

Activities to Implement Chapter 200-225, Laws of Florida Dual Enrollment

The 2000 Florida Legislature mandated, in HB 2105 (Chapter 2000-225, Laws of Florida), the Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) examine several aspects of the dual enrollment program. The charge was to:

- (1) Identify postsecondary courses and credits completed through dual enrollment that will meet high school graduation requirements.

Section 229.551(1)(f)6., Florida Statutes.

Appoint faculty committees representing public school, community college, and university faculties to identify postsecondary courses that meet the high school graduation requirements of s. 232.246, and to establish the number of postsecondary semester credit hours of instruction and equivalent high school credits earned through dual enrollment pursuant to s. 240.116 that are necessary to meet high school graduation requirements. Such equivalencies shall be determined solely on comparable course content and not on seat time traditionally allocated to such courses in high school. The Articulation Coordinating Committee shall recommend to the State Board of Education those courses identified to meet high school graduation requirements, based on mastery of course outcomes, by their common course code number, and all high schools shall accept these postsecondary education courses toward meeting the requirements of s. 232.246.

- (2) Determine the number of high school credits will be awarded for postsecondary courses completed through dual enrollment.

Section 232.2462(1)(a), Florida Statutes.

The Articulation Coordinating Committee shall determine the number of postsecondary credit hours earned through dual enrollment pursuant to s. 240.116 and which satisfy the requirements of a district's interinstitutional articulation agreement according to s. 240.1161 that equal one full credit of the equivalent high school course identified pursuant to s. 229.551(1)(f)6.

The ACC created an ad hoc committee for dual enrollment to make recommendations concerning these issues. This committee was made up of representatives from school districts, community colleges, state universities, one nonpublic institution, and Department of Education staff.

At its October 11, 2000, meeting the ad hoc committee approved the following:

- (1) Instead of attempting to cover the entire range of available postsecondary courses (which would be in the tens of thousands), the courses included in this process would be limited to those reported as offered for dual enrollment in the past two years.

- (2) Faculty committees to examine these postsecondary courses would be created in areas similar to high school graduation requirement areas: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Practical Arts/Career Education, Performing Fine Arts, and Physical Education/Life Management. These committees were made up of school district, community college, and university faculty.
- (3) Recommendations concerning course weighting for postsecondary courses completed through dual enrollment (Section 240.1163(4)) would not be included in this process.

The dual enrollment faculty committees met on May 7, 2001, in Tampa to review dual enrollment courses and credits for inclusion in the statewide agreement. At this meeting the faculty committees were to:

- (1) Review high school graduation requirements.
- (2) Review a provided course list of all those postsecondary courses offered for dual enrollment between 1998 and 2000. These courses were assigned a logical grouping to assist the faculty committees narrow their work. However, committees were encouraged to examine any course they wished.
- (3) Determine what high school graduation requirement area the postsecondary course would meet-either a specific area or simply an elective.
- (4) Review the equation of six postsecondary semester credit hours equals one high school credit. They were to discuss issues of content coverage and rigor to recommend courses that should fall outside this equation. They did not recommend any courses that should receive more high school credit.

The committees had course code directories and the profile descriptions on file with the Statewide Course Numbering System as backup.

The ACC, at its May 16, 2001, meeting, was uncomfortable with the limited number of courses recommended to meet high school graduation requirements, and with the number of frequently used courses that were identified only as electives. In addition, the ACC wanted to revisit the issue of high school credits awarded for dual enrollment courses. The ACC directed staff to distribute a survey to representatives at community colleges and state universities to allow for greater input into the question of high school credit awarded for completion of postsecondary courses through dual enrollment. Institutions were provided high school course content with the instructions to recommend courses at their institution that should receive more than .5 high school credits.

Nine of the ten universities and 15 of the 28 community colleges responded to this survey. 13 institutions recommended no change to the current credit award practice. Among the others a wide variety of courses were recommended-from general survey courses to more advanced mathematics and science courses. However, courses in foreign language, mathematics, and science were more heavily recommended than most other courses.

At the October 19, 2001, meeting of the ad hoc committee 18 courses were recommended as those semester-length dual enrollment courses that should receive a full high school credit. These included courses in mathematics, natural sciences (with laboratories), and all four-credit foreign language courses. The recommendation was that this course list be attached to district interinstitutional articulation agreements as those available for dual enrollment. If the community college offered the course for dual enrollment the high school must allow students to enroll in these courses and accept the course and credits in the manner listed on the list for that course. School districts and community colleges may include other dual enrollment courses not on this list as those available for dual enrollment. These course and credit recommendation were brought to and approved by the ACC at its November 14, 2001, meeting.

The Secretary's office reviewed the list of courses and expressed a concern that the courses identified as meeting one full high school credit were too limited. The list was expanded to include mathematics and science courses that are considered higher level or more rigorous than those on the approved list.