



DUAL CREDIT GUIDE: **PARENTS AND STUDENTS** **SCHOOL YEAR 2020-21**

elgin.edu/dualcredit

What is Dual Credit?

Elgin Community College and its partner School Districts have implemented several dual credit programs that allow high school students to enroll in college courses. Students earn simultaneous high school and college credit. The programs provide a way to save time and money towards attaining a higher education, get a taste of college life, and prepare for a positive transition after high school.

A quick summary of the programs available are outlined below. Each Dual Credit program offers a unique opportunity to students. Depending on students' academic, behavioral, or social needs, ECC and School Districts have developed opportunities for all students to participate and earn college credit.

Full-Time Dual Credit Program

- One-year program (Senior enrollment)
- Two-year program (Junior enrollment)
- Earn 30+ transferable credits each year
- Students complete all courses at the college campus
- Courses are chosen from the Associate of Arts or Science degree plan

Part-Time Program: General Education

- Junior and Senior Enrollment
- Courses offered at the high school building
- Enrolled in 1-2 courses each semester (Maximum of 7 credit hours)
- Courses fulfill part of the postsecondary General Education Core Curriculum

Why Enroll?

High school leader embraces college life

Yessica Tello is a political science student who plans on going to law school so she can advocate for individuals who have been wrongly accused of crimes. Tello, one of the first members of her family to attend college, is among 11 dual-credit students who will graduate in May 2019. She will earn her associate degree from ECC concurrently with her high school diploma from Harry D. Jacobs High School in Algonquin.

Tello was the first dual-credit student elected president of ASPIRE 1G, a student club dedicated to supporting first-generation students at ECC. Through her experience as president, Tello built a strong personal

network and gained valuable social, leadership, organizational, and time-management skills.

At ECC, she's had the opportunity to take classes that weren't available at her high school, meet new peers, and experience college before she transfers to a four-year university.




For Tello, the best part of being a dual-credit student is showing people how much she's capable of when given the room to grow and the opportunity to succeed. "I've always been a hard worker," she said. "It gives me a great sense of pride knowing that I'm doing everything I can to achieve my dreams."



Students opt to participate in Dual Credit courses for a variety of reasons. Why might a student decide to enroll in a Dual Credit program:

- Experience more rigorous coursework and try out the college environment
- Earn college credit to help get ahead in college
- Stand out in college admissions
- Develop skills, behaviors, and knowledge to support your transition to college
- Save money – students should follow up with their district to see what costs are covered

Dual credit brings \$1,194,515 in savings to college-bound families in District 509.

	 NUMBER OF STUDENTS	 CREDIT HOURS EARNED	 TUITION DOLLARS SAVED
FALL 2018	319	2,655	\$350,460
SPRING 2018	233	1,984	\$255,936
FALL 2017	287	2,311	\$298,119
SPRING 2017	160	1,067	\$133,375
FALL 2016	222	1,253	\$156,625



How Does it Work?

In learning about each program, it is important students meet with their high school counselor and discuss the specifics of each program. Below is a summary of the programs' structure, expectations, and qualifications. Students should direct questions about the program options to their high school counselor.

This information should help students determine which option best aligns with their academic plan and interests. For dual credit options where the student attends classes on the ECC campus, students are responsible for their transportation. A representative from the high school will share information about tuition, fees, and other costs related to the different dual credit programs.

Each School District or Private School determines the dual credit programs that students are eligible to participate in as part of their high school education. The School District has elected to offer the following options in partnership with Elgin Community College.

FULL-TIME DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM

High school juniors and seniors enroll in a minimum of 12 college credits each semester. All courses are completed at the ECC campus. These courses meet the postsecondary requirements of the general education core curriculum as well as high school graduation requirements.

Students work in partnership with the ECC Academic Advising Office and their high school counselor to choose the appropriate transferable courses. Students that enroll as juniors may complete the course requirements to earn an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree. The school district and high school approve enrollment of their students. Enrollment is limited.

PART-TIME DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM

High school juniors and seniors enroll in 1-2 college courses each semester. Courses are offered at the high school buildings. There are limited course options available. Students choose courses with the help of high school counselor to ensure courses selected meet high school requirements. The school district and high school approve enrollment of their students. Enrollment may be limited.

FULL-TIME DUAL CREDIT

SENIOR ENROLLMENT (1-YEAR PROGRAM)

- Students enroll in 4-5 courses each semester at the ECC campus
- Courses add up to a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester
- Students may earn 30+ transferable credits
- Students complete COL 101-College Success during their first semester
- Course options are selected by ECC and the school district to ensure they meet the student's high school graduation requirements
- Students meet with ECC's academic advising department to develop academic plan
- Participation in high school activities may be limited

JUNIOR ENROLLMENT (2-YEAR PROGRAM)

- Students enroll in 4-5 courses each semester at the ECC campus
- Courses add up to a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester
- Summer courses may be required between junior and senior year
- Students complete COL 101-College Success during the first semester
- Students will plan to complete the degree requirements for an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree
- An ECC academic advisor guides students in selecting classes that fit their college plans.
- Participation in high school activities may be limited

Courses are scheduled Monday-Friday, and class times vary during the day. Students must commit to an 8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. timeframe. **All schedules are created and managed by the Dual Credit Office. Course sections (i.e. Meeting Days and Times) are pre-selected to meet the needs of the programs and students' academic plans.** Students must follow ECC's academic calendar, which differs from the school district calendar.

PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS

- Current sophomore or junior at the time of application
- Have at least a 3.00 unweighted high school GPA
- Demonstrate college-readiness – Reading, English, and Mathematics
- Students must have qualifying scores – SAT/Act or ECC Placement Tests
- Meet other high school requirements as noted by district policies
- Enrollment is limited and determined by the high school

PART-TIME DUAL CREDIT

GENERAL EDUCATION

- Current sophomore or junior at the time of application
- Students enroll in 1-2 courses each semester
- Maximum of 7 credit hours
- Course options offered at the High School
- Students choose courses based on academic interests and goals
- Course options are pre-selected by the school district
- Courses meet part of the General Education Core Curriculum requirements
- Students may continue their participation in high school activities

PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS

- Current sophomore or junior at the time of application
- Have at least a 3.00 unweighted high school GPA
- Demonstrate college-readiness – Reading, English, and Mathematics
- Students must have qualifying scores – SAT/Act or ECC Placement Tests
- Meet other high school requirements as noted by district policies

What Is Next?

1. Review the dual credit program options carefully
2. Talk with your parents/guardians about the program options to identify which may work best for you
3. Schedule a meeting with your high school counselor to confirm which program may work best for you, including reviewing the District's criteria for participating in these programs and ECC minimum requirements for enrollment.
4. If you meet the District and ECC Dual Credit Program requirements, your counselor will provide you with instructions on next steps for program application. Although timelines vary by districts, the application process begins in November.