

Illinois Community College Board Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS “DUAL CREDIT” AND HOW CAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS USE IT TO GET AHEAD?

Dual Credit allows academically prepared high school students to simultaneously **earn credits that count toward a high school diploma and a college degree**. Dual Credit instruction delivers a “win-win” arrangement for all parties: students gain access to challenging college-level coursework to make their junior and senior years of high school more productive; students can prove to others and themselves that they have the ability to succeed in college; college costs can be reduced for parents and students; time to degree at college can be shortened; and the enhanced high school and college faculty dialogue can contribute to a better alignment between secondary and postsecondary education.

Table 1

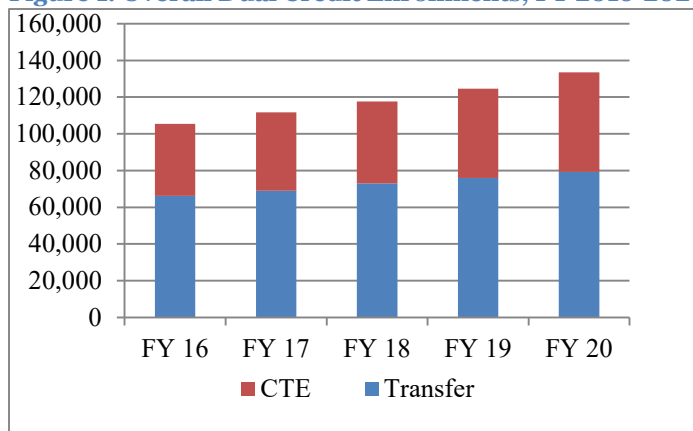
Summary of Annual Dual Credit Course Counts, Enrollments, and Average Class Size In Illinois Public Community Colleges, Fiscal Years 2016-2020

	<u>FY 16</u>	<u>FY 17</u>	<u>FY 18</u>	<u>FY 19</u>	<u>FY 20</u>
Course Count	10,740	10,994	11,270	11,905	12,569
Enrollment	105,361	111,643	117,672	124,614	133,394
Avg Class Size	9.8	10.2	10.4	10.5	10.6

Source of Data: ICCB Centralized Data System—Annual Course Data (AC)

In fiscal year 2020, Illinois community colleges offered 12,569 dual credit courses, which was an increase of 5.6 percent from 2019 (N = 11,905). **Total dual credit enrollments were 133,394 in fiscal year 2020**, a 7.0 percent increase over 2019 (N = 124,614). Average dual credit class size was 10.6 students in fiscal year 2020, a 1.4 percent increase from 2019 (N = 10.5). Figure 1. depicts the proportion of Transfer and Career and Technical Education (CTE) enrollments. Transfer dual credit enrollments (59.4 percent) and course counts (61.7 percent) accounted for nearly two-thirds of all dual credit enrollments and course counts in fiscal year 2020.

Figure 1. Overall Dual Credit Enrollments, FY 2016-2020



Enrollments in the ten largest programs accounted for 43.8 percent (N = 58,481) of all dual credit enrollments in fiscal year 2020. The ten highest enrollments overall by CIP code in fiscal year 2020 were in **Writing** (N = 20,961), **Mathematics** (N = 7,900), **Spanish Language and Literature** (N = 5,344), **Rhetoric and Composition** (N = 4,746), **American History** (N = 4,032), **Psychology** (N = 3,467), **Computer Programming** (N = 3,154), **Welding Technology** (N = 3,047), **Statistics** (N = 2,952), and **Nursing Assistant** (N = 2,878).

For a more detailed analysis, please see the report, [Dual Credit in the Illinois Community College System in Fiscal Year 2020](#).

Visit the ICCB website to [locate a Community College near you](#) or for a [map of district boundaries](#).

