**Mesquite ISD UT OnRamps Parent FAQs**

**Why is there a OnRamps Dual Enrollment option in Mesquite ISD for some courses?**

The OnRamps Dual Enrollment program in Mesquite ISD provides high school students the opportunity to earn college credit from The University of Texas at Austin. These courses, taken at the home high school campus, engage students with rigorous content and further develop essential college readiness skills such as student self-advocacy, navigating a course syllabus, and seeking assistance from teachers as needed.

OnRamps Dual Enrollment courses provide a more personalized, supportive learning environment with greater learning time with classroom teachers than most rigorous college level courses. The OnRamps Dual Enrollment courses are currently free for all students. This makes OnRamps Dual Enrollment a unique opportunity for students in Mesquite ISD to attain free college credit from a four-year university while still enrolled in high school.

**What does instruction look like in the OnRamps classrooms?**

Instruction for OnRamps courses is delivered by the high school classroom teachers. Different courses may use different approaches to instruction to maximize student learning for the topic and content. For example, some classes use a blended learning approach while others use an inquiry-based approach. Still others may use a variety of instructional strategies as needed for different topics within the courses. For more information about a specific course, please check with that OnRamps high school teacher.

**What should we do if my child struggles in an OnRamps course?**

As with all Mesquite ISD courses, your child should first visit with his/her high school teacher to develop a plan to identify and address concerns. The high school teacher is the best resource for your child to determine and implement any interventions that may be needed. OnRamps courses seek to develop student self-advocacy and their ability to seek teacher assistance when needed. It is also the responsibility of the students to implement the plan created in collaboration with the high school teacher. As the parent, please encourage and support your student as he/she develops the skills necessary to navigate this process. This skill set will be critical to your child’s success in college.

**How do students earn college credit by taking an OnRamps course in MISD?**

During the fall semester of OnRamps courses, students earn grades for both the high school and college courses. Students with a passing average in the college course (60% or higher) at the end of the fall semester are eligible to earn college credit at the end of the school year. Students who do not meet the eligibility requirement at the end of fall semester, remain in the course and continue to receive instruction and grades for both courses. All students with a passing average in the high school course (70% or above) will receive high school credit and a high school grade for the course.

Students who are eligible for college credit in the spring semester will earn two grades: one from their high school teacher for the high school course and a separate grade by their UT course instructor for the college course. Students who are successful in the college course can elect to have the college grade recorded on a University of Texas transcript.

**What is the cost of Dual Enrollment through UT Austin with OnRamps?**

At this time, there is no cost to Mesquite ISD students as OnRamps is funded by Texas Legislative grant.

**Do OnRamps students need to pass the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) test required by the Texas Legislature in order to take courses at public colleges and universities in the state of Texas?**

The TSI test is not required for any student who meets the OnRamps eligibility requirements.

**How are the student grades calculated in an OnRamps course?**

High School Grade: Mesquite ISD teachers follow the district grading guidelines in designing the number and type of the high school course assignments. They also follow the Grading Guidelines related to reassessments and grade weights. A student’s current high school average may be found in Skyward.

Please note that some assignments in the OnRamps college grade may or may not be included in the high school grade. Some assignments count only for the high school while others may only count towards the OnRamps college grade.

**How many exams will be given each semester?**

The number of exams or papers each semester varies by course and is described in each UT OnRamps course syllabus. For the high school course, Mesquite ISD teachers follow the Mesquite ISD Grading Guidelines as to the number of summative assessments (tests and papers) and formative assessment required. Please note that the high school teachers determine how each assignment will be counted toward the high school grade. (For example, an OnRamps “quiz” may count as a test grade in the high school course and is eligible for retesting if needed for the high school grade average).

**Can students see what they missed on a quiz or a test?**

Yes, students can see what they have missed on quizzes and tests. However, students will not be able to see what they missed on a test until the OnRamps course testing window has closed for all students across the state of Texas for that particular quiz or test. Teachers save student work for each test to ensure students can see which questions they answered correctly or incorrectly.

**Can students redo their work for a higher grade?**

All policies related to the college grade are specified in the college course syllabus, including any reassessment or replacement of low grades. For the high school grade, students are eligible to redo summative assessments for the high school grade per the MISD Grading Guidelines.

**Do teachers see the tests ahead of time?**

Teachers do not see the college tests that will be given to students ahead of time. Teachers instruct the course with a curriculum that is tightly aligned to the assessments provided to students. In order to ensure the integrity of the tests given to OnRamps students across the state of Texas, OnRamps teachers do not see the college tests in advance.

**How does a parent gain access to a student’s grade on the UT OnRamps side of the course?**

The University of Texas has provided OnRamps students with a parent records release form in order to comply with federal educational privacy laws. Submission on this completed form will allow the OnRamps college instructor at the University of Texas to discuss the college grade with someone other than the student. Mesquite ISD teachers will discuss OnRamps high school grades with parents; however, they cannot discuss any college academic information.

**What grade does my student need to make in the first semester of the college course in order to be eligible for the UT credit?**

A student must earn a college grade of 60% or higher as reported in Skyward student portal in order to be eligible for the UT credit.

**What if my student does not meet the eligibility requirements for the opportunity to earn college credit?**

If your student does not meet the eligibility requirements to enroll in the spring college course, or enrolls in and then later chooses to drop the college course, your student will remain enrolled in the high school course during the spring semester with the opportunity to earn high school credit. Your student will still benefit from the opportunity to continue to develop the academic habits expected in a college course. These students will retain the additional grade points associated with Pre-AP and Dual Credit courses.

**If my student is eligible to earn college credit, what options are available regarding college credit from the University of Texas at Austin?**

Your student may elect to either enroll in the spring college course for a letter grade or take the course with a pass/fail option.

* If your student takes the course for a letter grade, the letter grade they earn for the college course will appear on his or her UT college transcript.
* If your student takes the class pass/fail, the transcript will not show a letter grade but only that the student passed or failed the class. A letter of a D or better (60%) is considered passing for the college course.

For more information follow up with your student’s high school teacher or counselor if you have additional questions.