front payments for materials with later reimbursements regardless of student performance in the dual enrollment course.

Students enrolled in home education programs or public secondary schools must provide their own materials. Any fines relating to instructional materials (e.g., late return or lost book fees) should be included in the Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement.

49. Who pays for the industry certification examinations?

District policies regarding the payment for industry certification examinations for students in a secondary program should also apply to dual enrollment students. Public postsecondary institution policies should apply to students from private schools or home education programs. If, however, the industry certification examination is covered at the college within a laboratory fee, then the student is exempt from that payment, as students are exempt from laboratory fees.

50. How are dual enrollment courses reported for FTE funding?

Section 1011.62(1)(i), F.S., states that "Dual enrollment part-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated in an amount equal to the hours of instruction that would be necessary to earn the full-time equivalent student membership for an equivalent semester were taught in the school district." Therefore dual enrollment courses generate the same level of funding as a comparable semester-length high school course. Funding is not based on the amount of secondary or high school credit awarded for the course.

Charter Schools

51. Are charter school students eligible for dual enrollment?

Yes. Charter school students are eligible to participate in dual enrollment subject to the eligibility criteria described s. 1007.271(3), F.S., (also described in question #4).

52. Are charter school students exempt from tuition, registration and laboratory fees?

Yes. S. 1007.271(2), F.S., states that any student enrolled in dual enrollment is exempt from the payment of registration, tuition and laboratory fees.

53. Do charter school students have instructional materials provided free of charge?

Yes. Students at charter schools are public school students; under s.1007.271(17), F.S., instructional materials for dual enrollment courses are made available for Florida public high school students free of charge. School districts and charter schools are responsible for the payment for instructional materials.

54. Must the charter school enter into a dual enrollment articulation agreement with the local postsecondary institution?

The statute does not specifically mandate that charter schools enter into dual enrollment articulation agreements. However, the charter school may be included in the school district articulation agreement, or may negotiate its own agreement with the postsecondary institution.

