

Key Definitions in Dual Credit

Jeremy Bowling, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Perri Gardner, College of Southern Idaho;
Erin Richards, Cascadia College

What is dual credit?

To discuss dual credit programming, courses, and instruction, we will begin with discussing terminology. Many people will use the term, dual enrollment, as a catch-all term that covers different types of programs that connect high school students to college courses. However, these programs may be functionally distinct, with different issues for administrators, instructors, and students.

To distinguish between these programs, we use the terms:

- **Dual credit (DC)** is when a college course can be taken by a high school student to obtain credit towards degrees in both high school and college.
- **Dual enrollment (DE)** is a college course taught in a college, whether online or onsite, by college instructors, which a high school student takes to obtain credit towards degrees in both high school and college.
- **Concurrent enrollment (CE)** is a college course taught in high schools by high school instructors, which a high school student takes to obtain credit towards degrees in both high school and college.
 - [National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships \(NACEP\)](#)

Most of the courses offered for DC, will be introductory and general education courses, and depending on major, general education requirements, and credit transfer policy, some courses taken for DC may not be applied towards a degree at the college the student attends.

Additional Documents:

- Guidelines for Dual Credit: What Should Administrators Know?
- Guidelines for Dual Credit Programs and Courses: What Should Instructors Know?
- Handout Templates for Outreach and Welcome to Parents

Please access the other three documents [here](#).