Illinois Community College Board Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS “DUAL CREDIT” AND HOW CAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS USE IT TO GET AHEAD?

Dual Credit allows academically prepared high school students to simultaneously earn credits that count toward a high school diploma and a college degree. Dual Credit instruction delivers a “win-win” arrangement for all parties: students gain access to challenging college-level coursework to make their junior and senior years of high school more productive; students can prove to others and themselves that they have the ability to succeed in college; college costs can be reduced for parents and students; time-to-degree at college can be shortened; and the enhanced high school and college faculty dialogue can contribute to a better alignment between secondary and postsecondary education.

Table 1
Summary of Annual Dual Credit Course Counts, Enrollments, and Average Class Size In Illinois Public Community Colleges, Fiscal Years 2015-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 15</th>
<th>FY 16</th>
<th>FY 17</th>
<th>FY 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Count</td>
<td>9,986</td>
<td>10,740</td>
<td>10,994</td>
<td>11,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment</td>
<td>99,343</td>
<td>105,361</td>
<td>111,643</td>
<td>117,672</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avg Class Size</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source of Data: ICCB Centralized Data System—Annual Course Data (AC)

In fiscal year 2018, Illinois community colleges offered 11,270 dual credit courses, which was an increase of 2.5 percent from 2017 (N = 10,994). Total dual credit enrollments were 117,672 in fiscal year 2018, a 5.4 percent increase over 2017 (N = 111,643). Average dual credit class size was 10.4 students in fiscal year 2018, a 2.8 percent increase from 2017 (N = 10.2). Figure 1. depicts the proportion of Transfer and Career and Technical Education (CTE) enrollments. Transfer dual credit enrollments (62.1 percent) and course counts (61.4 percent) accounted for nearly two-thirds of all dual credit enrollments and course counts in fiscal year 2018.

Figure 1. Overall Dual Credit Enrollments, FY 2015-2018

Enrollments in the ten largest programs accounted for 45.4 percent (N = 53,442) of all dual credit enrollments in fiscal year 2018. The ten highest enrollments overall by CIP code in fiscal year 2018 were in Writing (N = 19,082), Mathematics (N = 6,545), Spanish Language and Literature (N = 5,046), American History (N = 4,386), Rhetoric and Composition (N = 4,078), Psychology (N = 3,676), Welding Technology (N = 2,833), Nursing Assistant (N = 2,697), Biology (N = 2,650), and Statistics (N = 2,449).

For a more detailed analysis, please see the report, Dual Credit in the Illinois Community College System in Fiscal Year 2018.

Visit the ICCB website to locate a Community College near you or for a map of district boundaries.

Collaborating with the System to Inform Statewide Community College Issues