COURSE OPTIONS – HIGH SCHOOL

DUAL CREDIT COURSES

The dual credit program allows students in North Dakota's schools to take courses offered by an approved post-secondary institution for **BOTH** high school and post-secondary credit. The program provides learners with a greater variety of class offerings and the opportunity to pursue more challenging course work.

A course that counts toward both high school and college credit must meet specified standards and contributes to a learner's full time status while allowing both high school credit and college credit simultaneously.

Credit may be awarded to meet a general education degree requirement at a college or university OR as an elective.

Benefits of Dual Credit Program

- Increases post-secondary enrollment
- Builds student confidence & momentum
- Strengthens pathways to college programs

Participation

- Courses must be approved into our district program of studies.
- Some courses require students to complete an Accuplacer or placement testing to ensure they have the skills to enter the course.
- Educators must be approved to teach the course. The course must be taught in alignment to the partnership institution.
- Students must register both at the high school and at the college.
- Semester calendars rarely align, adding a challenge to final grades.
- Courses rarely meet specific degree seeking requirements.
- Permission to enroll: Learners must complete the online application to the higher education institution and required documentation to the NDUS system.
- Credit: high school credit is awarded per dual credit course. The law does not specify the number of credits a learner may earn.
- Cost: The learner is responsible for all costs related to receiving post-secondary credit. Costs include tuition, fees, textbooks, materials, equipment, and other necessary charges related to receiving post-secondary credit, such as transportation.
- Extracurricular Activities: Enrollment in dual credit courses does not reduce a learner's eligibility to participate in high school extracurricular activities.
- Transferring Post-Secondary Credits: Transferring post-secondary credits to another institution will depend on the new institution; however, credit earned at regionally accredited institutions will generally transfer.
- Withdrawal or Failure: The learner who withdraws from a course must inform the post- secondary institution and the high school right away. Learners must follow established post- secondary college procedure when withdrawing from or failing a course.
- Dual credit courses are not weighted for grade-point average.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

The College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Program is an opportunity for learners to pursue college-level studies while still in secondary school and to receive advanced placement credit. By challenging and stimulating learners, the AP program provides access to high quality education by accelerating learning, achievement, and enhancing both high school and college programs.

A course that counts toward high school credit at an advanced status must meet specified standards, and contributes to a learner's full time status while providing high school credit with a weighted GPA.

Benefits of Advanced Placement Classes

The AP Program benefits learners in many different ways:

- Learners may receive college credit or placement for satisfactory test scores.
- Learners discover how to manage their time while dealing with college level work.
- Learners improve their chances of being accepted by the college of their choice.
- AP courses encourage critical and creative thought and fine tunes analytical skills.
- Learners may be granted sophomore standing in college.
- Learners study material in greater depth and develop independent study skills.
- Advanced Placement Courses offered by West Fargo Public Schools

Details to Know

- A passing AP exam score can count toward college requirements. Completion of the course itself does not.
- Courses must be approved into our district program of studies.
- Students may elect to enroll but are advised to have adequate skills in the field.
- Weighted high school GPA scale: A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2

COLLEGE (POST SECONDARY)

See the handbook page for College Post Secondary & Flexible Scheduling

Benefits of Early Entrance Program

- Increases post-secondary enrollment
- Builds student confidence & momentum
- Strengthens pathways to college programs

Details to Know

- Students must complete an early entry application for approval.
- Some courses require students to complete an Accuplacer or placement testing to ensure they have the skills to enter the course.
- Semester calendars may not align; students must be responsible for communicating progress.
- Students must register through the college or university.

VIRTUAL PROGRAM

See the website for information on our virtual program.
https://www.west-fargo.k12.nd.us/teaching-learning/virtual-academy

The statements in this document are intended to provide guidance for daily procedures and practices in order to maintain order, efficiency, and continuity amongst our schools.