

Postsecondary Readiness
Academic Readiness Indicator - Dual Credit
August 1, 2025



Purpose

This document provides guidance to schools and districts related to **dual credit courses** that may qualify as student demonstration of **academic postsecondary readiness** for the purposes of state accountability as provided in [KRS 158.6455](#).

Per [703 KAR 5:270, Section 2\(5\)\(b\)1](#), a school shall receive credit for each student demonstrating academic readiness based on any one of the following indicators:

- a. Scoring at or above the benchmark score as determined by the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) on the college admissions examination or college placement examination;
- b. Completing a minimum of three (3) hours of credit in one (1) Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) approved dual credit course and receiving a grade of C or higher;
- c. Completing one Advanced Placement (AP) course and receiving a score of three (3) or higher on the AP exam;
- d. Receiving a score of five (5) or higher on one examination for an International Baccalaureate (IB) course; or
- e. Scoring at or above the benchmark on one Cambridge Advanced International (CAI) examination.

Requirements

Dual credit courses shall meet the following criteria in order to qualify as measuring postsecondary **academic readiness**. Information regarding Career and Technical Education (CTE)-approved dual credit courses for demonstrating **career** readiness, visit the [KDE-Approved CTE Dual Credit Guidance Document](#).

Per the [CPE General Education Transfer Policy](#), postsecondary institution partners that are classified as public institutions must adhere to the statewide course classification system, which regulates statewide general education student learning outcomes (SLOs), as defined and adopted through policy by CPE.

Dual credit course requirements for postsecondary academic readiness

- Kentucky's Statewide General Education Core, as provided in the CPE General Education Transfer Policy, lists the following course types that qualify for demonstration of postsecondary academic readiness:
 - Quantitative reasoning
 - Natural sciences
 - Written or oral communication
 - Arts and humanities
 - Social and behavioral sciences
- Completion of a minimum of three credit hours in one dual credit course and receive a grade of "C" or higher.
- "First Year Experience (FYE)" courses such as *Introduction to College* and developmental courses do not qualify as approved dual credit courses for demonstrating postsecondary academic readiness in the Kentucky Accountability System.
- Dual credit courses must be captured in the Kentucky Student Information System (KSIS) utilizing the appropriate corresponding course code and naming processes as addressed in the [dual credit data](#)

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[standard](#). Courses completed outside of the regular school day can count toward academic readiness but must be captured in KSIS scheduling in addition to on the student's high school transcript.

Teacher Certification

Dual credit courses shall be taught by qualified and credentialed teachers and faculty as determined by the postsecondary institution. Please contact your postsecondary institution partner for teacher certification inquiries.

The [2025 Dual Credit Policy for Kentucky Public and Participating Postsecondary Institutions and Secondary Schools](#) provided by CPE states the following:

SACS-COC's Dual Enrollment Policy Statement (2018) requires that faculty teaching dual credit courses (who may include high school teachers approved by the college) "possess the same Academic credentials and/or documented professional experience required by the institution of all of its faculty."

Typically, for general education courses this requires a master's degree in the discipline-specific content area that the faculty member is teaching or at least 18 credit hours of discipline-specific content for academic faculty. The dual credit teacher must ensure that the learning outcomes established by the partnering postsecondary institution are fully implemented.

Dual Credit Course Offerings

As provided in the [2025 Dual Credit Policy for Kentucky Public and Participating Postsecondary Institutions and Secondary Schools](#), dual credit courses must meet the same SLOs and be of the same quality and rigor as courses taught to traditional college students at participating postsecondary institutions. The postsecondary institution's grading policy shall apply to dual credit courses and must be used by the high school awarding credit. College credit shall be awarded upon students' completion of the dual credit course requirements and will become a permanent part of their official college transcript. The award of college credit will comply with appropriate accreditation standards for the participating postsecondary institutions.

High school credit shall be awarded at the end of the term by the secondary school upon completion of the course. The award of high school credit will be determined by secondary policy. If students fail or withdraw from a college course, including dual credit coursework, this will be noted on their college transcript.

Local School District Verification Process

- Local school districts will record student participation in dual credit courses in the KSIS.
- Local school districts shall verify acceptance of students to postsecondary institutions with postsecondary institution partners.
- Local school districts shall verify enrollment of students into dual credit courses.
- Local school districts shall utilize released [course codes](#) to demonstrate student enrollment in dual credit coursework in the KSIS.
- Local school districts shall record student enrollment in the KSIS utilizing the appropriate course code by October 1 of fall term and March 1 of spring term.

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- Local school districts shall record grades issued by postsecondary institution partners in the KSIS by June 30 of each school year. Grades awarded by the postsecondary institutions must be recorded in the KSIS without modifications.
- Course naming for dual credit courses must adhere to the naming practices outlined in the dual credit data standard.
- KDE will monitor student participation and receipt of grade of C or higher through the KSIS.

Course classification for independent private, nonprofit and out-of-state postsecondary institutions:

- Independent private, nonprofit, and out-of-state institutions classify courses independently. The KDE will accept independent classifications of courses that demonstrate a correlation with the Kentucky's Statewide General Education Core, as provided in the [CPE General Education Transfer Policy](#).
- Local school districts that partner with independent private, nonprofit, and/or out-of-state postsecondary institutions are responsible for providing the documentation that demonstrates the correlation between the independent institution's student learning outcomes and the Statewide General Education Core SLOs, as defined and adopted through policy by the Kentucky CPE.

Resources

[Course data standard](#)

[Dual Credit data standard](#); includes available reporting options to monitor correct input of data

[Dual Credit Policy for Kentucky Public and Participating Postsecondary Institutions and Secondary Schools](#)

[General Education Transfer Policy](#)

[KDE-Approved CTE Dual Credit Guidance Document](#)