

ARE YOU READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT?

Dual Credit Opportunities in South Dakota Parents - Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION	ANSWER
What is dual credit?	Dual credit is the term used when referring to courses in which an enrolled high school student in grades 9-12 has the opportunity to earn both high school and college/technical institute credit simultaneously. However only students in grades 11-12 are eligible for reduced rate tuition. See legis.sd.gov/docs/legsession/2014/Bills/SB182ENR.pdf .
Who is responsible for the cost of the course?	All expenses are the responsibility of the student and his/her parent or guardian.
Who teaches the courses?	Reduced rate dual credit courses are taught by university or technical institute faculty. Arrangements can be made between postsecondary institutions and schools for additional dual credit courses where the high school faculty meets specific requirements.
What is the cost per credit hour?	<i>For the 2014-2015 school year, cost is \$40 per credit hour. (A credit hour is the unit of measuring education credit, usually dependent on the number of hours the course takes place during a week.)</i>
How will your child be billed for the course?	Your child will receive a bill directly from the university/technical institute from which he/she has registered for credit. Depending upon the institution, some bills may be issued electronically or by mail.
What about the costs of books, supplies, etc.?	Any additional costs associated with the course are the responsibility of the student. This might include books and lab fees.
What are the entrance requirements in order to be able to register for a course?	<p>For any of the 6 Board of Regents Colleges (BHSU, DSU, NSU, SDSMT, SDSU or USD) the student must be a high school junior or senior attending a public high school. If he/she has taken the ACT, the student's scores must meet the college's ACT entrance requirements. If the student has not taken the ACT, seniors must rank in the upper 1/2 of their class or earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 on a 4.0 scale. Juniors must rank in the upper 1/2 of their class and earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.</p> <p>Enrollment in Math and English courses requires ACT subtest score requirements have been met or Accuplacer scores may be used.</p> <p>Students interested in taking a dual credit course from one of the four South Dakota Technical Institutes (STI, MTI, WTI and LATI) must meet the specific program enrollment requirements of the course they are taking.</p>
How does my son/daughter register for courses?	<p>Students should work directly with their school counselor who can assist them in this process. This will also help ensure that all high school requirements are being met.</p> <p>The registration form can be found on the SDMyLife site at: www.sdmylife.com/students/advanced-education-opportunities/</p>

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How does my student find out what courses are available?	Visit the SDMyLife site at: www.sdmylife.com/educators/advanced-education-opportunities/ for the official course list. Students then need to work with their school counselor to pick up the best course for their schedule.
How is the credit recorded?	The credit will be recorded on your student's high school transcript after a copy of the official grade report from the respective university/technical institute is received by the local high school. College credit will be stored online.
How do the 3 college credits equate to my high school credit requirements?	In most cases, a 3 credit college course will equate to ½ credit at the local high school. However, check with the school counselor to verify if this is true at your child's school.
How many dual credit courses may my child take?	If your student is taking credits through the technical institutes, then this is a local school district decision. If your student is taking credits through the Board of Regents public universities, then your student will be limited to 9 credits per semester. It is best for your student to meet with the school counselor to determine what is allowed and what work load will best suit your child.
Are these courses more difficult than high school courses? What should my child expect?	The courses are post secondary level content with corresponding expectations of students. Students will be graded as any college-level student and held to the same expectations. Students should expect a greater volume of reading material, discussion content, and in-depth analysis and comprehension.
I'm not sure my child is ready for college-level coursework. What are some things he/she should consider before applying?	These courses will require your child to study more, will challenge him/her to develop and use critical thinking skills, and to be more responsible for one's own learning. If you are unsure of your child's readiness, you should have a conversation with your child's school counselor, who can help you weigh the pros and cons.
Will the credits my child takes be transferrable to any other university?	Not necessarily. It is the student's responsibility to check with any institution outside of the Board of Regent and state's Technical Institute system about transferability of the credits.
Will my child have access to university services for the institution at which he/she is receiving the credit?	Students will have access to services such as library access, email and other online platforms. However, they will not be paying student fees so he or she will not have access to wellness centers, sporting events, or other student activities.
What if my child fails the course?	If a student fails a postsecondary course taken under the dual credit arrangement, they are eligible to enroll in future postsecondary courses as long as the local school policy allows. If you have concerns or questions, contact your child's school counselor early in the semester. Encourage your child to make all contact with the course instructor directly.
Can my child drop a course if he/she gets part way into the semester and realizes he/she is having difficulties?	Yes – but your child must abide by the Drop Policy of the institution providing the course. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the drop with refund and withdrawal dates.
Can I speak to the course instructor about my child's progress?	It is recommended that all contact with the instructor be done by the student. This is a good learning experience for your child since they will need to learn to approach faculty when they have questions or concerns. While you may have the best of intentions, it is not recommended that you make contact as the parent/guardian.