



Frequently Asked Questions about Distance Education and High School Dual Credit

NETnet thanks **Dr. James Goeman**, Academic Program Director, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, for providing these answers to common questions regarding dual credit and concurrent enrollment.

? May a high school student take a university class from any university?

Yes, if the student meets the criteria for admission.

? I understand that the community colleges will provide content to schools within their own districts — no VCT (Virtual College of Texas) required; just regular registration – is that right?

"May provide" is more accurate than "will provide," because a college has first option on dual credit within their district, but it is not obligatory. They may offer VCT at their own discretion.

? What if a desired course is only offered by an out-of-district school? Then the student registers at their in-district school and takes the class thru VCT, or registers at the out-of-district school and pays the out-of-district fees, right?

Yes, the student has both options.

? Suppose a desired course is offered at both TJC and Kilgore College, but a Kilgore HS student only wants to take it from TJC. If this student is willing to pay the out-of-district fee, is s/he allowed to take the course from TJC?

If the student wants dual credit, s/he must go to the college that has a contract with his/her ISD, since offering dual credit for a course is based on an agreement with a school/school district. If the student wants college credit only, then the student may go where s/he likes.

? Are the high school counselors the people who will contact the college VCT representative?

Are the high school counselors the people who will contact the university – and who will they ask for?

These two issues are the ISD/school's choice, not THECB's (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board) decision to make.

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- ? Who pays the tuition? Why do some ISD's (and not others) help foot the bill/pay for textbooks?

Tuition is at college's discretion. It could be that the student pays, the high school pays, or that the college waives tuition. Some colleges choose to charge, others don't and rely only on state reimbursement for contact hours. A contract would usually spell this out, because if the college is charging the tuition, the ISD would be the one to pay, not the students. After all, HS students don't pay their teacher's salaries, the school does.

- ? How are the scheduling/holiday discrepancies worked out?

There is no formal rule/regulation regarding schedules. This is a matter for the ISD and college to work out.

- ? Do community college district lines apply to both videoconferencing and online courses?

Yes, if the college is providing instruction for groups of students based on a contract with the ISD. If the students are receiving both HS and college credit, dual credit rules still apply --the medium of delivery does not matter-- the students go where the ISD has a contract. However, some students may choose to enroll in online courses for their own purposes--as individuals, outside of a contract. In such cases district lines would not apply, regardless of the delivery medium.

- ? Are the students given two grades – one for their high school transcript and one for their college transcript?

Yes, students get two grades, thus the term "dual credit."

- ? What's the difference between "dual" credit and "concurrent credit"?

The meaning of the terms "dual" and "concurrent" depends on who is using them, but both terms mean receiving both kinds of credit (HS and college) from the same class. Concurrent *enrollment* is not the same as concurrent *credit*. Ask each college for their definition of the terms.

