

# The Florida College System – Transparency, Accountability, Progress, and Performance

## HOW CAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS USE DUAL ENROLLMENT TO GET AHEAD? HOW MANY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN DUAL ENROLLMENT?

As defined by [Florida Statute](#), “the dual enrollment program is the enrollment of an eligible secondary student or home education student in a postsecondary course creditable towards high school completion and a career certificate or an associate or bachelors degree.” In Florida, Dual Enrollment courses are a cost **free** way for high school students to engage in challenging courses that can accelerate college completion. Strategically enrolling in dual enrollment courses that satisfy general education core course requirements can save a student and their family hundreds if not thousands of tuition and fee dollars and expedite entry into the workforce. **The Florida College System (FCS) is the state’s leading provider of dual enrollment opportunities (82.9%).**

Table 1 shows that compared to last year, the unduplicated headcount of dual enrollment students in the FCS grew 8.6% to 50,054 students in 2011-12. **To date, this is the largest number of students who have participated in dual enrollment through FCS colleges.** Since 2007-08, dual enrollment has increased 51.2%. Also included in the table are trend data for Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) enrollments for the same five year period. FTE figures reflect the total number of credit hours being taken by students divided by 30 – the number of credits traditionally considered an annual full-time class load. **Dual Enrollment FTE counts are at record levels as well.** This is the third consecutive years of double digit dual enrollment FTE increases. FTE enrollments increased 61.2% from 2007-08 to 2011-12.

	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
Unduplicated Headcount	33,112	35,466	41,991	46,083	50,054
Percent Change	3.1%	7.1%	18.4%	9.7%	8.6%
Full-Time Equivalent	11,990	13,140	15,759	17,474	19,326
Percent Change	3.2%	9.6%	19.9%	10.9%	10.6%

Source: Community College Technical Center MIS & FCS Research & Analytics

Advanced & Professional	College Credit Certificate	Career/Technical Certificate	Apprenticeship
47,246	9,955	1,006	16

A February 2013 [National Center for Education Statistics](#) (NCES) study on dual enrollment and exam-based courses reported that nationwide 82 percent of responding high schools had students enrolled in dual enrollment courses during the 2010-11 school year. Dual enrollment students can take courses with an academic or a career and technical focus or

both. The NCES study found that three-quarters (76%) of the high school students took dual enrollment courses with an academic focus (e.g., English, math, science, history, foreign languages) while nearly one-half took career and technical focused (e.g., business, computer technology, automotive technology, healthcare) dual enrollment courses. Some students took both types of courses (25%).

Table 2 shows that 8 out of 10 FCS dual enrollment students took Advanced and Professional courses which include freshman and sophomore level transfer oriented courses that are applicable to an associate degree. Nearly 10,000 dual enrollment students took College Credit Certificate (also called Postsecondary Vocational Certificate) courses. Just over 1,000 students enrolled in Career/Technical (Postsecondary Adult Vocational) non-college credit workforce preparation courses. Very few (N=16) apprenticeship dual enrollments were reported. **In FCS colleges (81%) and nationwide (76%) dual enrollment students are primarily pursuing college credit by enrolling in college level academic courses.**

Table 3 compares subsequent 2011-12 postsecondary enrollment patterns of 2010-11 high school seniors who participated in dual enrollment with those who did not. Compared to their counterparts, more dual enrollment students enrolled in postsecondary education after graduation (81.4 % vs. 44.6%). **The FCS (43.7%) and SUS (40.1%) were the preferred destinations for former dual enrollment students.**

	Enrolled in Florida College System (FCS)	Enrolled in Public University (SUS)	Enrolled in Voc/Tech. Education	Enrolled in Independents (ICUF)	Unduplicated Total Enrolled in Postsecondary
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade DE Students <sup>1</sup>	43.7%	40.1%	1.1%	4.3%	81.4%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Non-DE Students <sup>2</sup>	31.3%	10.9%	1.3%	2.1%	44.6%
Percentage Point Difference	12.4%	29.2%	-0.2%	2.2%	36.8%

<sup>1</sup>12<sup>th</sup> grade students reported taking college-level (dual enrollment) courses on high school transcript.  
<sup>2</sup>12<sup>th</sup> grade students reported on PK12 enrollments (excludes students identified in dual enrollment courses).  
 Source: PK-20 Education Data Warehouse

For more information on this topic please see [Dual Enrollment in the Florida College System](#) or the [Florida Department of Education's Office of Articulation](#) page. The full 2013 National Center for Education Statistics study is also located online at the NCES [website](#).

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