



News Release

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High School Dual Credit Courses Off to Strong Start

VERMILLION, S.D. – There is strong interest in a state-supported dual credit program that helps high school students get an affordable jump start on their college education. Officials told the South Dakota Board of Regents Wednesday that the reduced-tuition High School Dual Credit Program saw enrollments increase by 44 percent between the fall and spring semesters.

The program supports high school students who take college-level courses for both high school and college credit at the reduced rate of \$40 per credit hour. The program is available at all six public universities and four technical institutes in South Dakota.

Last fall, the first semester that the reduced tuition rate was available, 1,077 students enrolled in dual-credit coursework. Data show that 105 public school districts, eight private schools, one tribal school, and 14 students who are home schooled participated in the dual-credit program last fall. Course enrollments this spring were up by 44 percent; program headcount numbers increased by 41 percent to 1,203.

A majority of the dual-enrolled students, 76 percent, are taking public university courses and Board of Regents' institutions were responsible for 91 percent of the general education credits taken through the program. The most popular course offerings have been Fundamentals of Speech, General Psychology, College Algebra, Composition I, and Introduction to Sociology.

“Our mission with this program in the regental system has been to encourage students to enroll in general education coursework that will count toward degree requirements when they attend four-year institutions upon high school graduation,” said Paul Turman, the regents’ system vice president for academic affairs. “Taking the right courses and earning credit that applies is critical for students and families for this program to help improve affordability in South Dakota,” he said.