

Postsecondary Partnership

Providing students with a learning bridge from secondary to postsecondary is crucial to student success. The Programs of Study were designed to provide students with a ‘value-add’ course which could be available for state/national industry-based certification (employment) or dual credit with community colleges.

Nebraska has offered many articulated courses from high schools to area community colleges; unfortunately, there is a limited amount of research to support the benefit. On the other hand, dual credit has been identified as beneficial for high school students. Students that earn nine or more semester-based hours of college credit (academic or CTE) while in high school are more likely to graduate high school, matriculate into a postsecondary institution (2-year or 4-year), have a higher grade point average than their non-dual credit peers, and are more likely to return for their second year of college. Community College Research Study, Dual Enrollment Students in Florida and New York City: Postsecondary Outcomes (CCRC Brief No. 37)

Schools are encouraged to partner with their local postsecondary institutions in order to increase the offerings of dual credit courses within a Program of Study. Just as high schools operate under “local control,” so do Nebraska colleges and universities. In addition, they have to abide by accreditation bodies, similar to K-12 schools. Each postsecondary institution has the right to refuse to offer dual credit to any secondary institution or instructor for any reason.

Key Requirements and Concepts relating to Dual Credit Courses:

Dual Credit: The opportunity for high school students to take one course for both college and high school credit. High schools count these students in their average daily attendance. – Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Dual Enrollment Definition

Instructor Qualifications:

Academic and Transfer Content: A teacher must have a Master’s degree and 18 graduate hours in their content area. For example, teachers teaching Business, Marketing, and Management or Human Sciences and Education courses may have a Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction, but they must have an additional 18 graduate hours in their content area to be able to offer dual credit. In some instances, it is preferred for teacher to have a master’s degree in their content area. In the area of Business, Marketing, and Management, some community colleges require teacher’s to have an MBA in order to offer a dual credit course. Please contact your local community college representative for more information.

CTE Content: Most community colleges require a bachelor’s degree in the content area and years of experience.

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Transferability: While dual credit is more transferable than articulated (Tech Prep) credit, it is ultimately the responsibility of the student to contact his/her receiving institution to confirm if the dual credit will transfer.

Costs: Colleges and universities set their own price for dual credit.

Service Areas: The Nebraska Legislature determines the service area of postsecondary institutions. If the local cooperating postsecondary institution does not have a program or course available to offer for dual credit, please work with your local contact person to coordinate with another postsecondary institution which does.

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NOTE: Nebraska Department of Education is working with Nebraska's four-year postsecondary institutions to develop dual credit opportunities.