ISSUING DUAL CREDIT

A SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR NEBRASKA ACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOLS

This document provides information for Nebraska high school officials who may be interested in offering courses that allow high school students to earn both high school and college credit simultaneously.

Definition of Dual Credit

As used herein, dual credit is academic credit awarded to high school students in accredited or approved secondary schools by both the secondary school and a post-secondary school, for essentially the same time and work requirements. Thus, students may simultaneously earn academic credit that can be applied both toward high school graduation requirements (or at least be placed on their high school transcript) and toward graduation at post-secondary institutions (or at least be placed on the post-secondary transcript).

Requirements for Offering High School Credits or Courses

Nebraska statutes and regulations require that Nebraska K-12 schools meet the following requirements to provide appropriate educational experiences for their students:

- Courses must be taught by Nebraska certificated teachers (§79-802; Rule 10-003.01).
- Courses generating instructional units must appear on the high school schedule and must have at least one student who receives a grade for the course (Rule 10-002.06).
- In determining academic credit, high schools may award less credit than generated by instructional units, an equivalent number of credits to instructional units, or additional credit at a ratio of 1.25 to the instructional units generated (Rule 10-003.05).
- Thus, all courses or programs provided or arranged by the high school, as a part of the school's instructional program, must be taught by Nebraska teachers who hold the appropriate certificate or permit.

Cooperative arrangements with colleges or universities must comply with the above requirements for the high school to count the courses as offered by the school (See Rule 10-004.04D). This is true whether the courses are:

- Offered at the high school site or the college site,
- Whether the courses are counted to meet the high school's minimum program offerings to meet accreditation requirements (Rule 10-004.04A), or
- Whether the high school courses are in addition to such requirements.

Colleges or universities must meet their own institutional requirements or those of their associations before granting post-secondary academic credit to high school students.

Requirements for Accepting High School Credits or Courses

High schools may recognize or accept credit awarded to students by other institutions and may count such credit to substitute for courses offered and/or required by the local school. §79-729 permits the governing body to prescribe *"specific graduation guidelines as long as such guidelines do not conflict with (the state requirements of) this section."* High schools are advised to ensure they have board policies that govern the criteria or guidelines for accepting or rejecting such credit, to prevent their actions from being perceived as arbitrary or capricious.

Submission of the Dual Credit Form NDE 08-070 to the NDE (Accredited Schools)

Non-public schools accredited under Rule 10 must submit a Dual Credit Form (NDE 08-070) to the NDE by **February 28th of each school year** if they intend to award dual credit for any of the high school courses listed on their master schedule and included in the total instructional units being used to meet the requirement of Rule 10. This form is located on the Accreditation page of the NDE website. www.education.ne.gov/apac/reports-and-forms

Resources

- ***Rule 10*** *(Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools)* June 2, 2024
- ***Rule 21*** *(Regulations for the Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Provide Special Services, and Administer in Nebraska Schools)* February 18, 2024
- ***Rule 24*** *(Regulations for Certificate Endorsements)* June 2, 2024

The official version of the rule is available on the Nebraska Secretary of State's Rules and Regulations webpage. Users should scroll to the appropriate section to locate the specific rule they are seeking. Updated PDFs are posted to their website approximately five days after rule changes take effect.

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