

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

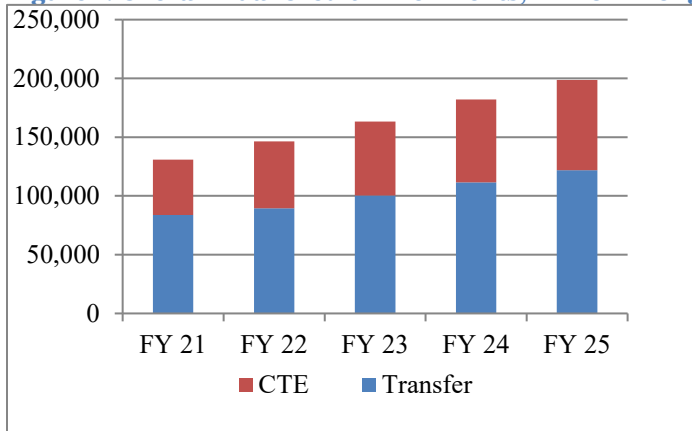
Summary of Annual Dual Credit Course Counts, Enrollments, and Average Class Size In Illinois Public Community Colleges, Fiscal Years 2021-2025

	<u>FY 21</u>	<u>FY 22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>FY 24</u>	<u>FY 25</u>
Course Count	13,314	13,543	14,638	16,288	16,963
Enrollment	130,943	146,391	163,283	182,093	198,675
Avg Class Size	9.8	10.8	11.2	11.2	11.7

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

In fiscal year 2025, Illinois community colleges offered 16,963 dual credit courses, which was an increase of 4.1 percent from 2024 (N = 16,288). **Total dual credit enrollments were 198,675 in fiscal year 2025**, a 9.1 percent increase over 2024 (N = 182,093). Average dual credit class size was 11.7 students in fiscal year 2025, which is a 4.8 percent increase compared to the 2024 number (N = 11.2). Figure 1. depicts the proportion of Transfer and Career and Technical Education (CTE) enrollments. Transfer dual credit enrollments (61.3 percent) and course counts (63.0 percent) accounted for over three-fifths of all dual credit enrollments and course counts in fiscal year 2025.

Figure 1. Overall Dual Credit Enrollments, FY 2021-2025



Enrollments in the ten largest programs accounted for 45.7 percent (N = 90,866) of all dual credit enrollments in fiscal year 2025. The ten highest enrollments overall by CIP code in fiscal year 2025 were in **Writing** (N = 34,663); **Mathematics** (N = 9,239); **Spanish Language and Literature** (N = 8,025); **Rhetoric and Composition** (N = 7,833); **American History** (N = 7,414); **Welding Technology** (N = 5,216); **Statistics** (N = 5,146); **Psychology** (N = 5,046); **Nursing Assistant** (N = 4,385); and **Sports, Kinesiology, and Physical Education** (N = 3,899).

For a more detailed analysis, please see the report, [Dual Credit in the Illinois Community College System in Fiscal Year 2025](#).

Visit the ICCB website to [locate a Community College near you](#) or for a [map of district boundaries](#).

