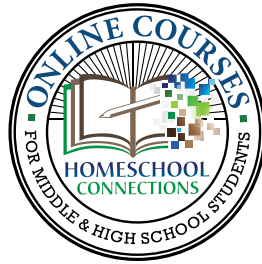


WHAT EVERY PARENT  
**NEEDS TO KNOW** ABOUT  
*Dual Enrollment*



DUAL ENROLLMENT CAN HELP YOUR CHILD GET A JUMP-START  
ON COLLEGE—AND SAVE YOU MONEY IN THE PROCESS



# WHAT EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT *Dual Enrollment*

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*Homeschool Connections*

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## *What is Dual Enrollment?*

Dual enrollment is an opportunity for high school students (typically upperclassmen) to enroll in college courses prior to graduating high school. As with Advanced Placement® (AP) courses, students earn credit toward college or postsecondary degrees in dual enrollment courses. However, unlike AP courses, dual enrollment courses offer a wider breadth of courses extending beyond entry-level coursework.

A key advantage of dual enrollment courses is that many such courses are offered online. The website [ivywise.com](https://www.ivywise.com) notes that the flexibility of taking dual enrollment courses, including taking summer courses, is a “key perk” for exceptional high school students who wish to earn college credit before ever stepping foot on a campus.

Additionally, dual enrollment provides students with a chance to adjust to postsecondary coursework before formally entering a college or university. Studies conducted by the [Community College Research Center](https://www.communitycollegeresearchcenter.org) have shown that dual enrollment students are more likely to enroll in four-year colleges, earn higher GPAs while in college, and are more likely to persist to a second term and second year at postsecondary institutions than students who did not enroll in dual credit courses while in high school.

## *When did Dual Enrollment begin?*

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities traces the beginning of dual enrollment courses to the 1970s, noting that the programs gained popularity in the mid 1980s. Today, dual enrollment courses are [offered in all 50 states](#), with an estimated five percent of high school students enrolled in dual credit programs.

## *What kinds of universities offer Dual Enrollment programs?*

While not all universities accept dual enrollment courses for credit (for instance, Ivy League schools do not accept dual enrollment), more and more universities are adopting a policy of acceptance. [Several states](#) (including Texas, Florida, and Ohio) have policies requiring state institutions to accept dual enrollment credit, while many nationally known Catholic universities also accept dual enrollment for credit.

[Franciscan University of Steubenville](#) (Ohio), Ave Maria University (Florida) and Benedictine College (Kansas) all accept dual enrollment credit. The University of Notre Dame (Indiana) accepts dual enrollment credit on a case-by-case basis but will not accept credit if the class has been used for a high school graduation requirement (a status commonly referred to as dual-credit).

## *What is the quality of Dual Enrollment courses?*

To understand the quality of dual enrollment courses, it's important to note that Advanced Placement® (AP) courses are actually high school courses with college-level content. Unlike Advanced Placement® (AP) courses, dual enrollment courses are actual college courses taught by faculty from various college or university institutions. Because of this, dual enrollment courses are often more challenging than AP courses and have been shown to improve GPA and retention among incoming college students with dual enrollment experience (CCCR).

At Homeschool Connections' partner institution, Franciscan University of Steubenville, online dual enrollment courses are taught by experienced professors with PhDs—meaning your student receives an academically excellent and challenging university classroom experience, all without having to leave your home.

## *Are colleges impressed with high school students who take Dual Enrollment classes?*

Absolutely! College admission offices are well aware of the correlation between dual enrollment and postsecondary success—and they understand that students who take dual enrollment courses are more likely to succeed in college coursework. Many universities (including our partner [Franciscan University of Steubenville](#), as well as many state schools such as the [University of Georgia](#)) factor in dual enrollment when considering applicants.

## *Is the dual enrollment coursework from Franciscan presented from a solidly Catholic viewpoint?*

Again, absolutely! As one of 22 “faithfully Catholic universities” cited by the Cardinal Newman Society, Franciscan University follows the example of St. Francis of Assisi in finding its identity at the heart of the Catholic Church. Not only are 96 percent of the faculty practicing Catholics, but also all theology and philosophy faculty members take an Oath of Fidelity to the magisterium—meaning that your student’s intellectual formation will be guided by individuals dedicated to the synthesis of faith and reason.

## *How can dual enrollment help my homeschooling efforts?*

As we’ve explored here, the benefits of dual enrollment are many!

### *Dual Enrollment...*

- Gives your student the opportunity to earn college credit before enrolling at a University—saving time (finishing courses earlier) and money (room and board, tuition) throughout his or her formal college education.
- Gives your student a taste of college coursework, teaching valuable lessons about time management, independent study, and the level of college professors’ expectations—all of which helps students immeasurably when they enroll as a full-time college student.

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- Allows your student to stay in the home environment while moving ahead academically, helping create more opportunity for a smooth personal transition to college.
- Can supplement your homeschool instruction with more advanced lessons in an area of your student's interest.
- Allows your student to explore academic interests leading to a more efficient path through their college major.
- Allows for earning college credit that can be transferred to another university.
- If your student's intention is to join the college or university from which the dual enrollment courses are earned, the student gains experience with the school—making your student more comfortable in the transition from home to campus.

Ready to explore how our [dual enrollment partnership](#) with Franciscan University of Steubenville can help your student get a jumpstart on his or her college coursework? Visit the [Franciscan University website](#) to learn about upcoming courses and to apply!



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*Homeschool Connections*

Homeschool Connections was founded in October 2008. In the spirit of the New Evangelization and in the light of John Paul the Great's teaching on the domestic church, Homeschool Connections seeks to use technology to enhance a homeschool family's educational efforts by providing them the needed resources to achieve this endeavor.

