

Dual Credit Programs

Student Success is about meeting the individual learning needs of each and every student. Schools are providing students with more opportunities to customize their high school experience and build on their strengths and interests through a variety of new and enhanced learning options. One of those options is dual credit programs.

What are dual credit programs?

- Dual credit programs are ministry-approved programs that allow students, while they are still in secondary school, to take college or apprenticeship courses that count towards both the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree, or an apprenticeship certification.
- Students may earn credits towards the OSSD through courses delivered entirely or partially by publicly funded colleges in Ontario that are participating in a ministry-approved dual credit program. Students may earn up to four optional credits through college-delivered courses. There is no limit on the number or type of secondary credits they may earn through team-taught courses.*

How do dual credit programs benefit students?

Participating in dual credit programs enables students to:

- complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma;
- have an experience that will help them make a successful transition to college or an apprenticeship program;
- increase their awareness of the various college and apprenticeship pathways available to them;
- gain greater insight into education and career planning decisions.

Who should be considered for dual credit programs?

- The board or school Student Success team determines, on a case-by-case basis, which students will be admitted to a ministry-approved dual credit program.
- The primary focus is on students who have the potential to succeed but are at risk of not graduating from high school and students who left high school before graduating and are now returning to school.
- Students enrolled in approved Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs that include a college-delivered course and students in college-delivered Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Programs (OYAP) and Level 1 apprenticeship programs may also earn dual credits.

* Team-taught courses are courses delivered jointly by college instructors and secondary school teachers, in which students work on matching or similar Ontario secondary school curriculum and college curriculum simultaneously.

Who supports and supervises students taking college-delivered dual credit courses?

- In addition to the instruction and supervision provided by the college instructor, secondary school dual credit teachers provide needed support and supervision to dual credit students.
- Students also have access to a variety of college supports and services.

How is student achievement in dual credit courses and programs documented?

- **Successful completion* of college-delivered course:** The secondary school principal records the appropriate credit value, as determined by the Ministry of Education, on the student's Ontario Student Transcript (OST). The college records the appropriate college credit value on the student's college transcript.
- **Successful completion* of college-delivered apprenticeship program:** The secondary school principal records the appropriate credit value, as determined by the Ministry of Education, on the student's OST. For a Level 1 apprenticeship program, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities documents its successful completion as the first step towards an apprenticeship certification.
- **Successful completion of team-taught course:** Achievement of expectations from the Ontario curriculum is recorded on the OST, and achievement of requirements in the college course is recorded on the student's college transcript.

What are students saying about their dual credit experiences?

"As well as going from poor attendance to good attendance and being punctual, I have learned great organization skills that have helped me a great deal. Thanks to ... this program, I have a completely new outlook on life and my education, and what could have been my last failing attempt to finish high school has turned into my graduating year."

Student in a dual credit program, Centre for Success, Durham College

Where are dual credit programs being delivered?

All seventy school boards that have secondary schools and all Ontario colleges of applied arts and technology are involved in providing secondary school students with dual credit learning opportunities.

How do I find out more?

For more information on local dual credit programs, contact your school principal or the Student Success Leader at your school board. Information can also be found at www.edu.gov.on.ca/morestudentsuccess/.

* Successful completion is defined by the standards of the college.