

Dual Credit Frequently asked Questions

- 1. My child applied and tested last year but chose NOT to take dual credit courses this year. Does he/she need to reapply?**

No, once a student qualifies for dual credit courses, they are eligible for courses for the duration of their HS career.

- 2. My child took the PSAT in October, should we sign up to take the assessments at HCC or wait and see if PSAT scores would exempt him/her from testing?**

Since PSAT scores will not arrive until mid-December, we would advise to sign up to take the placement exams. However, if a student does not take the placement exams but **APPLIES** to Heartland prior to the December 16th deadline, he/she would be eligible to sign up for dual credit classes in January if the PSAT score exempted the student from taking the placement exams.

- 3. Does my child need to take both the literacy and math placement test?**

EVERY dual credit course requires the literacy placement exam or a qualifying PSAT/ACT/SAT test score. The math placement test or qualifying PSAT/ACT/SAT test scores are needed for the Fundamentals of Chemistry, Intro to Statistics, and Finite math courses.

- 4. My child has an ACT/SAT/PSAT score which exempts him/her from assessing. How do I get this information to HCC?**

All qualifying PSAT scores will be sent directly to HCC by the NCHS counselors. If your student has an ACT/SAT qualifying score, please email the downloaded score report to your student's counselor who will then send it on to HCC.

- 5. How many dual credit classes can a student take in one semester?**

Unit #5 does not put a limit on the number of dual credit classes a student can take. However, parents and students should keep in mind that these are college-level classes. The grades earned in these classes not only count for a student's high school GPA but are the beginning of their college GPA as well. In addition, all course requests are subject to availability and scheduling restrictions.

- 6. How do I know if a dual credit course will be accepted by a certain college?**

Dual credit policies vary between every institution. Students should check the colleges' websites to find their dual credit rules and regulations.

7. My child is interested in attending the BACC next year. Does he/she need to apply and assess at HCC?

The initial answer to this question is NO! All BACC courses as well as some courses taught at NCHS (Educating Young Children II, Principles of Engineering, Civil Engineering, Advanced Metalworking, and Machine Operations) are dual credit Career and Technical Courses. This means that dual credit will be awarded for specific HCC courses ONLY and do NOT typically transfer to four year universities. Because they are CTE courses, placement exams are NOT required; however, once a student is enrolled in one of these BACC or CTE courses at NCHS, they will need to fill out the HCC application if they desire the dual credit benefit.

8. Is there a fee to take the placement exams?

No, both exams are free to take. If a student does not place at college level on the literacy exam, he/she will be asked to write an essay. These are hand scored and students will receive their scores back in approx. 2 weeks. If a student needs to reassess in math, there is a \$5 fee.

9. How does my child sign up for the actual dual credit courses?

Right now, students should only worry about being eligible to take dual credit courses. This means applying and assessing by the December 16th, 2022 deadline. In January, counselors will begin to meet with students to select course requests for next year. It is at **THIS** time that students will indicated which courses they wish to take.

10. What is the difference between AP and Dual Credit courses?

Overall, the main difference between the two is that AP classes require a student to take an AP exam (\$100/fee) and earn a qualifying score to get the college credit, while Dual Credit requires the student to earn a grade of C or higher in the class to earn college credit. The only cost associate with dual credit is the purchase/rental of the textbook.

Both AP and dual credit courses are viewed as rigorous coursework by colleges. Colleges routinely accept both AP and dual credit courses but with any transfer credit, the student should check with the particular school to see how the credits would apply.