

SECTION IV: DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM

“Dual credit is a process through which a student may earn high school credit for successfully completing a college course that provides advanced academic instruction beyond, or in greater depth than, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for a corresponding high school course. The “dual credit” earned is college credit and high school credit for one course.”

“TEA Dual Credit Frequently Asked Questions.”

Texas Education Agency

What is Dual Credit?

- Dual Credit courses are courses offered for dual credit from agreements between high schools, universities and community colleges whereby a high school student enrolls in a college course and simultaneously earns college credit and high school credit for the course.
- Partnerships between Texas secondary schools and Texas colleges and universities have enabled high school students to earn college credits before graduating from high school, making their transition to the collegiate campus smoother and their likelihood of graduating from college greater.
- Courses are offered by accredited colleges and include both academic and career/technical courses. HPS Dual Credit Program is designed towards helping students complete 42 hours of Texas State College Core Curriculum (refer to core curriculum chart). Courses taken as dual credit will transfer to Texas public institutions according to their transfer policies; however, if the student completes the core curriculum, the entire core will transfer towards a Bachelor Degree in Texas public institutions. Private and out-of-state institutions choose which courses to accept and whether credit for Dual Credit coursework will be honored.
- To ensure that students are taking meaningful dual credit courses, they need to be aware of the requirements and degree/certification requirements in their field of interest as well as their two-year college and their future four-year college. By tracking students’ college coursework along with their high school graduation plan, students should be aware of their progress toward the college goals.
- College courses offered for dual credit may be offered online, taught at the college campus or the high school campus by credentialed instructors. Courses offered for dual credit include the same content and rigor as courses taught to other college students, utilizing the same instructors, curriculum and policies.
- The number of Dual Credit courses students can take will depend on course load and schedule availability of each student. A student taking 15 college credit hours per

semester, including AP and Dual Credit courses, has the course load of a full-time college student. Considering the workload and the importance of academic success, students cannot be enrolled in more than 15 college credit hours per school semester.

Why Dual Credit?

The benefits to high school students who participate in dual credit courses are numerous. At many colleges, students are able to earn 12 or more hours of college credit prior to graduating from high school. Additionally, a college course offered for dual credit has a guarantee of being included on the transcript for college credit at Texas public institutions.

Advantages for dual credit students include the following:

- Receive high school and college credit for courses in which they earn a “C” or better
- Fast-track their undergraduate or vocational degrees
- Save on tuition and fees by accelerating time to complete a degree
- Reduced cost of enrolling in higher education courses
- Opportunity to access college facilities and resources such as tutoring services, computer labs, and counseling services
- Enhances skills required to be successful at the collegiate level such as time management skills, critical thinking skills, study skills and following directions and procedures

How Do Students Qualify for Dual Credit?

The Texas Administrative Code and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board outline the rules of eligibility for taking Dual Credit courses.

To enroll in dual credit courses, students must show college readiness in **reading, writing, and/or math** as applicable to the course(s) the student plans to take.

All students in Texas public colleges are required to demonstrate college readiness through the **Texas Success Initiative (TSI)**, which is a state program designed to promote student success by assessing students’ academic skills through the TSI Assessment (TSIA). Students may either take the TSIA or show scores from other accepted assessments approved for placement. Approved assessments are the TSI, ACT, SAT, STAAR, PLAN/ACT Aspire.

1. TSI- TSI assessment is a program designed to help your institution determine if you are ready for college-level work in the general areas of reading, writing and mathematics. If you are an incoming college student in Texas, you are required to take the TSI Assessment – unless you are already exempt (read below) - to determine your readiness for college level work

A high school student is eligible to enroll in Dual Credit with the following TSI Assessment Scores:

Reading: score of 351-390

Writing: score of 363 -390 and 4 on essay or 5+ on essay

Math: score of 350-390.

2. You may be exempt from taking TSI Assessment and be eligible for Dual Credit enrollment by meeting one of the following requirements:

a) **SAT:** Composite score of **1070** (math and reading), with a minimum score of **500** in Math and minimum score of **500**

in Reading. [New SAT: min 480 EBRW and min 530 Math]

b) **ACT:** Composite score of **23** with a minimum of **19** in both the Math and English portions of the test.

c) **STAAR (EOC):** minimum score of Level 2 on the English III shall be exempt from the TSI Assessment required under this title for both reading and writing, and a minimum score of Level 2 on the Algebra II EOC shall be exempt from the TSI Assessment required under this title for the mathematics section. Scores must be less than 5 years old.

d) **PLAN:** a composite score of **23** on the PLAN with a **19** or higher in Mathematics and English

Table 8: Eligibility Requirements for Enrollment in Dual Credit Program

		To Qualify for Math Courses*		To Qualify for English Courses*			
Academic Courses	Assessment	Math/ Algebra	Combined/ Composite	ELA/ Reading Skills	Objective Writing/ Sentence Skills	Writing/ Essay	Combined/ Composite
	ACT	19	23	19	-	-	23
	New SAT	530	N\A	480	-	-	N\A
	SAT	500	1070 **	500	-	-	1070
	PSAT/ NMSQT ^{1 **}	50	107 **	50	-	-	107
	PLAN	19	23	19	-	-	23
	STAAR EOC Algebra I	4000*					
	STAAR EOC ¹ Algebra II ^{***}	Level ² Final ^{**}					
	STAAR EOC English II ^{***}			4000			
	STAAR EOC English III			Level ² Final ^{**}			
	TSI ² Assessment	350	-	351	363	5 ^{****}	

Note: Students must meet both subject and composite score standards where both are listed

1. Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
2. State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness End of Course Assessment
3. Texas Higher Education's Texas Success Initiative Assessment

* Students must also receive a passing grade in the Algebra and English courses

** TSI exemption criteria for SAT and PSAT will be adjusted according to new SAT and PSAT scores, when applicable.

*** Level 2 Final Scores for the Algebra II and English II end-of-course assessment instrument have not been established.

**** Students who score a 5 on the essay must also meet the objective writing skills score standards to be eligible.

The Dual Credit registration and qualification process may vary depending on the application and course registration requirements of an Institution of Higher Education your school has the agreement with. Contact your campus Dual Credit coordinator for more detailed information. See, Appendix I.

High School Graduation with College Core Curriculum Completion

High School Graduation with College Core Curriculum Completion prepares for transfer to a Texas public university with 42 hours of core curriculum completed

Pre-College Core Requirements:

- TSI Compliance/College Readiness

You and the Texas Core Curriculum

If you first enrolled at a Texas public university or college in Fall 1999 or more recently, your degree requirements include a General Education Core Curriculum. Every public institution in Texas has a Core, which is designed to provide a solid foundation for your college education and to make transfers between and among Texas institutions of higher education as smooth and seamless as possible.

How the Core Curriculum Works

Each institution's Core Curriculum applies to all academic degrees. They range from 42 to 48 credit hours, depending on

the college or university. Each Core Curriculum is divided into 8 or 9 categories that are common across the state. If you take the approved Core natural science courses at institution A, they are annotated on your transcript with a Core code by A and must be accepted as fulfilling that portion of the Core at institution B or any other Texas public institution. If Astronomy is a Core natural science at A and is not at B, it must still be accepted at B. This is a whole new way of doing things because the school where you take the course decides how it will transfer. And that decision is binding on any Texas school to which you transfer

Watch Out!

You may choose a major which has some more rigorous or more specific requirements than the Core. Most science majors, for instance, have more intensive math and science requirements. In these cases, the major requirements have priority. So, switching institutions has become easier, but changing majors may still involve taking some extra courses. For those and other reasons, no one should enroll in courses, Core Curriculum or otherwise, without consulting with a trained academic advisor or counselor at the appropriate institution.

One more thing to know: If you finish a 42-credit Core and transfer to a college or university that has, for example, a 47-credit Core, you may be required to complete those additional 5 credits. However, you will never be required to complete a course or category you have already completed, unless one of those more rigorous major requirements intervenes.



1 college course = 3 college credit hours = 0.5 (one semester) high school credit

Table 9: Core Curriculum Course Alignment

AREA	CREDITS REQUIRED	CORE CURRICULUM COURSE OPTIONS	ALIGNED HIGH SCHOOL COURSES
COMMUNICATION	6 hours	ENGL 1301	DC ENGL III A / ENGL IV A / AP ENGL Lang.
		SPCH 1315,1318	Communication APP/Public Speaking
MATHEMATICS	3 hours	MATH 1314, 1316, 1324, 1325, 1342, 2412, 2413, 1332, 1350, 2318	DC Algebra II / Ind. Study in Math/AP Calculus AB, BC/AP Statistics
LIFE & PHYSICAL SCIENCES	8 hours*	BIOL 1406 or 1408; 1407 or 1409; 2401, 2402, 2404	DC Scientific Research & D/AP Biology / Anatomy and Physiology
		CHEM 1405, 1411, 1412	DC Chemistry /Sci. R&D/AP Chemistry
		PHYS 1410, 1401, 1402, 2425, 2426	DC Physics/Sci.R&D/AP Physics I, II, C
		ENVR 1401, 1402	DC Env. Systems/AP Env. Science
CREATIVE ARTS	3 hours	ARTS 1301, 1303, 1304	DC ART I -Art Appreciation/AP Studio Arts / AP Art History
		MUSI 1306	DC Music Appreciation
LANGUAGE, PHILOSOPHY, & CULTURE	3 hours	ENGL 2322, 2323, 2327, 2328, 2332, 2333	DC ENGL IV A,B / AP English Lit.
		HUMA 1301, 1302	DC Humanities
		FREN 2311, 2312	AP French Language
		SPAN 2311, 2312	AP Spanish Language
HISTORY	6 hours	HIST 1301 and 1302	DC US HISTORY/AP US History
GOVERNMENT	6 hours	GOVT 2305	DC US GOVERNMENT/AP GOVT.
		GOVT 2306	DC US Govt./ DC Special Topics in S.S.
SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES	3 hours	ECON 2301, 2302	DC Economics /AP Macro Econ / AP Micro Econ.
		GEOG 1301, 1303	AP Human Geog./DC World Geog.
		HIST 2311, 2312	AP European History/Sp.Topics in S.S.
		HIST 2321,2322	AP World History/DC World History
		PSYC 2301	DC Psychology/AP Psychology
		SOCI 1301	DC Sociology
COMPONENT AREA OPTION	4 hours	ENGL 1302	ENGL III B, ENGL IV B / AP ENGL Lit.
		PHED 1164 (1 credit hr.)	ENGL III B, ENGL IV B / AP ENGL Lit.
TOTAL	42 hours		

* Science courses include 1 extra hour of lab requirement for the detailed course and credit alignment information