

# Dual Credit Programs

Through the Student Success initiative, Ontario secondary schools are offering expanded programs to help meet students' individual learning styles and interests. These programs allow students to customize their high school experience through a variety of new and enhanced learning options. These options include Dual Credits, Specialist High Skills Majors and Cooperative Education.

These programs help to meet the needs, interests and strengths of all students, engaging them in learning and better preparing them for graduation and beyond.

## What are dual credit programs?

- Dual credit programs are ministry-approved programs that allow students, while they are still in secondary school, to take college or apprenticeship courses that count towards both the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and a postsecondary certificate, diploma, degree or a Certificate of Apprenticeship.
- Students may earn credits towards their secondary school diploma through courses delivered entirely or partially by publicly funded colleges in Ontario that are participating in a ministry-approved dual credit program. Students may earn up to four optional credits through college-delivered courses.
- There is no limit on the number or type of secondary credits they may earn through team-taught courses. These are courses delivered jointly by college instructors and secondary school teachers, in which students work on matching or similar Ontario secondary school curriculum and college curriculum at the same time.

## How do dual credit programs benefit students?

Participating in dual credit programs helps students to:

- complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma
- make a successful transition to college or an apprenticeship program

- increase their awareness of the various college and apprenticeship pathways available to them
- gain greater insight into education and career planning decisions.

## Who should be considered for dual credit programs?

- The school board or the Student Success team at the school determines, on a case-by-case basis, which students will be admitted to a ministry-approved dual credit program.
- The primary focus is on students who have the potential to succeed but are at risk of not graduating from high school, and students who left high school before graduating and are now returning to school.
- Students enrolled in approved Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs that include a college-delivered course, and students in college-delivered Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Programs (OYAP) and Level 1 apprenticeship training may also earn dual credits.

## Who supports and supervises students taking college-delivered dual credit courses?

- In addition to the instruction and supervision provided by the college instructor, secondary school dual credit teachers provide needed support and supervision to students taking dual credit courses.
- Students also have access to a variety of college supports and services.

## How are student results from dual credit courses and programs recorded?

- **Successful completion\* of college-delivered course:** The secondary school principal records the appropriate credit value, as determined by the Ministry of Education, on the student's Ontario Student Transcript (OST). The college records the appropriate college credit value on the student's college record.
- **Successful completion\* of college-delivered apprenticeship program:** The secondary school principal records the appropriate credit value, as determined by the Ministry of Education, on the student's OST. In most cases, if the student is a registered apprentice, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities also records the completion of Level 1 apprenticeship in-school training.
- **Successful completion of team-taught course:** Achievement of expectations from the Ontario curriculum is recorded on the OST, and achievement of requirements in the college course is recorded on the student's college record.

\* Successful completion is defined by the standards of the college.

## Where are dual credit programs being delivered?

All 70 school boards that have secondary schools and all Ontario colleges of applied arts and technology are involved in providing secondary school students with opportunities to earn dual credits.

## How do I find out more?

For more information on local dual credit programs, contact your school principal or the Student Success Leader at your school board, or visit [ontario.ca/studentsuccess](http://ontario.ca/studentsuccess)