

## 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.

In fiscal year 2016, Illinois community colleges offered 10,740 dual credit courses, which was an increase of 7.6 percent from 2015 (N = 9,986). As depicted in Figure 1, **total dual credit enrollments were 105,361 in fiscal year 2016**, a 6.1 percent increase over 2015 (N = 99,343). Average dual credit class size was 9.8 students in fiscal year 2016, a 1.4 percent decrease from 2015 (N = 9.9). Baccalaureate/Transfer dual credit enrollments (62.8 percent) and course counts (63.1 percent) accounted for nearly two-thirds of all dual credit enrollments and course counts in fiscal year 2016.

<b>Table 1</b> <b>SUMMARY OF ANNUAL DUAL CREDIT COURSE COUNTS, ENROLLMENTS, AND AVERAGE CLASS SIZE IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES FISCAL YEARS 2015 &amp; 2016</b>		
	<b>FY 15</b>	<b>FY 16</b>
Course Count	9,986	10,740
<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>99,343</b>	<b>105,361</b>
Average Class Size	9.9	9.8

SOURCE OF DATA: ICCB Annual Course (AC) Data

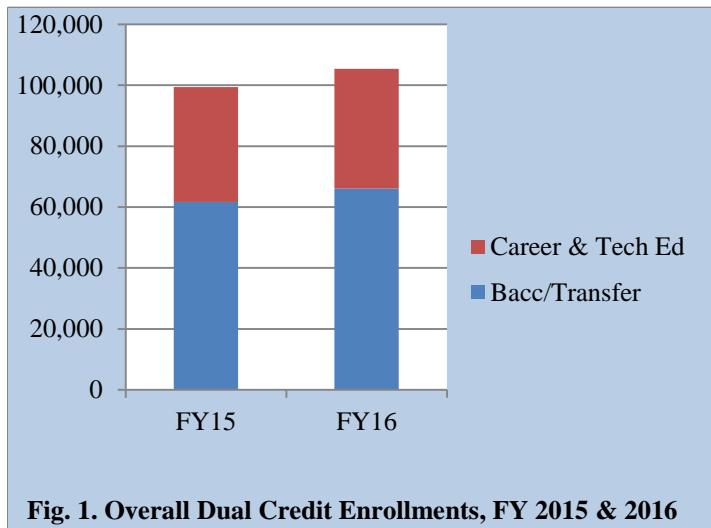


Fig. 1. Overall Dual Credit Enrollments, FY 2015 & 2016

from postsecondary institutions during the 2010-2011 school year. This represents 10 percent of high school students, mostly juniors and seniors. About thirty percent of enrollments in dual credit courses were in courses with a career and technical/vocational focus (<http://www.nacep.org/research-policy/fast-facts/>).

For a more detailed analysis, please see the report, Dual Credit in the Illinois Community College System, Fiscal Year 2016, [https://www.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/reports/2016\\_DualCredit\\_Report.pdf](https://www.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/reports/2016_DualCredit_Report.pdf)  
Data tables for FY 2016 are included in the report.

Enrollments in the ten largest programs accounted for 46.1 percent (N = 48,548) of all dual credit enrollments in fiscal year 2016. The ten highest enrollments overall by CIP code in fiscal year 2016 were in **Writing** (N = 16,671), **Mathematics** (N = 6,454), **Spanish Language and Literature** (N = 4,975), **Rhetoric and Composition** (N = 3,710), **American History** (N = 3,409), **Psychology** (N = 3,047), **Welding Technology** (N = 2,777), **Biology** (2,549), **General Office Occupations and Clerical Services** (N = 2,481), and **Business/Office Automation** (N = 2,475).

Nationally, four out of five public high schools offered dual credit courses, and over 1.4 million high school students took more than 2 million dual credit courses