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 2015, Illinois community colleges offered 9,714 dual credit courses, which was a decrease of 1.9 percent from 2014 (N = 9,903) and an increase of 10.6 percent over 2011 (N = 8,780). As depicted in Figure 1, total dual credit enrollments were 99,153 in fiscal year 2015, a 4.7 percent increase over 2014 (N = 94,689) and a 19.6 percent increase over 2011 (N = 82,895). Average dual credit class size was 10.2 students in fiscal year 2015, a 6.8 percent increase from 2014 (N = 9.6) and an 8.1 percent increase from 2011 (N = 9.4). Baccalaureate/Transfer dual credit enrollments and course counts accounted for about sixty percent of all dual credit enrollments and course counts in fiscal year 2015.

Enrollments in the ten largest programs accounted for 46.4 percent (N = 46,036) of all dual credit enrollments in fiscal year 2015. The ten highest enrollments overall by CIP code in fiscal year 2015 were in Writing (N = 15,518), Mathematics (N = 5,417), Spanish Language and Literature (N = 4,647), Psychology (N = 3,880), Rhetoric and Composition (N = 3,538), American History (N = 2,929), Welding Technology (N = 2,766), Business/Office Automation/Technology/Data Entry (N = 2,720), Nursing Assistant (N = 2,343), and Health and Physical Education (N = 2,278).

Nationally, about 8 in 10 public high schools offered dual credit courses and over 1.4 million high school students took more than 2 million dual credit courses 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/).


Collaborating with the System to Inform Statewide Community College Issues
For assistance contact ICCB Research and Policy Studies 217-785-0123