

Dual Enrollment FAQ's

Student

1. What is Dual Enrollment?

Dual Enrollment allows high school students to take college-level courses and earn both high school and college credit at the same time. You are considered a “special admit” student for the community college.

2. Who is eligible and how many units can I take?

Students 9-12 are eligible to take courses. You must meet the prerequisites for the college course, you obtain approval from your high school (and parent/guardian) and the college. For CCAP partnerships, California Education Code § 76004 allows a limit of up to 15 units per term for a “special part-time student.”

3. Will I pay Tuition?

No, tuition is covered by the State of California as long as you stay within the credit limit. Textbooks are provided by the school district.

4. Will the credit earned, transfer?

Yes, for the most part, the credits easily transfer within the state of California. Some exceptions are private schools. You must reach out to the school and understand their dual enrollment transfer policy.

5. How will this affect my high school GPA and schedule?

Because you're taking college-level coursework, expectations (workload, rigor) may be higher; you'll need to manage your schedule carefully. By signing up for a college course, you are starting a college transcript.

6. What about academic readiness and support services?

You should be prepared for college-level work in terms of maturity, time-management, study habits. COD has resources available for students such as tutoring, library and counseling. Please visit our website here.

7. What happens if I struggle or want to drop a course?

Dropping or withdrawing can affect your high school and college records; it may show on your college transcript. Be sure you understand deadlines for withdrawal at the college. Also note that poor performance could affect your college admissions.

8. Will I be a high school student or a college student?

You will remain enrolled in high school and be a high school student, but you will also function as a college student. Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment will need to contact COD on their own if they have any questions related to COD including their class and account. You should not have your parents reach out to COD on your behalf. We are limited in what we can say to parents of college students, regardless of age.

PARENT FAQs

1. What are the advantages of dual enrollment for my child in California?

Your child may gain access to college-level coursework, earn college credits "early", potentially lower college costs, develop college readiness, and finish college sooner. California's strategic plan for community colleges envisions students completing 12 college units during high school.

2. How do I know if my child is ready for dual enrollment?

Consider the following: good academic standing, readiness for independent study, maturity, ability to handle college schedule demands.

3. Are there costs or fees?

Tuition/enrollment fees may be waived under CCAP or special admission status as long as students stay within their credit limit.

4. What should I understand about credit transfer and high school graduation?

Make sure the dual enrollment course counts for both high school graduation requirements *and* are transferable college credit. Work with your student on figuring out where they want to go to college after high school and research the institution's transfer policy for dual enrollment.

5. Will my child still be a "regular" high school student?

Yes, they remain enrolled in high school. But they will also function as college students. Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment will need to contact COD on their own if they have any questions related to COD including their class and account. Parents should not reach out to COD on behalf of their student. Please help your students learn to advocate for themselves. We are limited in what we can say to parents of college students, regardless of age.

6. How can I stay informed about my child's progress?

Because college courses follow college policies (including FERPA – privacy law for college students), you may need your child's authorization to receive course information. Encourage your child to keep you in the loop, meet regularly with their high school counselor, and monitor both high school and college transcripts.

7. What happens if my child fails a dual enrollment course?

That college grade becomes part of their college transcript—it may affect future admissions, financial aid eligibility, or GPA calculation. Under California's framework goal, dual enrollment is intended to help readiness, not penalize. But poor performance still carries consequences.

8. What should I ask when evaluating a dual enrollment offer?

- Does the high school/college partnership exist, and is it under CCAP or another agreement?
- Will the course count for high school graduation AND college transfer?
- What are the deadlines for registration, drop, withdrawal, etc.?
- Is there academic support (tutoring, counseling)?
- How will this affect my child's schedule, extracurriculars, and workload?