

Dual Credit Courses

Oakton has been offering dual credit courses with area high schools for at least six years. A dual credit course is one in which the student receives both high school and Oakton credit. *Change Matters*, the College's 2008-2012 Strategic Plan, includes this objective under the Innovative Learning for Local and Global Citizenship goal: Increase opportunities to earn Oakton credit by ... expanding enrollments by 25 percent in dual credit courses by 2009-2010. In this *In the Abstract* we briefly describe the process and criteria for offering dual credit courses and provide data (preliminary for fiscal year 2008) about dual credit courses.

Process and criteria

Courses for dual credit ordinarily conform to the principles noted below. In all cases the Oakton faculty chair and dean of the discipline must review high school curriculum materials to validate the high school course is equivalent to the Oakton course for which credit will be granted. Principles for determining eligible courses for dual credit are:

- Course is equivalent to an Oakton college-level (not developmental) course
AND
- One of the following:
 - Course is a skill-based course such as accounting, mathematics, computer aided design, or modern language,
OR
 - Course is equivalent to an Oakton general education course and level of sophistication required of students in dealing with the material in the high school course is equivalent to what is required in the equivalent college course,
OR
 - Course is equivalent to an existing Oakton course.

In order to teach a dual credit course, high school faculty members must meet Oakton faculty qualifications requirements. They use Oakton's course syllabi at a minimum, though may add additional material to satisfy high school contact hour and other requirements.

Students must meet Oakton course prerequisites. They are enrolled in special sections of Oakton courses, and receive an Oakton transcript with their course grade. The Oakton transcript does not identify the course as a dual enrollment course.

College 101: College Success Seminar

Oakton has made special efforts to create sections of COL 101: College Success Seminar, at high schools. Some high schools award high schools credit, and others do not. We do include COL 101 courses in our roster of dual credit courses.

Concurrent High School Enrollments

Individual high school students may, with the permission of their high schools and Oakton, enroll in Oakton courses. As with dual credit courses, they must meet all Oakton course prerequisites. Oakton does not track whether or not students receive high school credit in addition to Oakton credit.

Dual Credit Enrollments

Data show substantial increases in dual credit enrollments. The fiscal year begins with the summer and ends with the spring semester. Dual credit courses have been offered in these disciplines to date: Accounting, Architectural Technology, Art, College Success, Computer Applications for Business, Computer Assisted Design, Computer Information Systems, Computer Networking Systems, Earth Science, Electronics Technology, Health Information Technology, Mathematics, Physics, and World Wide Web. Increases are due to several factors, including more outreach by Oakton with high schools and correspondingly greater interest on the part of the high schools to offer dual credit courses to their students.

	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08
Total enrollments in dual credit & Oakton courses offered at high schools, including COL 101 (duplicated HC)	58	146	146	285	336	750

Change Matters

As the data indicate, Oakton has met our Change Matters strategic goals regarding dual credit enrollments. High schools continue to show interest in expanding opportunities and we expect numbers to continue climbing.