

# Dual Enrollment Credits

A dual enrollment course (DEC) is a college course, taken while in high school, that earns the student high school *and* college credit for the same course. Many homeschooled high school students are taking dual enrollment courses at local colleges. Most area community colleges offer DEC's as do a number of area private schools. DEC's can also be taken on-line in distance learning programs.

There are many reasons that DEC's are popular. They allow the student to accelerate high school studies. College courses are one semester courses and each college course is considered to be the rough equivalent of a full year of a high school course. A one -semester college algebra course would count as one year of high school algebra credit, and one semester of college credit. At Pellissippi State Technical Community College, it is possible for a home educating high school student to begin dual enrollment credit courses the second semester of the freshman year, or at the beginning of the sophomore year. Using DEC's, it is possible for a homeschool student to earn an associate college degree by the time the student finishes high school if they take some summer courses.

DEC's allow a student to save money on a college education while earning advanced standing before he/she begins college full time after high school graduation. It is very common for such students to enter college with a semester or more of earned college credit from DEC classes. Community college courses cost a fraction of the amount charged by four year universities and a student is not charged by the university for transferring these advanced credits. In addition, the state of Tennessee will grant a \$300/semester scholarship to DEC students for four semesters during their junior and senior year of high school. To be eligible, students must maintain a minimum 2.75 grade point average in each of their DEC classes.

Students desiring to take DEC's should contact the admissions office of the college where they plan to take dual enrollment courses. Each college may have slightly different admissions standards. In order to qualify, Pellissippi State requires the student to have a 3.0 (B) grade point average (GPA) in high school. He/she must also score a minimum of 19 (out of 36) in the Reading and Math portions of the ACT college entrance exam if they plan to enroll in a class that involves math skills, and a minimum score of 19 on the English and Reading portions of the ACT if they plan to take a course that *does not* require math skills. Career and technical courses may require slightly lower scores.

It is important that you talk with the home school administrator of your umbrella school to determine if the umbrella school will accept your dual enrollment course for high school credit. If the college you plan to attend after you graduate from high school is not the college you attended for DEC classes, you should contact their admissions department to see if the college credit you earn in your DEC course will transfer.

More information can be found in the talk entitled *Buy One Get One: Dual Credits* on the *Members Page* of this site. Since most students will attend Pellissippi State for dual enrollment classes, you can get more information from their website at <http://www.pstcc.edu/admissions/dual.html> or their online handbook at [http://www.pstcc.edu/admissions/pdf/dual\\_hbk.pdf](http://www.pstcc.edu/admissions/pdf/dual_hbk.pdf). Please keep in mind that these pages are prepared for the public school student. Pellissippi State only allows public school students to take DEC classes in their junior and senior years. Homeschool students can begin the second semester of their freshman year or the beginning of their sophomore year.

Remember that these are regular college courses and that non-homeschooled students and faculty will behave like college students and faculty. Some courses may be very politically correct. If your student is not socially mature enough to handle a college environment, we suggest you delay taking DEC classes until the student is ready. Some families may find on-line dual enrollment courses to be an acceptable alternative.