

DUAL ENROLLMENT: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is dual enrollment?

Colleges and high schools collaborate on what high school courses mirror a college course. The college assigns one of its college-level courses to correspond to a high school course. Currently, Northern Valley partners with Seton Hall University (SHU), Bergen Community College (BCC), Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU), New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). We offer these courses for 11th and 12th graders.

Am I taking the course at the college campus?

No. Northern Valley teachers are considered adjuncts or lead teachers and teach the course at Northern Valley.

Is anything different between signing up for the college Dual Enrollment or simply taking the high school course?

The work done in the course and the expectations in the course would be identical. Currently, the district indicates on the transcript with an asterisk (*) that 'Course offered for college credit dual enrollment' whether a student enrolls with the college or not.

Am I required to sign up for the college credit?

No. This is voluntary. There is a cost. However, you may not indicate on your application that you are taking the course through a college unless you enroll and pay for credits.

Who maintains the transcript, and how would I get a transcript?

The college with whom we have an agreement will maintain the transcript. Once the course is completed, the student can request a transcript directly through the college. Northern Valley does not maintain the college transcript, nor can we indicate anywhere whether a student has signed up through the college.

Why might I consider signing up for Dual Enrollment?

Traditionally, the thinking was that, as these are college approved courses, the successful completion of such courses demonstrate to both the student and the others that they are capable of college-level work. This may be beneficial in gaining confidence, exploring areas of study and presenting yourself as a college-ready student.

Why might I consider *not* signing up for Dual Enrollment?

Primarily, the cost might be a reason not to sign up (though many of us agree these are inexpensive compared to traditional college costs). This is a reality, and we respect it. It is one reason we indicate a course is *eligible* regardless of whether a student chooses to sign up for the Dual Enrollment credits.

Other possible reasons to not sign up: a student may have no interest in carrying any college credits heading into college; none of the colleges being looked into appear to accept these credits; this is a choice, and a student wants to exercise a choice.

Can I get credit later in the year if I am not sure whether I want it now?

Not really. Once the college-determined deadlines pass, there is no way to earn credit retroactively. Most courses are full year, and require a Fall sign up. However, some courses have students sign up in both the Fall and the Spring. In cases where there is a Spring sign up, a student could still get half of the potential course credit by signing up in the Spring.

If the Dual Enrollment course is also an AP course, do I have to choose one or the other? Can I do both?

A number of our AP courses are also listed as Dual Enrollment. This is because the courses are considered 'college level'. Some AP courses require that a student take an exam while others are optional. Typically, earning a 3, 4 or 5 on an AP exam opens the door for potential credit. Some students thought that they were not permitted to 'do both'. This is not the case. You may 'do both'. And you may present to colleges both AP

scores and College Credits. Students who have taken AP exams **and** earned Dual Enrollment Credits have been able to use both differently at a college. Alternatively, some students were able to use neither AP scores nor College Credits. It is up to the college.

Do I have to attend the college that is awarding the credit in order to transfer college credit? Is that the only college that will accept these credits?

No. Credits will be on the college transcript and may be used at any college that would take them.

How do I know which college would take these transfer credits?

All colleges maintain their own policies on how to view transfer credits (and AP scores as well). Most will publish something on their website outlining that policy. We have learned that this process can vary from university to university, from department to department within a university, from major to major - and even from year to year.

Unfortunately, there is no way to guarantee either that Dual Enrollment (or AP credit) will be accepted at your future college. The best thing you can do is reach out to them directly and ask. In fact this is an intelligent question that might be asked on a campus visit/tour/information session, at a college fair, or at a college visit to Northern Valley.

Many of us feel that these are the cheapest credits you will ever have the opportunity to earn. Some of us have seen students take many credits, while other colleges take very few is any. We remind families that where one starts at college is not always where one finishes. We also know that undergraduate credits are reviewed by graduate schools, too.

How do I reflect Dual Enrollment on my applications?

The high school transcript will reflect eligible courses regardless. It will not list a college name. You can self report the course itself as being a Dual Enrollment course on the self-reporting list of courses. However, ethically, you cannot say that you are enrolled in a college or taking a course through a college unless you have enrolled for the Dual Enrollment credits. You should not be mentioning the name of a college unless you are signing up for the Dual Enrollment credit.

If you are asked are you taking a course at a college, you cannot report that you are for these Dual Enrollment courses.

I see that AP US History is listed as Dual Enrollment choice. I thought only 11th and 12th grade courses were permitted to take these courses.

These program is designed for 11th and 12th grade. Most of our partner colleges insist on this restriction. One exception, AP US History, had been approved from its inception - when it was an 11th grade course. The University and Northern Valley administration agreed to allowed this course to remain despite it being shifted to 10th grade. One main reason is that typically this AP course material is taught over two years.