

NCTC Homeschool Dual Credit Informational Meeting, March 26, 2015

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1. GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE:

- 1.1. College Administrator, Dr. Fischer - has a few (six) kids. They Homeschool and he has experience with a past college that had a "robust" dual credit program. He supports the dual credit program. They liked the turnout.
- 1.2. NCTC has five campuses, the main campus is Gainesville. That is where their tax basis is, and the tuition is cheapest for Cooke County residents.
- 1.3. They serves 42 ISD high schools
- 1.4. They have three dual credit counsellors Debbie, Diane, (and one other, didn't catch the name). These are the people you need to talk to... they are at various campuses.
- 1.5. Dual credit part of website is helpful – the Forms section is particularly helpful, as is "how do I" section.
- 1.6. Grades for courses taken at NCTC will be on your NCTC transcript, regardless of when you took them (dual credit or after).
- 1.7. There are no parent teacher conferences, your kids will be treated like college students in terms of interaction.
- 1.8. FERPA - student owns their records, and NCTC will not communicate with parents or counsellors.
- 1.9. That said, parents are welcome in talks with admissions, etc. A FERPA waiver is signed for DC students so that grades can be provided to parents/ISD.

2. AFFORDABILITY, QUALITY, OPPORTUNITY

- 2.1. Dual credit courses are significantly cheaper than the same credits earned in a college-level program (or at other institutions). Numbers were ~\$300 per course (\$260 online and \$340? on campus) vs. \$1000-\$4500 for other colleges (example was a U.S. History course).
- 2.2. Note that Early Admissions students are regular college students. They get charged a higher rate than Dual Credit Students.
- 2.3. The quality is the same, courses are normal college rigor. Dual Credit students take courses with regular college students. Instructors need a master's degree min. and NCTC shares adjunct faculty with UNT, etc.
- 2.4. There is an opportunity for honors program courses (smaller class size). They currently have Honors English, honors art, honors history that would be part of the dual credit program. I'm guessing this looks good on a transcript.

- 2.5. There is also another opportunity for students to qualify for the phi beta kappa honor society which makes them eligible to apply for a specific transfer scholarship opportunity.
- 2.6. Transfer status requires a certain number of credits (didn't catch how many), but is an opportunity for scholarships - lots of scholarship funding is available for transfer students (more than available for the top 8-10% of high schoolers).
- 2.7. They accept CLEP transfer credits to transferring in. Certain CLEP tests are offered at Gainesville campus. 18hours of CLEP credit are allowed to transfer in, but you must be an active student first??? Not clear on this point. What about AP scores 3+?

3. TYPES OF STUDENTS

- 3.1. Special admissions: advanced sophomores – restricted to CORE courses.
- 3.2. Regular Dual Credit: traditional (11th and 12th graders) restricted to CORE courses.
- 3.3. Early admissions (strictly for seniors), not restricted to core (but pay higher rates).
- 3.4. Regular admissions (Students who have completed high school or GED). There is no age limit on GED... if you pass the GED you are not eligible for dual credit student prices, nor are you subject to dual credit limitations.

4. DUAL CREDIT GENERAL LIMITATIONS

- 4.1. Dual Credit courses are limited to CORE courses (very important to understand)
- 4.2. Texas universities, community colleges, and the higher education board have collaborated to produce the CORE list.
- 4.3. There is no foreign language on the CORE.
- 4.4. CORE courses will transfer to a TX public college. (CAUTION: Core courses may not necessarily qualify for credit toward a specific degree program at another institution. For example, 'math for liberal arts' course doesn't count toward engineering degree which starts math requirements at Calc1). Non-core courses are not guaranteed to transfer. List of core courses is on website. You can use www.tccns.org to verify course transfers to a specific TX public college. For transferring out of stat, it out of state, print off degree plan.
- 4.5. ALL CORE courses are open to Homeschooling high schoolers, this is MORE options than typical through an ISD, because ISDs may limit the offered dual credit even further for their students.
- 4.6. UNT has some degree programs mapped out in terms of credits that transfer from NCTC.

5. COURSE LOAD LIMITATIONS FOR DC STUDENTS:

- 5.1. Sophomore allowed 1-2 courses per semester.
 - 5.1.1. Sophomore must take "learning frameworks," as first course and make a B to move on. I'm pretty sure the slide here said freshman as well, but they said sophomore.
 - 5.1.2. After that 2 courses are allowed if a C or higher is maintained.
- 5.2. Jr/Sr Dual Credit students allowed 2 credits per semester, OR if they exhibit academic achievement they can submit a request and be approved for up to 4 courses per semester.
 - 5.2.1. "Outstanding Performance" is approved based on 3.0 college, 3.5 high school, or through past, sat, act scores
 - 5.2.2. Of course "early admissions" senior-level students are not limited by this rule, but don't have opportunity for lower cost of DC courses.
- 5.3. Universities allow up to 28 credits as transfer student still maintaining freshman status... (Why is it desirable to transfer in to a college as a freshman instead of Sophomore? Cost? Not clear on why this question was asked.)

6. ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

- 6.1. Application at applytexas.org. this system takes 10 days to transfer to NCTC systems.
- 6.2. NCTC Requirements are:
 - 6.2.1. Qualifying test scores (also listed online)
 - 6.2.1.1. EOC(STAAR) or plan tests, or
 - 6.2.1.2. For Juniors: PSAT of 107+ and 50+ in area student wants to take (what about sophomores? Not clear on this point).
 - 6.2.1.3. For Seniors: need ACT or SAT only
 - 6.2.1.4. TSI assessments in lieu of the above (a college readiness assessment from college-board) - can take one section at a time, not timed. Reading, writing, and math. College Board has some study guides. To take TSI you need a government-issued ID (say, passport).
 - 6.2.2. High school transcript (has to be notarized for homeschool)
 - 6.2.3. Shot record - meningitis shot up to date even for online
- 6.3. They don't care what your high school transcript looks like - numeric or alpha.
- 6.4. Age doesn't matter - only high school credits indicating grade level.
- 6.5. Orientation required 24 hours prior to readiness testing (online, after 10 business days).
- 6.6. GED allows regular admissions (with GED there is no age limit), dual credit is not an option at that point.
- 6.7. They do have a current student who is 13 years old who qualified through GED

7. REGISTRATION

- 7.1. Registration for DC students has stricter dates because the process is more manual in their system.
- 7.2. Begins for summer terms on April 15th. (All admissions documents must be in first).
- 7.3. Tuition due at registration
- 7.4. Fall registration will be online, strict deadlines June 1st to register online. June 15th - July 2nd is the window for online registration
- 7.5. No DC students registered after August 7th.
- 7.6. Extra courses than normal manual deadlines.
- 7.7. Fall starts August 24th, normal registration is July 23rd- August something.