

Dual Enrollment Information

What is Dual Enrollment?

In April of 1996, the Postsecondary Enrollment and Options Act, Public Act 160 (HB 4643) was enacted to provide students with the option to participate in courses beyond a high school's curriculum. This provides high school students the opportunity to take course work at the college level and encourages them to pursue higher education after graduation. Students who participate in a dual enrollment program will often take one hour off the normal school day for each college class they take.

Who pays for it?

Decatur High School will pay for tuition and fees up to the maximum amount allowed by state aid. The following formula is how that amount is determined:

The statewide weighted-average foundation for the 2016-2017 school year is \$7,586.00, which equates to \$3,793.00 per semester. Decatur has a 6-hour day, so each hour would equate to \$632.17 allowed per college course. The local district would be responsible for the actual charge for tuition and fees for the college courses up to the amount calculated per course or the actual amount charged by the postsecondary institution, whichever is less. **If the amount is over the allowed amount determined by the State, student/parent(s) will be responsible for the remaining balance. Students are also responsible for paying for books and all transportation costs.**

Eligibility

1. The student must have enough credits to be considered a junior/senior or have the approval of the high school principal.
2. The student must not yet have completed all of the Decatur High School graduation requirements.
3. The student must be enrolled at Decatur High School and the college during the high school's regular academic year.
4. Students participating in dual enrollment need to earn a qualifying score on the PSAT/SAT or a placement test determined by the college of attendance.

Participating Colleges

Students can choose one of three schools for dual enrollment: Southwestern Michigan College, Lake Michigan College, and Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Students are responsible for getting themselves to and from campus for their classes. Dual Enrollment courses follow the college's calendar. If Decatur High School does not have school, whether planned or due to weather, students are still expected to attend their dual enrollment courses to the best of their abilities.

Course & Credit Options

A. An eligible course is any course offered by the college other than ones considered to be a hobby craft; recreation or physical education; theology, divinity, or religious education and that is not offered by the school, or is offered but determined by the school as a scheduling conflict.

B. High school credit may be counted towards graduation and subject area requirement.

C. All courses will count as college credit and high school elective credit. Juniors cannot substitute high school core credit with their dual enrollment classes. The differences between high school courses and college courses is quite extreme and hard to navigate at times. Since juniors will be in their first year of dual enrollment, Decatur does not want their high school credit to weigh solely on their performance in college.

Seniors who are successful in their college courses during the junior year can begin to count their college classes as high school credit core credit, assuming the college course covers the content areas of the high school classes. (It is important to note that some colleges will not transfer credit that has been earned as both high school core credit and college credit.)

*High school core credit = a specific credit designated by the Michigan Merit Credit (Math, English, Science, Social Studies, or VPAA) during their senior year.

Consequences of Failing or Not Completing a Course

If a student withdraws from their college course(s) after the college's drop period or receives a failing grade in their college course(s), the student/parent(s) will be responsible for reimbursing Decatur High School for the cost of the course. Also, the student will not be allowed to take college courses the next semester. Before the student can re-enroll in the dual enrollment program, a meeting will need to be held with the counselor, student, and parent(s).

Grade Point Calculation

Dual enrollment courses are weighted and calculated on a 5-point scale.