

# What is Dual Enrollment?

**This guide will  
answer questions,  
and explain how it works.**



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 Services are provided at no cost to Montana families. Reach Higher Montana is a nonprofit that helps students strategically pursue educational opportunities.



## Dual enrollment (DE) is pretty cool.

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You may have heard it referred to as “dual credit,” “pre-college” or “concurrent enrollment,” all of which sums it up: taking college courses while in high school, either at your high school for both high school and college credit; at a college, with other college students, for college credit only; or online, which may (or may not) provide both high school and college credit. High school juniors and seniors can earn college credit before graduation and apply that credit to both their high school and college transcripts. Like we said, it’s a pretty cool concept.

## Why we Love Dual Enrollment

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**There are many reasons why we love DE.**

■ **Hello Adulthood.** First and foremost, it provides the student with an introduction to college coursework. College courses require preparation, commitment, and organization, and for some students, this is a whole new experience compared to their high school classes. It also helps them understand the standards of college professors and the expectations of college-level courses. Having that experience will give them a strong start in their first year of college.

■ **Savings Your Bank Account will Appreciate.** Tuition for dual enrollment classes is deeply discounted down, sometimes by half the cost of regular tuition, for high school students. Students can get a head start on their college transcript for half the cost - who doesn’t love saving money?! In some cases, if a student meets certain academic requirements, they may be able to enroll for free!

■ **Time to Shine.** Not only can starting college early help you graduate early, but it also gives you time to explore your educational and career options. Many electives can be taken as dual enrollment during high school, which can free up time to explore all the options their college offers to make an informed career choice.

## How Does it Work?

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The first step in learning more about dual enrollment is to visit with your high school counselor. They will have great information about current programs, affiliated DE colleges, and what courses your student should consider based on their career aspirations. However, choosing a partner school doesn’t have to be limited to your geographic location. Some schools offer online classes to provide remote access for students. Again, check with your high school to ensure credits earned will be applied to your student’s high school transcript.

If there is a DE program that is not affiliated with your high school, no worries! While the credits may not be applied toward your high school transcript, students can still earn credits towards their future college transcript. Students have even earned their two-year associate degree while still in high school - imagine that!



## Is Dual Enrollment a Fit for your Favorite Student? ---

DE is not for everyone, but everyone should check out their options for dual enrollment and decide if it makes sense. Montana institutions will work with students in their junior and senior year of high school to take college courses. Students will have to meet the same requirements for admission that on-campus students must meet such as pre-requisites, and more. From a non-academic standpoint, optimal candidates must manage time and projects in order to complete the course successfully. Poor or failing grades can adversely impact a student's transcript, so you want to ensure your student is being set up for success. Credits earned within the state may not transfer to out of state schools. Always check with your future institution to ensure your credits will transfer.

## Anticipated Costs ---

The costs for dual enrollment range from free to \$150 dollars and up. Remember, the costs are at a reduced rate, typically half of what a college student would pay. Other costs to factor in are books or institution fees.

The "One-Two-Free" dual enrollment program kicked off the fall of 2018 by Governor Bullock. The program offers two tuition-free dual enrollment courses, up to six credits, from participating Montana University System colleges that are eligible to all Montana high school students. The classes can be on-campus, online, or in your high school. For more information, please visit [mus.edu/one-two-free](http://mus.edu/one-two-free) or contact Montana University System Dual Enrollment Manager, Jacque Treaster, [dualcredit@montana.edu](mailto:dualcredit@montana.edu).

## When to Enroll ---

Double check with the school you have in mind, but most enrollment periods for DE is June through early September for fall semesters and November through December for Spring Semesters. Keep in mind that if you are planning to receive both high school credits and college credits, the timeline to register for high school courses is often in the spring.

## Who Do I Contact? ---

For a list of Montana campuses offering dual enrollment programs and related contact information, visit the Montana University System's dual enrollment information. ([mus.edu/dualenroll](http://mus.edu/dualenroll))



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