



INDIANA COMMISSION for
HIGHER EDUCATION

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Dual Credit Instructors Now Have Until 2025 to Meet Credential Requirements

State applauds Higher Learning Commission in decision to extend deadline

(INDIANAPOLIS) – Indiana teachers and faculty now have two additional years to complete requirements so they can continue teaching dual credit courses.

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a regional college accreditor, announced that it will extend the previous deadline from Sept. 1, 2023 to Sept. 1, 2025 to allow more time for states and institutions to ensure dual credit instructors have the necessary credentials to teach dual credit. HLC requires anyone teaching dual credit to hold a master's degree and complete at least 18 credit hours of coursework in the content area in which they teach.

"It is welcome news that Indiana's corps of dedicated dual credit instructors will have more time to complete these requirements," said [Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education](#) Chris Lowery. "Providing quality dual credit opportunities for Hoosier students is vital to saving Hoosier families millions of dollars in tuition, increasing students' odds of attending college, and improving their likelihood for completion. We are committed to continuing to work closely with the Indiana Department of Education and other partners to help Indiana's teachers earn the credentials they need."

Nearly two-thirds of Hoosier high school students earn some form of dual credit while in high school, including Advanced Placement, as well as the Indiana College Core, which provides an avenue for students to earn up to a full year of general education courses while in high school. [Students who earn early college credit are shown](#) to be more likely to go to college and succeed. More than 90 percent of 2020 high school graduates who earned the Indiana College Core went to college, compared with the statewide college-going rate of 53 percent.

"We know that students who earn dual credits in high school are more likely to complete postsecondary credentials and even graduate early, saving them time and money. We also know that this increased educational attainment leads to a better quality of life, greater health, expanded employment opportunities and increased wages, making the expansion of dual credit essential to ensuring every child has access to the quality education they need to enjoy lifelong success," said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. "This federally-allowed extension will allow more Indiana educators to obtain the necessary credentials to teach dual credit and, ultimately, support our students as they work towards their post-graduation goals, whether that includes employment, enrollment, or enlistment leading to service."

This is the second extension the HLC Board of Trustees has approved, after an extension announced in 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19. Indiana's Dual Credit Advisory Council analyzed dual credit policies and explored potential solutions to maintain dual credit options for Hoosier students when the policy change was first announced in 2015. Since that time, Indiana has employed numerous strategies to ensure dual credit instructors meet the HLC guidelines and the Commission, along with the Indiana Department of Education and the state's higher education institutions have taken steps to increase the number of dual credit instructors who meet the requirements.

Indiana's dual credit teachers have free options to gain credentials through the [Teach Dual Credit](#) and [STEM Teach](#) initiatives, supported by the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) at the University of Indianapolis, the Independent Colleges of Indiana, the Commission and INvestEd.

These rules affect about 1,500 current dual credit teachers in Indiana, ranging from those needing a few credits in a subject area to those without master's degrees. Career and Technical Education (CTE) educators are not impacted by the HLC requirements.

Indiana has previously been recognized for instructor eligibility and quality by the HLC.

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About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education plans, coordinates and defines Indiana's postsecondary education system to align higher learning with the needs of students and the state. The Commission also administers Indiana's financial aid programs, including the [21st Century Scholars](#) early college promise scholarship, which celebrated 30 years in 2020. Learn more about the Commission's [Reaching Higher in a State of Change](#) strategic plan at www.in.gov/che.