

What are dual credit programs?

Dual credit programs are ministry-approved programs that allow students, while they are still in secondary school, to take college or apprenticeship courses that count towards both the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree, or an apprenticeship certification. Students may earn up to four optional credits through college-delivered courses.

How do dual credit programs benefit students?

Participating in dual credit programs enables students to:

- complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma;
- have an experience that will help them make a successful transition to college or an apprenticeship program;
- increase their awareness of the various college and apprenticeship pathways available to them;
- gain greater insight into education and career planning decisions.

How are dual credits considered in the application process?

Applicants with dual credit courses will not be given admission advantage over applicants without dual credits. Marks from dual credit courses may be used in the calculation of admission averages, and will be treated as electives if they are part of the six highest senior level marks used in an average calculation.

After I finish high school and start a college program, will I get recognition for dual credits I have already successfully completed? What steps will I have to take?

Exemption policies, procedures and application deadlines vary from college to college.

Depending on the type of college course credit earned, credits may or may not be applicable for the program you plan to pursue. For some types of courses, such as General Education courses, exemption/transfer credit is often easier to gain than it is for more program-specific courses that may only count towards a specific program at a specific college. Please inquire with the Registrar's Office at the college you plan to attend for more specific information.

If you plan to attend the same college where you earned your dual credit, and the course you took is part of the program you now plan to pursue, it's likely that you can be granted transfer credit in or exemption from that course after you receive and accept an offer of admission to the program.

If the course you took is not part of the program you now plan to pursue, it's possible that the credit can be used as an elective towards your college certificate, diploma or degree.

In both cases, it will be important to follow the processes of the college you plan to attend. You may be asked to produce your college record as well as the course outline for the dual credit college course that you completed. Please contact the Registrar's Office at the college of your choice for further information.

If you plan to attend a different college from the one where you earned your dual credit, it may be possible to transfer that credit towards a certificate, diploma or degree at the college you now plan to attend. All Ontario colleges are bound by the Mobility and Transferability Protocol for College-to-College Transfer (November 2003) with respect to recognizing credits earned in other colleges. This protocol also covers the transferability of dual credit courses.

Whether or not you will be granted exemption/transfer credit will depend on how closely the course you took matches a required or elective course at your new college. Students should contact the college they plan to attend to discuss possible credit transfer and to find out what processes they must follow in order to have their credit recognized.