

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, February 12, 2010

DECISION ITEM C: Policy on Dual Credit Opportunities in Indiana

Staff Recommendation

That the Commission for Higher Education approve the *Policy on Dual Credit Opportunities in Indiana*, dated February 3, 2010.

Background

In November 2005, the Commission for Higher Education approved a *Policy on Dual Credit Courses Taught in High Schools by High School Faculty*. The 2008 General Assembly passed legislation creating the Concurrent Enrollment Partnership, which looked at a variety of issues related to dual credit and concluded its work by July 1, 2009 due a to sunset provision in the legislation. At its July 28, 2009 meeting, the Indiana’s Education Roundtable passed a resolution stating that:

“The work of the Concurrent Enrollment Partnership will continue under the direction of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, in partnership with the Indiana Department of Education, to continue the study and implementation of dual credit in Indiana.”

In the spirit of this resolution, the Commission created the Indiana Dual Credit Advisory Council (see attachment for membership), which has been meeting monthly since September of last year. The Council has focused considerable attention on the Commission’s 2005 *Policy on Dual Credit*, and at its last meeting on January 26, 2010, reached a consensus on how the Commission’s policy might be refined. These changes are reflected in the attachment.

Supporting Document

- (1) *Policy on Dual Credit Opportunities in Indiana*, dated February 3, 2010
- (2) *Indiana Dual Credit Advisory Council*



Policy on Dual Credit Opportunities in Indiana

Updated February 4, 2010
(Proposed for CHE adoption on February 12, 2010)

Preamble

The State of Indiana regards the offering of rigorous dual credit courses as means for expanding access to postsecondary opportunities, encouraging students to pursue higher education, and increasing college completion rates.

For the purposes of this policy, dual credit courses are defined as courses taken by high school students that satisfy requirements for earning credits toward both a high school diploma and a college degree. Dual credit courses are taught by regular high school faculty or by regular or adjunct college faculty.

The principles outlined on the pages that follow are designed to promote greater clarity, quality, consistency, transparency and transferability of dual credit opportunities for the benefit of Hoosier students.

Basic Conditions

All dual credit courses shall meet the following conditions:

- 1) Postsecondary campuses shall take appropriate steps to ensure that dual credit courses are of identical quality and rigor to qualify for college credit; in this regard, postsecondary dual credit programs shall embody the following characteristics:
 - a) All secondary students taking dual credit courses shall meet the same academic prerequisites for taking those courses as apply to students taking the same courses on the postsecondary campus; beyond that, the secondary school and the postsecondary campus may jointly establish additional criteria for determining how students are selected into dual credit courses;
 - b) Course syllabi used for dual credit courses in liberal arts¹, professional, and career/ technical disciplines shall be identical to course syllabi used in the same courses taught on the postsecondary campus, including class assignments, laboratory experiments, examinations; and textbooks shall be comparable;
 - c) Student learning outcomes expected for dual credit courses in liberal arts, professional, and career/technical disciplines shall be the same as student learning outcomes expected for the same courses taught on the postsecondary campus;

¹ The term "liberal arts" includes English language and literature, foreign languages, history, the life sciences, mathematics, philosophy and religion, the physical sciences (such as chemistry, physics, and geology), psychology, the social sciences (such as economics, political science, and sociology), and the visual and performing arts.

- d) An academic unit on the postsecondary campus shall be responsible for monitoring, throughout the school year, the delivery and quality of dual credit instruction; such monitoring shall include visits to the secondary class;
 - e) The secondary school and academic unit on the postsecondary campus shall work together to identify instructors of dual credit courses based on criteria established by the postsecondary institution. The postsecondary campus shall approve the individuals who will teach the dual credit courses in the secondary school, but the school corporation shall be responsible for hiring and compensating this personnel;
 - f) Approved instructors of dual credit courses shall have credentials consistent with the credentials required for on-campus faculty or a development plan approved by the postsecondary institution to satisfy this requirement;
 - g) The academic unit on the postsecondary campus shall be responsible for ensuring that professional development opportunities are available and communicated to secondary faculty, who are teaching dual credit courses;
 - h) The postsecondary campus shall establish a mechanism for evaluating and documenting, on a regular basis, the performance of students, who complete dual credit courses; and
- 2) Postsecondary institutions shall generate transcripts for all students, who enroll in dual credit courses.
- 3) All postsecondary institutions and campuses offering dual credit courses in liberal arts, professional, or career-technical disciplines shall:
- a) Maintain compliance with the Commission for Higher Education's (CHE) dual credit policy;
 - b) Demonstrate adherence to the standards advocated by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships to the satisfaction of CHE;
 - c) Demonstrate ongoing adherence to this policy and NACEP standards by submitting to CHE the results from regular self-audits;
 - d) Be subject to state reviews conducted on a periodic (and as-needed) basis by a standing subcommittee of CHE's Statewide Transfer and Articulation Committee (STAC).
- 4) Since a dual credit course in a liberal arts, professional, or career/technical discipline is deemed to be academically equivalent to the same course taught on-campus by the institution offering the course (see #1 above), the dual credit course shall, consistent with the transfer policies developed by CHE's Statewide Transfer and Articulation Committee (STAC):
- a) Apply toward meeting the degree requirements of the institution offering the course, in the same way as the on-campus course; and
 - b) Transfer to the other public postsecondary institutions in the state, in the same way as the on-campus course.
- 6) Wherever possible, the course syllabi for dual credit courses in the liberal arts shall also prepare students for successfully passing Advanced Placement (AP) examinations in the same academic area.

- 7) The Commission for Higher Education, Department of Education and the postsecondary institutions, shall ensure greater statewide consistency and transparency of the corresponding exam scores students must demonstrate in order to earn college credit for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate coursework.
- 8) The Commission for Higher Education, in partnership with the Department of Education, postsecondary institutions and local school corporations, shall prioritize state funding, expand accessibility, and build instructional capacity for student dual credit, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate opportunities in the following 10 core subject areas: American Government, American History, Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, Economics, English Composition, Physics, Psychology and World Languages.



Indiana Department of Education
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS



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HIGHER EDUCATION

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- Dan Clark, Deputy Executive Director, Indiana State Teachers Association
- Christopher Guidry, Director of Career & Technical Education, Department of Workforce Development
- David Dresslar, Executive Director, Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL)
- Mary Ellen Hamer, Director of Strategic Communications & Outreach, Independent Colleges of Indiana

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- Scott Jenkins, Governor's Office & Jen Oliver, CELL (Other Organizations)