

HARPER COLLEGE DUAL CREDIT

Frequently Asked Questions

What is dual credit?

Dual credit is an instructional arrangement where an academically qualified student currently enrolled in high school enrolls in a college-level course and, upon successful course completion, earns both college credit and high school credit at the same time.

How are dual credit courses organized or offered?

Courses are offered two ways-either on campus (at the college) or off campus (at the high schools), by qualified instructors teaching the Harper course.

Do all dual credit courses transfer for credit to all colleges and universities?

Current dual credit courses offered through Harper College generally fall into two broad categories: Career and Technical Education (CTE) or General Education (GE). General Education courses are usually approved for credit under the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI). Such courses are accepted for credit by all IAI participating schools, which includes all Illinois public universities and some 94 other Illinois colleges and universities. CTE courses may or may not be accepted as transfer credit. Students may create an account at www.transferology.com which is a nationwide network provided by College Source designed to help students explore their college transfer options.

What are the benefits of dual credit courses?

Facilitates the transition between high school and college

Reduces the cost of a college education

Reduces the time needed to complete a degree program

Reduces high school dropout rates

Prepares students for college work

Raises student motivation and aspiration

Increases post-secondary enrollment

How does dual credit differ from advanced placement (AP)?

Both courses are taught at the college level. However, college credit is awarded for advanced placement courses only upon completion of a single assessment test. In addition, different cut scores are required by different institutions for credit in these courses. Dual credit courses earn college credit in the same manner as any other college course – through satisfactory performance on such assessments as quizzes, tests, and homework assignments. In addition, dual credit courses are taught by qualified college faculty who hold the appropriate credentials in the subject matter. For instance, faculty teaching general education courses must hold at least a Master's degree in the subject area. High school AP courses do not have this requirement.

Who is eligible to take part in dual credit programs?

In order to enroll in dual credit courses through Harper College, students must meet all admission requirements that would be applied to a student enrolling for the same course at the college. Students should speak with their high school counselor to learn more.

What does it cost to enroll in a dual credit course?

Students are not responsible for the costs related to taking dual credit courses. The high school district pays the applicable course and textbook costs for dual credit courses. Some students will need to pay out of pocket for courses with health requirements.

Can dual credit students receive financial aid?

Students must earn a high school diploma or GED to be eligible for financial aid. (Dual Credit students cannot receive financial aid.) Dual Credit students should be aware that failure to successfully complete the courses in which they enroll may affect future financial aid eligibility.

What are the steps after high school graduation?

If you are continuing at Harper College, you do not need to reapply. Simply call 847.925.6230 to update your status and get started!

If you are attending another institution, remember to have an official Harper College transcript sent to that institution in order to request any transfer of credits.