

# Dual Credit and Big Sky Pathways Update

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### Montana Dual Enrollment Facts

- Enrollment:** Fall 2012 -- 1,182 dually enrolled students in the MUS  
Spring 2012 – 1,055 dually enrolled students
- F2F vs On-line:** 70% of the dual enrolled students in Fall 2012 received "face to face" instruction; 30% online
- Success Rate:** 86% of the students received grades of C or higher
- Dual Credit:** Approximately 66% of the dual enrollments in Fall 2012 counted as "dual credit"
- National Ranking:** MT ranks 37th nationally in the percent of students less than 18 years old enrolled in higher education (3.1%); WY ranks 3rd (10.1%), ND ranks 16th (6.2%) source: US Dept of Ed, IPEDS

### Headcount of Early College Students (i.e. Dual Enrollment):

CAMPUS	# Enrolled	
	Spr 2012	Fall 2012
City College	100	138
Great Falls College	134	103
Gallatin College	12	32
MSU Northern	68	1
MSU Bozeman	5	5
Helena College	151	164
UM Missoula	10	22
Highlands College	185	216
Missoula College	43	308
UM Western	2	1
MT Tech	0	0
MSU Billings	0	0
Dawson CC	9	2
Flathead CC	269	187
Miles CC	67	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1055</b>	<b>1182</b>

Spring 2012 EOT, Fall 2012 EOT, STUD\_TYPE = "H"

The above chart provides an overview of the headcount of early college/dual enrollment students enrolled in the MUS by campus.

Dual enrollment within the MUS has experienced little growth since the Board of Regents approved the common approach to tuition for all dual enrollment and early college programs within the system. Based on the data collection methods implemented by Associate Commissioner Trevor, dual enrollment and early college enrollments in Montana were nearly static from Fall 2011 to Fall 2012\* (Fall 2011: 1,137 - Fall 2012: 1,182).

\*note: data collection methods changed in Spring 2012 to align with new BOR policy.

### **What We Know About the Efficacy of Dual Enrollment:**

Dual enrollment courses are offered statewide in three formats: via on-line delivery through a partnership with the Montana Digital Academy and several of Montana's two-year public and community colleges; in dual credit courses which are offered at the local high schools; or through enrollment as early college students at a local two-year college or university.

Dual credit courses include offerings from the Montana University System general education core, including communications, mathematics, natural science, social science and history, humanities and fine arts, and cultural diversity. Some additional dual credit opportunities are available in career and technical subjects, such as medical terminology and accounting technology.

Local college and university curricula are used for all dual credit courses, which are approved according to each institution's course approval process.

### **What do we know about the benefits of enrolling in dual credit courses?**

Columbia University's Community College Research Center released a paper earlier this year based on studies of dual credit participants conducted in Florida, New York, and California. The paper notes the following outcomes:

"Participation in dual credit courses while in high school is positively associated with improving the chances the high school student will enroll in college, have a higher GPA, and reduce the time it takes to complete a college credential."

In addition, the researchers from Columbia University found participating in dual credit programs may have higher benefits for groups who might normally struggle in college, particularly lower income and male students.

Which dual credit courses student take make a significant difference. Researchers in Florida identified significant findings through their analysis of the outcomes for students who scored at or just above the minimum scores on a college placement test required for dual credit. Students who took college algebra through dual credit were 16 percentage points more likely to go to

college and 23 percentage points more likely to earn a postsecondary credential than similar students.

Montana's dual credit courses are all taught at the collegiate level and are fully transferable within the Montana University System. The on-line and campus-based dual credit courses are taught by college faculty. In some cases, dual-credit courses are taught in the high schools by high school faculty, with careful coordination protocols between the college and participating high school.

### **Strategies for Expansion of Dual Enrollment in Montana:**

Several efforts are underway to encourage the development of new dual enrollment opportunities including:

#### **Big Sky Pathways Grants:**

Through Montana's Carl D. Perkins Reserve Fund, a total of \$440,065 were awarded through a competitive grant process to seven two-year colleges in Montana. The purpose of these grants is to further develop the Big Sky Pathways initiative which is a collaborative effort between the Montana University System and the Office of Public Instruction.

Some selected highlights:

Flathead Valley Community College: Development of short-certificate programs in advanced manufacturing, lower level certificates that are ideal dual credit opportunities and in career ladder and areas of stacked credentials. (The program has had success in business & welding – will continue to grow these programs and develop new ones)

Gallatin College MSU: Targeting 20 area (both rural and urban) high schools for the development of Big Sky Pathways, creating relationships with the schools by forming a presence in the community through a Career Pathways Advisor who is available to assist all schools with the growth, creation, and development of existing and new pathways to increase students access and participation in post-secondary education.

Miles Community College: Provide outreach to 27 area schools, increasing the number of available pathways and articulation agreements available to students through a series of BSP trainings at area schools.

Missoula College U of M: Developing comprehensive and meaningful approach to the maintenance and updating of existing BSP, and the creation and implementation of new BSP including the expansion of dual credit offerings in both Missoula and with Bitterroot College.

MSU Northern: Expand the availability of career pathways for rural students across North Center Montana and the Montana Hi-Line by collaborating with area counselors, teachers, and school officials to develop curricula and deliver course work for students seeking careers in technical fields.

Highlands at MT Tech: Strengthen and develop academic and career pathways for students participating in career and technical education programs in rural areas of Southwestern Montana including dual credit development.

City College at MSUB: Planning meeting to reengage Big Sky Pathways development to City College faculty and area secondary faculty in Billings and surrounding school districts.

## **MUS Online Dual Credit Courses Partnership with the MTDA**

Dual Credit courses have been offered by two-year MUS colleges via the Montana Digital Academy since Spring 2011.

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Number of Two-Year Colleges Participating</b>	<b>Courses Offered</b>
Spring 2011	4	30
Fall 2011	4	30*
Spring 2012	4	60
Summer 2012	2	31
Fall 2012	4	66
Spring 2013	6	129**

\*30 courses offered but late opening of Dual Credit offerings; therefore only 5 classes open and available.

\*\*80 dual credit courses and 49 college-credit only courses.

Colleges participating in the on-line Dual Credit partnership offerings with the MTDA include: Flathead Valley Community College, City College, Helena College, Great Falls College, MSU Northern, Miles Community College.

The online partnership with the MTDA started small but has been growing each year with Spring 2013 experiencing the largest growth in number of courses offered.

## **NP - 903 - Workforce Development & Two Year Education (BIEN/OTO)**

The original budget included \$2 million (currently reduced to \$1 million) of biennial one-time-only general fund in the 2015 biennium to invest in two-year education across Montana. These funds are intended to be used to expand dual enrollment opportunities and increase access and affordability to Montana's two year schools. In addition, these funds will ensure ease of transferability from two year to four year degree seekers.

The Dual Enrollment portion of the NP is focused on incentivize campuses and high schools to expand dual credit curriculum and opportunities through a competitive grant process. Primary focus to promote the development of articulated pathways to high demand jobs in Montana that decrease time to degree.