High school students who participate in dual enrollment initiatives through local Florida College System (FCS) institutions have the opportunity to simultaneously earn credits towards their high school diplomas and a college award (i.e., career certificate, associate or baccalaureate degree). Studies carried out by the Community College Research Center at Columbia University tout the benefits of dual enrollment—including helping student become college-ready and reducing the need for developmental education. Credits earned through dual enrollment courses help students accelerate through college requirements and the latest data show that students taking dual enrollment continue to enroll in general education courses which can provide traction in their efforts to complete a degree. Available dual enrollment courses span an array of disciplines ranging from foundational courses in English and math, to foreign languages, sciences, fine arts, and career/technical fields.

Table 1 shows the ten most frequently taken dual enrollment courses in the Florida College System during 2012-13 with comparative data from the previous year. Systemwide, tens of thousands of students choose to take core courses in English Composition I, English Composition II, and College Algebra via dual enrollment to gain college level skills. All ten courses listed in Table 1 were also listed on the 2011-12 top ten dual enrollment course list. Enrollments in the top courses consistently increased compared to last year. The top five were in the same order both years. This shows that more students consistently take courses that meet postsecondary general education requirements. Other examples of courses that high numbers of students enrolling for dual enrollment purposes included student life skills, general biology, sociology, and computer literacy (these are but just a few examples; there is a wide spectrum of courses that students elect to take as part of their dual enrollment experience).

Figure 1 shows the top five most frequently taken dual enrollment courses in the Florida College System. The total number of students enrolled in the top five courses – English Composition I, English Composition II, College Algebra, Introduction to Psychology and American Government – in 2012-13 was 62,045 (duplicated figure; students may take more than one dual enrollment course in a year). In 2012-13, there were 52,457 students who participated in dual enrollment in the Florida College System. This is a 48 percent increase from 35,466 in 2008-09. Dual enrollment in Florida has continued to grow steadily over the last five years as more students (home schooled and private school students in addition to public school students) participate in these programs as part of their high school academic experience.

For more information about dual enrollment in Florida, please visit the Florida Department of Education’s Office of Articulation website. To find a Florida College System institution near you, please visit the FCS directory.

For assistance, contact the Florida College System Research & Analytics Scott J. Parke, Ph.D. or Kathyrine L. Scheuch, Ed.D. at 850-245-0407

April 2014