

## DUAL-CREDIT COURSES

This memorandum provides information regarding the history of legislation that authorizes high school students to enroll in dual-credit courses to earn both secondary and postsecondary credit.

### OVERVIEW OF DUAL-CREDIT COURSES

North Dakota Century Code Chapter 15.1-25 ([Appendix A](#)) allows high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors to receive both high school and postsecondary credit for the successful completion of certain dual-credit courses offered by higher education institutions. Prior to enrolling in a dual-credit course, a student must obtain written permission from the student's school superintendent to enroll, and the superintendent determines the maximum number of credits which the student may take.

Dual-credit courses may either be taught at a high school or a higher education institution by a high school teacher or a college instructor. Regardless of where the course is offered, the course content must be the same, and the high school and higher education institution must agree on what content to include in the course. In addition to a traditional classroom setting, dual-credit courses may also be offered through the Interactive Video Network or the Internet.

Each student and the student's parent or legal guardian are responsible for all costs of enrolling in a dual-credit course, including tuition, fees, textbooks, and other necessary materials. Students enrolled in dual-credit courses are included in campus enrollment reports which are used in applicable funding formulas.

Postsecondary credit received for a dual-credit course is transferable to other North Dakota University System institutions, but institutions outside of the University System may or may not accept the credit depending on institution policy.

### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The 1995-96 interim Education Services Committee was assigned the responsibility to study educational options and opportunities for high school students. The committee reviewed methods used in other states to offer postsecondary education courses to students in high school. The committee

recommended a bill draft to allow the enrollment of 11<sup>th</sup> grade and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in courses at postsecondary institutions and, upon successful completion of the courses, to obtain both high school and postsecondary credit. The bill was passed by the 1997 Legislative Assembly, and the enrolled bill provided for the following:

- Students enrolled in grade 11 or grade 12 in a public high school may receive high school and postsecondary credit for the completion of a course offered by a postsecondary education institution.
- Students wishing to enroll in a dual-credit course must receive permission from the student's school district superintendent to enroll in a course.
- The student and the student's parent or legal guardian are responsible for course costs.
- The student and the student's parent or legal guardian are responsible for transportation arrangements for the student's attendance at a course.
- A student attending a postsecondary institution for a dual-credit course is deemed to be in attendance at the student's home school district for the purposes of calculating foundation aid and for participating in high school extracurricular activities.
- Dual-credit courses are exempt from any statutory or regulatory provisions otherwise applicable to high school courses.
- The Superintendent of Public Instruction may implement rules regarding the delivery of dual-credit courses.

A copy of the interim committee study report is attached as [Appendix B](#).

The following is a list of changes that have been made to the original legislation enacted by the 1997 Legislative Assembly:

- The 2003 Legislative Assembly amended Section 15.1-25-01 to reference "career and technical education" rather than "vocational education."
- The 2009 Legislative Assembly amended Section 15.1-25-01 to provide that students in grade 10 are also eligible to take postsecondary credit courses.

ATTACH:2