

# Dual Credit Update from McHenry County College



Monday, April 10, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

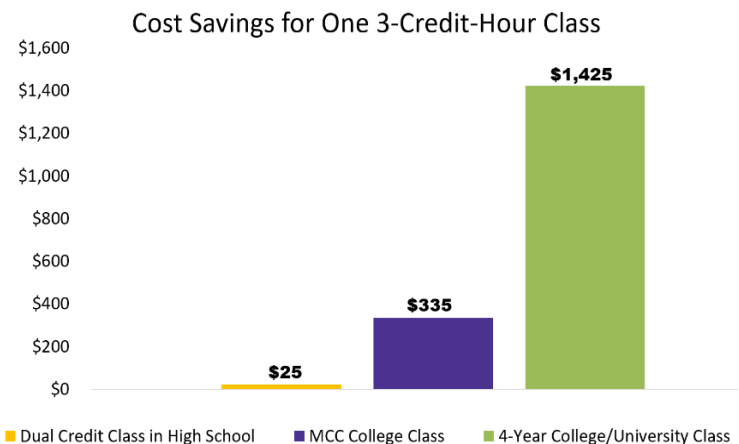
McHenry County College (MCC) is a proud partner with all 14 of our district high schools, offering a variety of dual credit opportunities, where students earn both high school and college credit for the same class at once. While university tuition continues to rise, each college credit your high school student earns will reduce the financial burden that they (and you) carry in achieving their college degree.

Since 2015, MCC has seen participation in dual credit classes increase, from over 700 students at its start, to nearly 5,000 students this past year. Currently, 40% of all high school students across our county have taken advantage of dual credit coursework.

The projected savings for families in our community are simply staggering. This past year, our district high school students enrolled in over 26,000 dual credits. These credits, if completed as a college student at MCC, would have cost students and their families almost \$3 million in tuition, even though MCC offers nearly the lowest tuition in the state. If these credits were completed at a public university in Illinois, the cost would soar to more than \$13 million, based on average university tuition rates.

These dual college course credits are granted by McHenry County College, and we must provide the same content and rigor as our college courses. They also must align with state standards established by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) for offering dual credit coursework, as well as the standard established by the College's accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

To meet these high standards and manage the growing volume of student participation, the time and effort of our faculty, department chairs, program deans, and senior college administrators has dramatically increased. Therefore, MCC will begin charging a per-course fee of \$25, beginning in Fall 2023. This still represents a savings of 94% from what you and your student would pay for the same course at MCC if not for dual credit, and a savings of 98% from what you would pay for the same course at a public university in Illinois. While still a tremendous value, MCC will work with each high school to secure resources for those students and their families who might find this new fee to be a financial hardship.



Our data shows that high school students who take any dual credit course do better in their first semester at MCC. We will continue to partner with our great high school instructors to ensure that the quality and rigor of these courses prepare your student for success. Ultimately, our goal is to continue working closely with all of our district high schools to make college affordable, help your high school student get a head start on the college dream, and create a plan that will help all students in our community be successful.

Sincerely,

Clint Gabbard, Ph.D.  
President, McHenry County College

## Why Take College Classes in High School?

- Earn college credits early
- Save money
- Experience college-level coursework
- Stand out from the crowd on college applications