

SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL DUAL ENROLLMENT GUIDE

EXPLORE PATHWAYS. COMPARE OPPORTUNITIES.

LEARN HOW TO EARN COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND
CHOOSE COURSES THAT MOVE YOU TOWARD YOUR FUTURE.



WHAT'S INSIDE

1. Understanding Dual Enrollment (*What it is & How it Works*)
2. Why Choose Dual Enrollment?
3. Dual Enrollment vs. Advanced Placement (AP): Key Differences
4. Are You Ready for Dual Enrollment?
5. Choosing the Right Dual Enrollment Courses
6. Will My Credits Transfer and Count
7. How Do I Enroll in Dual Enrollment Courses?
8. How Can I Be Successful in Dual Enrollment?



1. UNDERSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL DUAL ENROLLMENT WHAT IT IS & HOW IT WORKS

Dual enrollment allows high school students to earn both high school and college credit by successfully completing a real college course before graduating from high school. Whether you're exploring careers, getting a head start on college, or reducing the cost of earning a degree, dual enrollment can help you reach your goals.

WHAT DUAL ENROLLMENT IS:

- A real college course taken while you're still in high school
- Earns both high school and college credit
- Follows the same curriculum, grading standards, and expectations as any college course
- Appears on your official high school and college transcript

THREE WAYS TO TAKE DUAL ENROLLMENT:

South Dakota offers three primary ways to earn dual enrollment credit. Each provide the opportunity to earn college credit while you're still in high school. The primary differences are who teaches the course, where it's offered, eligibility requirements, and tuition.

1 HIGH SCHOOL DUAL CREDIT

- Taught by: College faculty
- Location: Online or in person
- Cost: Reduced tuition
- Result: Earn college credit

2 CONCURRENT CREDIT

- Taught by: Approved high school instructors
- Location: At at your high school
- Cost: Even lower tuition
- Result: Earn college credit

3 NON-DEGREE SEEKING ADMISSION

- Taught by: College faculty
- Location: Online or in person
- Cost: Full tuition rate
- Result: Earn high school and college credit
- Best for: Students who want a course not available through High School Dual Credit or who don't meet reduced tuition eligibility requirements

2. WHY CHOOSE DUAL ENROLLMENT SAVE MONEY. GET AHEAD. BUILD CONFIDENCE.

SAVE MONEY

REDUCE THE COST OF COLLEGE.

- Pay significantly reduced tuition for eligible dual enrollment courses
- Earn college credits before graduating from high school
- Potentially reduce the total cost and time toward earning your degree

GET AHEAD

GET A HEAD START ON COLLEGE.

- Complete college credits before graduating high school
- Lighten your future college course load
- Create flexibility for internships, study abroad, double majors, or graduating sooner

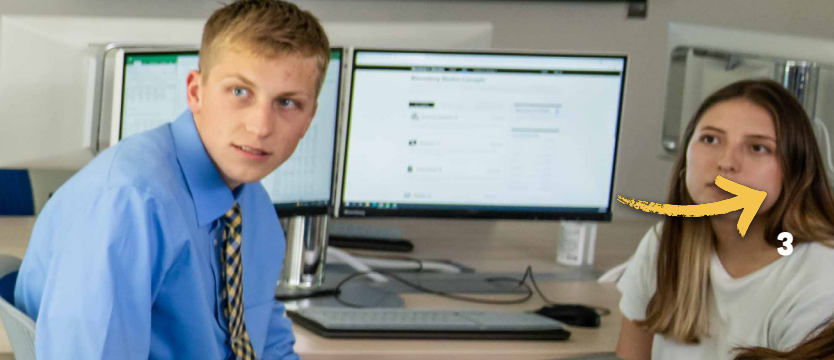
BUILD CONFIDENCE

EXPERIENCE COLLEGE WHILE YOU STILL HAVE SUPPORT.

- Learn what college courses are really like.
- Develop college-level study and time management skills.
- Build confidence before attending college full-time.

REMEMBER, ONCE YOU ENROLL, YOU BECOME A COLLEGE STUDENT. THAT MEANS:

- College expectations and grading standards apply.
- Your grade becomes part of your permanent college transcript.
- Be sure you're ready to commit before enrolling.



3. DUAL ENROLLMENT VS. ADVANCED PLACEMENT

BOTH CAN HELP YOU EARN COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL—BUT THEY WORK DIFFERENTLY.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

- Earn college credit by successfully completing the course
- Credit is recorded on an official college transcript when you complete the course
- No additional exam is required to earn college credit

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

- Earn college credit based on your (optional) AP exam score
- Credit depends on the college's AP policy
- A single AP exam determines whether credit is awarded

THE KEY DIFFERENCE

- **Dual Enrollment:** You earn college credit by completing an actual college course. Your course and grade are recorded on your college transcript.
- **Advanced Placement:** Whether you receive college credit depends on your AP exam score and the college you later attend.

Neither option is better. Both provide valuable opportunities to earn college credit. The best choice depends on your goals, learning style, and the opportunities available at your school.

4. ARE YOU READY FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT?

COLLEGE COURSEWORK REQUIRES RESPONSIBILITY, TIME MANAGEMENT, AND COMMITMENT. USE THIS CHECKLIST TO DECIDE WHETHER YOU'RE READY.

ASK YOURSELF...

- ☐ I manage my time without frequent reminders.
- ☐ I meet deadlines.
- ☐ I ask for help when I need it.
- ☐ I can balance school with other commitments.
- ☐ I enjoy learning independently.
- ☐ I understand my grade becomes part of my permanent college transcript and college GPA.

BEFORE YOU ENROLL, REMEMBER:

- College expectations are the same as any other college class.
- Withdrawing or failing a course will affect your college transcript and future dual enrollment opportunities.
- College instructors expect students to take responsibility for their learning.

It's okay if the answer is "not yet." Dual enrollment is an opportunity—not a requirement.

► WATCH: ARE YOU READY FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT?

**Want to learn more?
Visit OurDakotaDreams.com for videos, resources and more!**



5. ENROLLMENT COURSES CHOOSING THE RIGHT DUAL

PLAN AHEAD TO CHOOSE COURSES THAT SUPPORT YOUR COLLEGE AND CAREER GOALS.

Not every college course applies to every degree program in the same way. Planning ahead can help you choose dual enrollment courses that save time, save money, and move you closer to your college and career goals.

BEFORE YOU CHOOSE A COURSE...

-  What degree, career pathway, or field of study am I considering?
-  Which colleges or training programs am I considering?
-  Are there recommended or required general education courses for the program?
-  Does this course apply to my intended major or program of study?
-  Could this course help me explore an area of interest before choosing a major?

If you're still exploring your options, general education courses are often a great place to start. They commonly apply to many degree programs and transfer well across South Dakota's public universities and beyond.

COMMON GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT AREAS

Known as the System General Education Requirements (SGRs) at South Dakota's public universities.

- **Goal 1: Written Communication** (6 credits) Common dual enrollment course: English Composition
- **Goal 2: Oral Communication** (3 credits) Common dual enrollment course: Fundamentals of Speech Communication
- **Goal 3: Social Sciences** (6 credits, one of which must meet a Civics course) Common dual enrollment courses: Psychology, Sociology, Economics, History
- **Goal 4: Arts and Humanities** (6 credits) Common dual enrollment courses: Literature, Philosophy, Fine Arts, Foreign Language
- **Goal 5: Mathematics** (3 credits) Common dual enrollment courses: Mathematical Reasoning, College Algebra, Statistics
- **Goal 6: Natural Sciences** (6 credits) Common dual credit courses: Biology, Chemistry, or other lab sciences

MATH REQUIREMENTS VARY BY DEGREE PROGRAM

Use the Math Pathways Advising Tools on OurDakotaDreams.com to explore which courses best align with your future goals.

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES ONE OF THE SMARTEST PLACES TO START

If you're still deciding on a major, general education courses are often one of the smartest dual enrollment choices. Because most college degrees require them, these courses commonly apply toward many different programs of study.

DID YOU KNOW?

General education courses often provide some of the greatest flexibility because they may apply to requirements across many different degree programs.

WHAT ARE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES?

General education courses are the foundational classes that most college students take, regardless of major. They build important skills in writing, communication, mathematics, science, social sciences, and the humanities.

Many dual enrollment courses satisfy these requirements, making them valuable credits that often apply toward your future degree.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA STUDENTS

South Dakota's public universities share a common set of general education requirements, called the System General Education Requirements (SGRs).

Because these requirements are shared across the public university system, many dual enrollment courses can apply toward degree requirements no matter which South Dakota public university you attend.

PLANNING AHEAD

If you already know what you want to study, talk with a college advisor about which dual enrollment courses best fit your future degree plans.



EXPLORE DEGREE PATHWAYS

FIND A PATH THAT MATCHES YOUR INTERESTS AND FUTURE GOALS

Degree Pathways recommend dual enrollment courses based on your academic interests and future goals. Whether you already have a career in mind or are still exploring your options, they can help you choose courses that support your plans after high school.

WHERE SHOULD I START?

You don't need to read every pathway. Start with the option that fits you best.

I'm Still Exploring My Options

- Start with College Foundations.
- You'll find general education courses that commonly apply toward many bachelor's degree programs and can help keep your future options open while you explore different majors.

I Know What I'm Interested In

- Go directly to the Degree Pathway that best matches your interests.
- Agriculture
- Architecture & Construction
- Business
- Digital Technology
- Health Sciences
- Engineering
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)
- Teacher Education



AN ADDED OPPORTUNITY: GATEWAY CERTIFICATES

Degree Pathways include coursework that may also help you earn a Board of Regents Gateway Certificate, an early college credential that recognizes your progress.

READY TO FIND YOUR PATH? →

See the next page to explore the Degree Pathways.

YOUR PATHWAYS START HERE

Explore Degree Pathways that match your interests and future goals. Each Pathway recommends dual enrollment courses to help you get a head start.

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER:

How your credits apply to your future degree depends on the program and college you choose. Always check with your advisor to make the most of your coursework.



COLLEGE FOUNDATIONS

A great place to start if you're still exploring your options. Complete general education courses that apply towards many degree programs and transfer well across South Dakota's public universities and beyond.



AGRICULTURE

Explore careers in agriculture, food systems, natural resources, and more.



HEALTH SCIENCES

Prepare for in-demand careers in healthcare, wellness, and patient care.



ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION

Design, build, and shape the world around us.



ENGINEERING

Solve problems, create solutions, and build a better future.



BUSINESS

Develop skills in leadership, management, marketing, and entrepreneurship.



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)

Explore the fields that drive innovation and discovery.



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Build skills in computing, software, cybersecurity, and more.



TEACHER EDUCATION

Take the first step towards inspiring and empowering the next generation.



DEGREE PATHWAY: COLLEGE FOUNDATIONS

Best for students who are... Exploring majors · Undecided about a career · Building a strong college foundation

RECOMMENDED COURSES: WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

- ENGL 101 – Composition

ORAL COMMUNICATION (CHOOSE ONE)

- CMST 101 – Foundations of Communication
- CMST 215 – Public Speaking
- CMST 222 – Argumentation and Debate

CIVICS & SOCIAL SCIENCES (CHOOSE ONE)

- CIV 100 – American Civics +Civics
- HIST 151 – U.S. History I +Civics
- HIST 152 – U.S. History II +Civics
- POLS 100 – American Government +Civics
- POLS 210 – State & Local Government +Civics

MATHEMATICS

- MATH 103 – Mathematical Reasoning or higher

GATEWAY CERTIFICATE OPPORTUNITY

Courses in this pathway also count toward the Gateway to Essential Workforce Skills certificate.



DEGREE PATHWAY: AGRICULTURE

Interested in... Agribusiness · Animal Science · Agronomy · Agricultural Education · Food Systems · Natural Resources · Precision Agriculture

RECOMMENDED COURSES: FOUNDATION COURSE

- AFES 203 – Global Food Systems

COMMUNICATION (CHOOSE ONE)

- ENGL 101 – Composition I
- CMST 101 – Foundations of Communication

AGRICULTURE ELECTIVES (CHOOSE TWO)

- AS 102 – Fundamentals of Animal Science
- PS 105 – Insects and Society
- NRM 110 – People and the Environment
- AFES 263 – History of U.S. and World Agriculture

GATEWAY CERTIFICATE OPPORTUNITY

Courses in this pathway also count toward the Gateway to Agriculture certificate.



DEGREE PATHWAY: ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION

Interested in... Architecture · Construction Management · Engineering Technology · Drafting · Design

RECOMMENDED COURSES: FOUNDATION COURSE (CHOOSE ONE)

- DSGN 100 – Survey of the Built Environment Prof.
- CEE 274 – Construction Engineering & Mgmt.

DESIGN & CREATIVITY (CHOOSE TWO)

- ART 111 – Drawing I
- ARTH 100 – Art Appreciation
- ARTH 211 – History of World Art I
- GDES 101 – Computer Graphics

MATHEMATICS (CHOOSE ONE)

- MATH 114 – College Algebra
- MATH 120 – Trigonometry

COMMUNICATION (CHOOSE ONE)

- ENGL 101 – Composition I
- CMST 101 – Foundations of Communication

GATEWAY CERTIFICATE OPPORTUNITY

Courses in this pathway also count toward the Gateway to Architecture and Construction certificate.

SYSTEM GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT (SGRS):

- Written Communication
- Oral Communication

- Social Sciences
- Arts and Humanities

- Mathematics
- Natural Sciences



DEGREE PATHWAY: BUSINESS

Interested in... Accounting · Finance · Marketing · Entrepreneurship · Management · Economics · Business Technology

RECOMMENDED COURSES:

FOUNDATION COURSE (CHOOSE ONE)

- ECON 201 – Principles of Microeconomics
- ECON 202 – Principles of Macroeconomics

BUSINESS FOUNDATIONS (CHOOSE ONE)

- BADM 101 – Survey of Business
- BADM/FIN 280 – Personal Finance

MATHEMATICS

- MATH 114 – College Algebra or higher

BUSINESS SKILLS & TECHNOLOGY (CHOOSE ONE)

- CSC/MIS 105 – Introduction to Computers
- CSC/MIS 205 – Advanced Computer Applications
- CSC 273 – Spreadsheet Data Analysis
- CMST 201 – Interpersonal Communication
- CMST 210 – Interpersonal Communication for Professionals

GATEWAY CERTIFICATE OPPORTUNITY

Courses in this pathway also count toward the Gateway to Business certificate.



DEGREE PATHWAY: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Interested in... Computer Science · Software Development · Cybersecurity · Artificial Intelligence · Information Technology · Data Science · Digital Systems

RECOMMENDED COURSES:

FOUNDATION COURSE (CHOOSE ONE)

- CSC 115 – Test-Driven Software Development
- CSC 150/L – Computer Science I
- CSC 155/L – Introduction to Computer Science
- CSC 170/L – Programming for Engineers & Scientists
- INFO 101 – Introduction to Informatics

DIGITAL SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY (CHOOSE ONE)

- CSC 101 – Digital Humanities
- CENG 142/L – Intro to Digital Systems w/Lab
- CSC 163 – Hardware, Virtualization, and Data Communication
- CSC 134 – Introduction to Cybersecurity
- CSC 147 – Survey of Artificial Intelligence

ETHICS & TECHNOLOGY (CHOOSE ONE)

- INFO/PHIL 102 – Data Ethics
- PHIL 200 – Introduction to Logic
- PHIL 220 – Introduction to Ethics
- SOC 285 – Society and Technology

MATHEMATICS (CHOOSE ONE)

- MATH 114 – College Algebra

GATEWAY CERTIFICATE OPPORTUNITY

Courses in this pathway also count toward the Gateway to Digital Technology certificate.



DEGREE PATHWAY: HEALTH SCIENCES

Interested in... Nursing · Pre-Medicine · Allied Health Professions · Healthcare Administration · Health Informatics · Public Health · Other Healthcare Careers

RECOMMENDED COURSES:

FOUNDATION COURSE (CHOOSE ONE)

- HIM 130 – Basic Medical Terminology
- BIOL/NURS 285 – Medical Terminology
- HSC 250 – Healthcare Terminology Clinical Setting

MATHEMATICS (CHOOSE ONE)

- MATH 103 – Mathematical Reasoning

HUMAN BEHAVIOR & ETHICS (CHOOSE ONE)

- PHIL 220 – Introduction to Ethics
- PSYC 101 – General Psychology
- EPSY/HDFS 210 – Lifespan Development

HEALTHCARE EXPLORATION (CHOOSE ONE)

- HSC 110 – The Interprofessional Health Team
- HSC/BIOL 262 – Health Careers Exploration
- HIM 150 – Intro to Digital Health Informatics & Information Management

GATEWAY CERTIFICATE OPPORTUNITY

Courses in this pathway also count toward the Gateway to Health Sciences certificate.



DEGREE PATHWAY: ENGINEERING

Interested in... Mechanical Engineering · Civil Engineering · Electrical Engineering · Agricultural Engineering · Biomedical Engineering · Other Engineering Fields

RECOMMENDED COURSES:

FOUNDATION COURSE (CHOOSE ONE)

- CHEM 112/112L – General Chemistry I w/Lab
- PHYS 207/207L – Fundamentals of Physics I w/Lab

ENGINEERING FOUNDATIONS (CHOOSE ONE)

- GES 101 – Intro to Engineering & Technology Professions
- GES 130L – Intro to Engineering and Science

GATEWAY CERTIFICATE OPPORTUNITY

Courses in this pathway also count toward the Gateway to Engineering certificate.



DEGREE PATHWAY: STEM

Interested in... Science · Technology · Engineering · Mathematics · Research · Healthcare

RECOMMENDED COURSES:

LABORATORY SCIENCE (CHOOSE ONE)

- BIOL 151/151L – General Biology I w/Lab
- CHEM 112/112L – General Chemistry I w/Lab
- PHYS 207/207L – Fundamentals of Physics I w/Lab
- PHYS 211/211L – University Physics I w/Lab

MATHEMATICS

- MATH 114 – College Algebra or higher

PROGRAMMING & COMPUTING (CHOOSE ONE)

- CSC 115 – Test-Driven Software Development
- CSC 150/L – Computer Science I
- CSC 170/L – Programming for Engineers & Scientists
- or a second science or math course from the above sections

GATEWAY CERTIFICATE OPPORTUNITY

Courses in this pathway also count toward the Gateway to STEM certificate.



DEGREE PATHWAY: TEACHER EDUCATION

Interested in... Teaching · Coaching · Early Childhood Education · Special Education · Educational Leadership · Working with Children and Youth

RECOMMENDED COURSES:

FOUNDATION COURSES

- EDFN 102 – Intro to Education
- SPED 100 – Intro to Persons with Exceptionalities

COMMUNICATION (CHOOSE ONE)

- ENGL 101 – Composition I
- CMST 101 – Foundations of Communication

UNDERSTANDING LEARNERS & COMMUNITIES (CHOOSE ONE)

- HIST 151 – United States History I +Civics
- HIST 152 – United States History II +Civics
- INED/AIS/NATV 211 – South Dakota American Indian Culture and Education

GATEWAY CERTIFICATE OPPORTUNITY

Courses in this pathway also count toward the Gateway to Teacher Education certificate.



SYSTEM GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT (SGRS):

- Written Communication
- Oral Communication

- Social Sciences
- Arts and Humanities

- Mathematics
- Natural Sciences

6. WILL MY DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDITS TRANSFER?

IN MOST CASES, YES.

Most dual enrollment credits transfer to other colleges and universities. The key is understanding how your credits apply toward your future degree.

WITHIN SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Students who earn dual enrollment credit through a South Dakota public university can expect:

- Credits to transfer seamlessly among South Dakota's public universities.
- General education courses (SGRs) often apply broadly across bachelor's degree programs.
- Degree Pathway courses may satisfy major requirements, electives, or general education requirements, depending on your degree program.

OUTSIDE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES (INCLUDING SOUTH DAKOTA'S TECHNICAL COLLEGES)

Many other colleges and universities accept dual enrollment coursework, but how your credits apply may vary. Your credits may:

- Transfer as a direct course equivalent.
- Transfer as elective credit.
- Require additional review.
- Apply differently depending on your intended major or degree program.

CHECK BEFORE YOU COMMIT

Use Transferology® to see how your dual enrollment credits will transfer to colleges and universities across the country.



PLANNING TIP

ALREADY HAVE A COLLEGE OR PROGRAM IN MIND?

- Check Transferology before registering for courses.
- Talk with your school counselor or college advisor.
- Prioritize general education and Degree Pathway courses whenever possible.

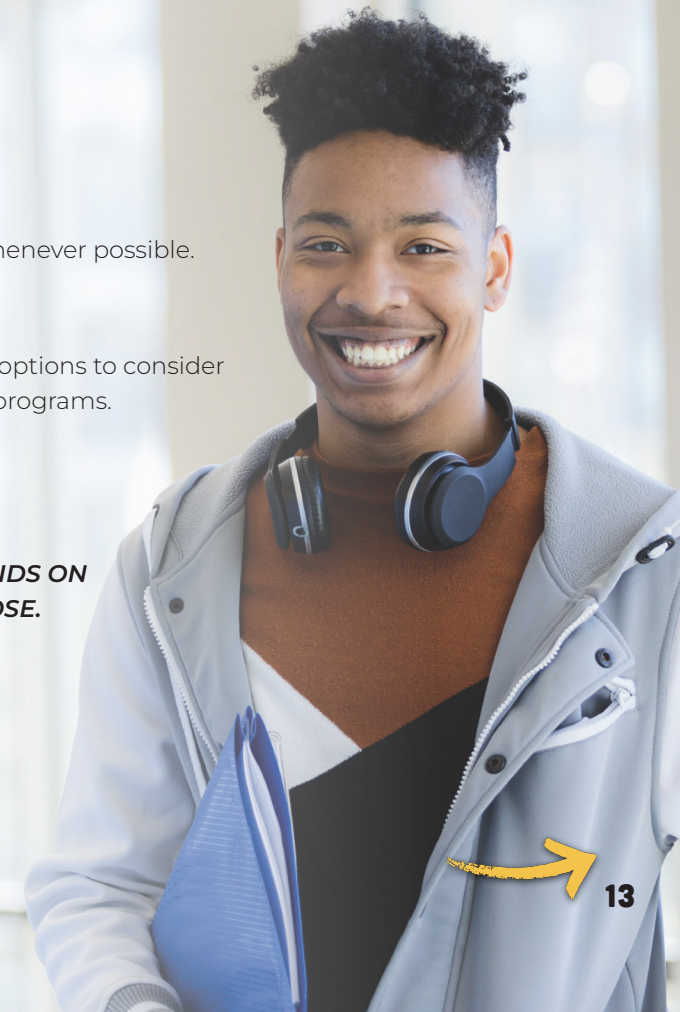
STILL DECIDING?

General education and Degree Pathway courses are often good options to consider because they commonly apply toward many bachelor's degree programs.

REMEMBER:

Most dual enrollment credits transfer.

HOW THOSE CREDITS APPLY TOWARD YOUR DEGREE DEPENDS ON THE COLLEGE, YOUR MAJOR, AND THE PROGRAM YOU CHOOSE.



7. HOW DO I ENROLL IN DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES?

Most students follow these six steps to enroll in dual enrollment courses. Your school counselor and the college offering your course can help you understand any specific requirements and deadlines.

1. MEET THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility and placement requirements vary by dual enrollment programs. The requirements below apply to students seeking the reduced tuition rate at a South Dakota university.

SD PUBLIC UNIVERSITY HSDE Juniors (Must meet at least one of the following)

- Minimum GPA of 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale), or
- Top third in class rank, or
- ACT composite score or superscore of 24, or equivalent SAT score of 1180)

Seniors (Must meet at least one of the following)

- Minimum GPA of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale), or
- Top half in class rank, or
- ACT composite score or superscore of 21, or equivalent SAT score of 1080)

Alternative admission pathways, including the Advanced Honors Endorsement, may also qualify.

Don't meet these requirements? You may still be able to take a university course through non-degree seeking admission at the full tuition rate.

2. MEET WITH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Your counselor can help you:

- Explore dual enrollment opportunities
- Choose courses that fit your goals
- Understand eligibility requirements
- Complete the enrollment process

3. APPLY FOR ADMISSION

Complete the application required by the college offering your course.



SD PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

HSDE Application Hub
ourdakotadreams.com/k12-students/public-university-hsde-application-hub/



SD TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Technical College Application Hub
ourdakotadreams.com/k12-students/technical-college-hsde-application-hub/

4. COMPLETE REQUIRED APPROVALS

Some dual enrollment programs require approvals before enrollment can be finalized.

Approvals may include:

- Parent or guardian
- High school official
- Placement verification (if required)

5. GET READY FOR YOUR FIRST DAY BEFORE CLASSES BEGIN:

- Watch for your registration confirmation
- Activate your college email
- Know how to access your course
- Find your textbooks and course materials
- Add important dates and deadlines to your calendar

8. BE SUCCESSFUL IN DUAL ENROLLMENT

FIVE HABITS OF SUCCESSFUL DUAL ENROLLMENT STUDENTS

TREAT IT LIKE A COLLEGE COURSE

- You're earning real college credit.
- Your grade becomes part of your permanent college transcript and college GPA.
- Stay engaged in your course from day one.

STAY ORGANIZED

- Check your college email regularly.
- Start assignments early.
- Keep track of important dates and deadlines.

MANAGE YOUR TIME

- Plan 2–3 hours of study time each week for every college credit you're taking.
- Avoid waiting until the last minute.

USE YOUR COLLEGE'S RESOURCES

Know how to:

- Access your student account and college email.
- Find course information and materials.
- Get help when you need it.

ASK FOR HELP EARLY

Reach out to:

- Your instructor,
- Your school counselor,
- Your college advisor,
- Tutoring or academic support services.

REMEMBER:

Success in dual enrollment comes from building good habits, staying engaged, and asking for help when you need it.



VISIT [OURDAKOTADREAMS.COM/DUAL-ENROLLMENT](https://ourdakotadreams.com/dual-enrollment) TO LEARN MORE!



BLACK HILLS
STATE UNIVERSITY



DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY



NORTHERN
STATE UNIVERSITY



SOUTH
DAKOTA
MINES



SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA



LAKE AREA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



MITCHELL TECH



SOUTHEAST
Technical College



WESTERN
DAKOTA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE