
Memorandum of Understanding

*between the Department of Public Instruction and the University of Wisconsin Colleges
regarding the Establishment of a Dual Enrollment Partnership*

WHEREAS, all high school students in Wisconsin, regardless of where they live, should have the opportunity to earn postsecondary credits while still in high school;

WHEREAS, the benefits of investing in dual enrollment efforts are multifold: more young people succeeding in college-level courses during high school and graduating high school college- and career-ready; more students going on to enroll and succeed in higher education or a career without the need for remediation; and, once students enroll in higher education, a reduction in the total time to and cost of a degree;

WHEREAS, in order to graduate more students ready for success in higher education and the workplace, Wisconsin has invested in a variety of programs that allow high school students to take collegiate-level courses and earn high school and college credit simultaneously for the same course. However, while many options exist, not all high school students in Wisconsin have access to these dual enrollment opportunities due to a variety of barriers; and

WHEREAS, more can and must be done to improve both access to and affordability of dual enrollment options statewide.

NOW THEREFORE, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the University of Wisconsin Colleges (UW Colleges) hereby agree to create a Dual Enrollment Partnership to expand access to dual enrollment coursework statewide. As part of this new partnership, DPI and UW Colleges jointly agree to the following guiding principles:

1. All Wisconsin students should have the opportunity to earn college credits as part of their high school experience without leaving their high school campus. The DPI/UW Colleges Dual Enrollment Partnership will work to advance this goal as soon as possible and will begin piloting the partnership no later than the 2013-2014 school year.
2. Regardless of where a student lives or attends high school, the wide breadth and depth of course options available to some students in the state should be available to all students in the state. The DPI and UW Colleges will work with high schools to offer freshman and sophomore-level curriculum, which focuses on learning outcomes and competencies, to students statewide.
3. The goal of the DPI and UW Colleges will be to offer dual enrollment courses that are taught by high school teachers at the high school. Where face-to-face college-level courses are not possible to offer, other online and flexible learning options, such as the UW Colleges Online courses, will be made available to high school students.
4. Dual enrollment courses, including costs for textbooks and course materials, should be free or as close to cost free to the student and family as possible. With support from the DPI, high schools and UW Colleges should strive to develop cost-sharing agreements that are cost-neutral to the student and address administrative and other costs to the greatest degree possible.

5. The application process for high school students to participate in a dual enrollment program should be as simple and streamlined as possible. While focused on eligible 11th and 12th graders, the application process should be open to all eligible high school students.

6. Dual enrollment courses offered during the regular school day should be taught by trained high school teachers who are approved to teach college-level courses by the appropriate university academic department(s), with ongoing support and professional development from their high school and the UW Colleges.
 - a. High school teachers should have a Master's degree in the discipline in which they are teaching college-level courses.
 - b. For those high school teachers with a Master's degree outside the discipline in which they would like to teach a college-level course, the UW Colleges will offer summer institutes on its 13 campuses and, perhaps, through its UW Colleges Online program, to provide teacher training/preparation in the discipline in which the high school teacher will be teaching a college-level course. All costs for the summer institute will be covered by the university.
 - c. The UW Colleges summer institutes will also be available to high school teachers approved by the appropriate UW Colleges academic departments to teach UW Colleges courses.
 - d. High school teachers without the appropriate educational background to teach a desired UW Colleges college-level course could "shadow" a faculty member through the desired course that he or she would like to teach. Upon completion of the shadowing opportunity, the high school teacher could be approved by the appropriate UW Colleges academic department to teach the college-level course to high school students. The high school teacher teaching the UW Colleges college-level course would receive ongoing support and mentoring from a UW Colleges faculty member.
 - e. UW System institutions could be invited to teach graduate level courses on UW Colleges campuses to high school teachers with a Master's degree outside of the discipline in which they would like to teach a college-level course so that they might be approved by the appropriate UW Colleges academic department to teach UW Colleges courses. If appropriate, a UW System institution could approve a UW Colleges faculty member to teach a graduate-level course to high school teachers wanting to teach UW Colleges courses.
 - f. High school teachers teaching a college-level course will be assigned a faculty mentor from a UW Colleges campus.
 - g. The UW Colleges faculty mentor will meet with the high school teacher at least twice during the teaching of the college-level course: at the midterm point of the course and at the end of the course.

7. Students and parents should have easy access to information about the opportunities, costs, and resources available to pursue dual credit. The DPI, UW Colleges, and individual high schools should make this information available.

Agreed on this day, June 12, 2012 by:

Tony Evers
State Superintendent
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Ray Cross
Chancellor
UW Colleges and UW-Extension