

Dual Credit and College Credit Courses

- **Dual Credit**-Courses are taken through a college and count both as high school credit and college credit. These courses will appear on the student's high school transcript.
- **College Credit**-Courses are taken through a college and the student will ONLY receive college credit for the course. These courses will not appear on the student's high school transcript and are not included in the GPA.

Some high school courses are offered for college credit in addition to the high school credit. Students enrolled in these high school courses are NOT REQUIRED to take the course for college credit. Pender High School can offer dual credit courses through different institutions. Junior and senior students that are in good academic standing have an opportunity to take dual credit and/or college credit courses while in high school. The grades earned in dual credit courses may be the first college grades a student will receive and become a permanent part of the student's permanent college academic record no matter what institution the student decides to attend after high school graduation. Students who successfully complete these courses earn college credit, verified by an official college transcript. Students/parents are responsible for the cost of tuition and books for these classes.

The following are the delivery types for dual credit courses at Pender High Schools and how they will be graded:

- **"In House"**-These courses will be taught by Pender Public Schools teacher/staff. It will be taught in the traditional classroom setting and be graded each semester like our traditional high school courses. The course grade will be included in the student's GPA.
- **Web-Based/Online**-These courses are directly online and do not require the student to meet with the instructor regularly. Grades are recorded throughout the semester. The course grade will be included in the calculation of the student's cumulative GPA.

When to Enroll

The decision to enroll in dual credit needs to be made before the beginning of the semester regardless of which term the student is taking the course. It is strongly encouraged that students are either in the 11th or 12th grades.

Dual Credit Registration

The first step in registration is to attend an informational session that will cover our Dual Credit program policies here at PPS. Students will then need to complete a "Dual Credit Approval Form". The Dual Credit Approval Form will need to be approved and signed by students and parents before Dual Credit course registration. When the form is completed the student will be eligible to participate. The next step will be to attend a meeting in which the students' "High School Early College" accounts are created with NECC. Advising for dual credit course registration is next and extremely important. Mr. Nixon will advise students on courses or issues regarding eligibility to enroll in and successfully complete the class. Students should not register for a course without the school having knowledge. The school needs to know exactly what courses are being registered for so the Dual Credit teacher and their Nebraska Department of Education certificate number is correct on our student information system. It is the responsibility of the student to follow this process so parents are aware of their intention to take these courses.

Satisfactory Academic Performance and Continuing Eligibility

Dual credit students must demonstrate satisfactory academic performance in dual credit courses to retain eligibility to continue to participate in dual credit courses. If a student withdraws or receives a failing grade in any course and does not receive credit for the course, the student may no longer participate in the program. A student that would still like to participate would need to go through an administrative approval process.

Transferability of Dual Credit Courses

Transferability refers to whether a student's course credit will transfer to a postsecondary institution. Although there are several courses that students take through the Dual Credit program that transfer to numerous colleges in the state, students should research their course selection before they enroll. Most four-year institutions have a transfer guide on their website with this information, or students may contact the admissions office directly at the college or university. Students must work with the individual university to confirm that a specific course will be accepted or not.

Risks of Dual Credit

There are some risks in taking dual-credit courses. It is very important for students and parents to talk about the academic plan during the pre-registration period to have a full understanding of the importance and advantages of dual credit opportunities.

- Not Paying attention to the course syllabus could result in unexpected costs added to the students college account. Can not stress the importance of reading through the enrolled course syllabus before the course begins.
- Students may not take the dual-credit class seriously and receive a low grade. These grades are permanently recorded on their high school and college transcript.
- Some colleges and universities will not accept dual-credit courses for transfer credit. A student should check with future colleges about course transferability.
- Unsuccessful completion of dual-credit courses may negatively affect future financial aid eligibility.
- Sometimes students are unprepared for the rigor of a college class. Even high performing students may earn lower grades in their college courses than they usually earn in their high school courses.
- Some college courses may include mature content.
- High School students may be involved in group work with older students.