

# Tech Snacks: Dual Enrollment, Class 8 Licenses, & Why It Matters

Over 100 students partner with MSU-Northern to participate in the Dual Enrollment program. There are different forms of dual enrollment, and lots of potential benefits to the student, your program, and to MSU-Northern.

## What is Dual Enrollment?

Dual enrollment is the umbrella term for several types of opportunities for high school students to take college coursework while they are still in high school.

### Types of Credit

Dual Credit courses award high school and college credit simultaneously for the same course.

College Credit Only awards college credit but not high school credit. The high school may or may not know about the student's enrollment in the college course.

### Delivery Models

Early College courses are standard college classes that are open to high school students and offered on a college campus, online, or as a hybrid course.

Concurrent Enrollment courses are college courses taught at a high school to a class of high school students by a college-approved, state-licensed high school teacher who meets the qualifications established by the Board of Regents (BOR) Policy 730.

## What are the benefits of Dual Enrollment?

### Students save time

Dual Enrollment allows students to take 100- and 200-level courses, those commonly found in the first year of college, in a wide variety of subjects.

Dual Enrollment courses transfer seamlessly throughout the Montana University System, as well as to other accredited colleges and universities across the country and allow students to start on a one-, two-, or four-year degree while they are in high school.\* And Dual Credit courses can help them satisfy high school graduation requirements and college degree requirements.

### Students save money

The "One-Two-Free" program allows all high school students to take up to six college credits for free in Montana. After using their six credits, students are still able to take classes at the discounted rate of \$50 per credit, with all fees waived. Per OCHE's data, students saved \$2,000+ in tuition at a two-year school for six dual enrollment credits.

## Dual Enrollment students do better in college

OCHE provides data and reports on Dual Enrollment which show:

- 32% of enrolled high school students received college credit in the 2021-2022 school year
- 60% of DE students enroll in MUS within 2 years of DE  
\*Average of last five measurable DE cohorts (2013-14 to 2017-18)
- DE students have a 15% higher retention rate  
\*Five-year average, New First Time, Fall to Fall 2014-2018
- DE students have a 6 tenths higher GPA in their first term of college  
\*Four-year average, New First Time, Fall to Fall 2016-2019
- DE students have 8.5% higher graduation rates  
\*Five-year average, New First Time, Full Time, Associate 14-15 to 18-19, Bachelor 12-13 to 16-17

## Northern gains enrollment and a recruiting opportunity

High school students who take classes with Northern instructors may get insight into programs that they're interested in pursuing at Northern and may be likely to enroll at Northern after high school.

## Which subjects or course formats do DE students prefer?

High school students pursuing Dual Credit and College Credit tend to enroll in courses that get them a jumpstart in college (e.g., gen ed courses). If students know what they want to study, they may also choose to enroll in program courses. 100-200 level courses are eligible for the various Dual Enrollment options.

OCHE's data shows that for the 2019-20 school year, 28% of DE students enrolled in Math and English courses, 30% enrolled in Career and Technical Education courses, and 32% enrolled in other General Education courses.

Online courses work best with students' schedules and obviously work best for non-local high school students. Some local students are able to attend face-to-face courses, especially if they are offered later in the day.

## Should I get a Class 8 Montana Educator license?

The application form is located on the OPI website:

<https://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Licensure/Educator-Licensure/Educator-Licenses#9389210450-class-8-dual-credit-only-post-secondary-faculty-license>.

- Initial application: \$36 for 5 years
- Fingerprint: \$30

**All application materials and required fees must be received before your application is evaluated. Applications left incomplete for 90 days will be purged.**

Note: You can ONLY teach in areas that you indicated on your application and were approved for. Please contact Kaci Nicholson at [kaci.nicholson@msun.edu](mailto:kaci.nicholson@msun.edu) for more information about Dual Enrollment and Jennifer Anderson at [jennifer.anderson32@msun.edu](mailto:jennifer.anderson32@msun.edu) for more information about the Class 8 license.