



News Release

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Popularity of Dual Credit Courses Grows Quickly

ABERDEEN, S.D. – After the first full year of Gov. Dennis Daugaard’s initiative to financially support college-level dual credit courses taken by high school juniors and seniors, enrollment in the courses has grown significantly.

A report this week to the South Dakota Board of Regents showed course enrollments grew by 33 percent from last spring to this fall, while the student headcount in dual credit courses also increased by 25 percent. This comes on top of an already-strong 44 percent course enrollment growth between the fall and spring semesters last year.

Dual credit programs enable eligible high school students to take a college-level course and, upon successful completion, receive both high school and college credit. The state supports high school students in the program at the reduced rate of \$40 per credit hour. It is open to students enrolling at all six public universities and four technical institutes in South Dakota.

“The popularity of this program is proven, with the significant growth in enrollments reported semester over semester,” said Paul Turman, the regents’ system vice president for academic affairs. “It is a win-win for many students and their families. They can complete some of their required general education courses before arriving at college, all with significant cost savings to them.”

Within the public university system, 1,510 students enrolled in 2,173 courses this fall. The University of South Dakota posted the most course enrollments at 636, followed by South Dakota State University at 499 and Northern State University at 429. Black Hills State University had 381 course enrollments, with Dakota State University reporting 148 and South Dakota School of Mines & Technology 80.

The most popular course offering for dual credit students this fall is College Algebra, followed by English Composition I, Introduction to Psychology, Fundamentals of Speech, and United States History I.