

# ARE YOU READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT?

## Dual Credit Opportunities in South Dakota Students - 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 university/technical institute credit simultaneously. However only students in grades 11-12 are eligible for reduced rate tuition.
Who is responsible for the cost of the course?	All expenses are the responsibility of you and your parent or guardian.
Who teaches the courses?	Reduced rate dual credit courses are taught by college 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?	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.)
How will I be billed for the course?	You will receive a bill directly from the university/technical institute from which you've 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 you. 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) you must be a high school junior or senior attending high school. If you've taken the ACT, your 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>If you are interested in taking a dual credit course from one of the four South Dakota Technical Institutes (MTI, LATI, STI and WTI) you must meet the specific program enrollment requirements of the course you are taking.</p>
How do I register for courses?	<p>Work directly with your school counselor who can assist you in this process. This will also help ensure that all of your high school requirements are being met.</p> <p>The registration form can be found on the SDMyLife site at: <a href="http://www.sdmylife.com/students/advanced-education-opportunities/">www.sdmylife.com/students/advanced-education-opportunities/</a></p>

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How do I find out what courses are available?	Visit the SDMyLife site at: <a href="http://www.sdmylife.com/educators/advanced-education-opportunities/">www.sdmylife.com/educators/advanced-education-opportunities/</a> for the official course list and then work with your school counselor to pick up the best course for your schedule.
How is the credit recorded?	The credit will be recorded on your 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 ½-1 credit at the local high school. However, check with your school counselor to verify if this is true for your school.
How many dual credit courses may I 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 you to meet with your school counselor to determine what is allowed and what work load will best suit you.
Are these courses more difficult than my high school courses? What should I expect?	The courses are post secondary level content with corresponding expectations of you. You will be graded as any college-level student and held to the same expectations.
I'm not sure I'm ready for college-level coursework. What are some things I should consider before applying?	These courses will require you to study more, will challenge you to develop and use critical thinking skills, and to be more responsible for your learning. If you are unsure of your readiness, you should have a conversation with your parents and school counselor who can help you weigh the pros and cons.
Will the credits I take be transferable to any university?	Not necessarily. It is your responsibility to check with any institution outside of the Board of Regent and state's Technical Institute system about transferability of the credits.
Will I have access to university services for the institution at which I am receiving the credit?	You will have access to services such as library access, email and other online platforms. However, you will not be paying student fees so will not have access to wellness centers, sporting events, or other student activities.
What if I fail the course?	If you fail a postsecondary course taken under the dual credit arrangement, you are eligible to enroll in future postsecondary courses as long as your local school policy allows. If you have concerns after enrolling, contact your school counselor or instructor early in the semester.
Can I drop a course if I get part way into the semester and realize I am having difficulties?	Yes – but you must abide by the Drop Policy of the institution providing the course. It is the your responsibility to be aware of the drop with refund and withdrawl dates.