



April 30, 2008

To: Members of the Unified Education Enterprise

From: Members of the Dual Credit Task Force

Re: Dual Credit in Oregon

Dual Credit, in the broadest sense, allows students to earn both high school and college credit for the same class. Dual credit is known by various names around the state (e.g., "College Now," "College Credit Now," "Advanced College Credit," "Challenge Program", etc.).

Over the past 30 years, dual credit programs have grown substantially. Initially, the community college programs were specialized for career and technical education (CTE). In 2005-06, 7,656 students were enrolled for a total of 33,129 credits in CTE courses. Since the early 1980s, community colleges have also sponsored dual credit programs that offer lower-division academic courses that transfer to colleges and universities. Four OUS institutions sponsor dual credit academic programs, as well. In 2005-06, 9,267 students in Oregon high schools received 85,625 credits for community college academic courses, and another 2,760 students received 23,288 credits for OUS courses. These statistics indicate that dual credit academic courses currently serve at least one in seven Oregon high school students (14%).

Just like tuition and fees, charges to students for dual credit vary among the colleges and universities. However, a conservative estimate is that, in 2005-06, students and their parents saved themselves about \$2.0 million by taking dual credit CTE courses, about \$5.1 million by taking community college dual credit academic courses, and about \$2.1 million by taking OUS dual credit courses.

On January 30, 2007, UEE reviewed the "Policy Governing Accelerated Learning." "Oregon has many options for students to obtain post-secondary education while still in high school and these excellent programs constitute an important way to strengthen preparation for college and the workforce. They also have the potential to keep our top high school graduates in Oregon. The 'Running Start' program in Washington accomplishes this and is well-known and admired nationally. To assure the same quality and attract the attention that Oregon's programs deserve, policies governing their operation and quality need to be widely understood and embraced."

The UEE formed a Dual Credit Task Force that first met on May 25, 2007. It has met several times since. The Dual Credit Task Force has produced a study, "*Dual Credit in Oregon; An Analysis of Students Taking Dual Credit in High School in 2005-06 and Subsequent Performance in a College Setting*," which reviews how well students do in the next course in a sequence if they took the preceding course as a dual credit high school course. Overall, the results show that these students do well.

The Task Force believes that although the current dual credit programs are good, their potential for the state of Oregon has not been fully realized. Since these programs ought to contribute measurably to meeting the goals of 40-40-20, the Dual Credit Task Force has written a Policy Option Package for strengthening and expanding options for dual credit in Oregon.