

Why wait to graduate from high school to start earning college credit?

Consider Dual Enrollment

What is Dual Enrollment?

Dual enrollment is a program that allows high school students (juniors and seniors) to enroll in college courses for credit prior to high school graduation. College credits earned through dual enrollment can be simultaneously applied toward high school and college graduation and may be able to be transferred to other colleges or universities.

What are the benefits of dual enrollment?

The benefits of dual enrollment are numerous. First, dual enrollment allows students to transition from high school to college easily. Students can get a taste of what college is like without being completely overwhelmed with a whole new environment. They can see how their high school classes compare to college courses and how college professors differ from high school teachers. Dual enrollment also provides high school students with a wider range of courses so they have the opportunity to explore different fields before declaring a major. Another benefit is that a student may already be taking a class in the school that could be used as college credit. Also, students could enroll in a college course on a campus and actually experience the college course first hand. Finally, one of the biggest benefits of dual enrollment is that it allows students to accumulate credits prior to entering college so they will be able to graduate from college early or on time.

Who is eligible?

Any BVA junior or senior student with at least a 3.0 grade point average can be eligible. Post secondary schools and individual courses may have pre-requisites in addition. *ex: Westmoreland County Community College requires students to take an enrollment exam prior to course placement. A student must complete successfully complete BVA's Spanish IV before enrolling in the Spanish V course. See your course of studies book for details on each course.*

What colleges are involved?

Belle Vernon has collaborated with California University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh for classes that take place in the high school as well as Westmoreland County Community College and Penn State Fayette for courses that can be taken at their college campuses.
(List of courses on back of paper)

What are the financial obligations?

Students taking dual enrollment courses that are offered by BVA staff at the high school will pay the current fees of the post secondary school for that particular course. (ex: for 2009-2010 University of Pgh courses are \$175 and California University of Pa courses are: \$200)
For courses taken at the post-secondary site, students will pay for the course, fees and books. (ex: WCCC anticipated costs for 2009-10 are \$90/credit about \$270 for a 3 credit course plus \$55 for fees plus book expense). Penn State anticipated are \$223/credit about \$882 for a 3 credit course plus \$114 for fees plus book expense).

Possible Risks

Although dual enrollment is a great opportunity, there are considerations. Taking a post secondary course during high school begins your college transcript. Therefore, whether or not you do not do well in the course, the grade stays on your transcript when you get out of high school. It is important to be aware that it is up to any individual post secondary school to determine whether or not and how they will consider transfer credit. Therefore, if you plan to attend a different post secondary school than the one that you received dual enrollment credit through, the credits may or may not be transferred. It is the post secondary schools' decision as to how and if they will accept those credits.