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## Dual Credit

### Fast Facts About Dual Credit in New Mexico

- Dual credit courses in New Mexico are college-level courses taken by high school students in which students earn simultaneous credit toward high school graduation and a postsecondary degree or certificate (Section 21-1-1.2 NMSA 1978). The dual credit program was established in New Mexico in 2008.
  - College courses eligible for dual credit:
    - 1) are academic or career-technical; and 2) earn credit toward high school graduation and a postsecondary degree or certificate.
    - Remedial, developmental, and physical education courses are not eligible for dual credit.
  - Section 21-1-1.2 NMSA 1978 requires institutions of higher education (IHEs) to waive all general fees and local education agencies (LEAs) to purchase books and course supplies for enrolled high school students. While statute requires HED to revise procedures in its funding formula to encourage IHEs to waive tuition for students taking dual credit courses, PED regulations require IHEs to waive tuition, contrary to statutory requirements. See Section [6.30.7 NMAC](#).
  - The Public Education Department (PED) disbursed \$895,637 during the 2018–2019 school year for dual credit instructional materials. This is a 4 percent decrease compared with the 2017–2018 school year.
  - During the 2018–2019 school year, 20,080 New Mexico high school students were enrolled in dual credit courses. Almost 11 thousand students were female and just over 9 thousand were male.
  - PED and HED report 48,413 unique course enrollments among the 20,080 students that participated in dual credit courses during the 2018–2019 school year, indicating that many students enroll in more than one dual credit course in a given school year.
  - In New Mexico, 27 public postsecondary institutions offer dual credit courses. Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) served the largest share of these students, with 5,231 enrolled dual credit students in the 2018–2019 school year.
  - For students participating in dual credit courses, the four-year cohort graduation rate is 88 percent. The four-year cohort graduation rate for all high school students is 74.1 percent, indicating that students participating in dual credit are more likely to graduate high school.
  - The top five content areas that students take dual credit courses in are:
    - 1) English language and literature (3,911 enrollees); 2) mathematics (3,722 enrollees); 3) visual and performing arts (2,895 enrollees); 4) health professions and related sciences (2,731 enrollees); and 5) personal awareness and self-improvement (2,528 enrollees)
- Subsection C of Section 21-1-4 NMSA 1978 defines general fees as a “fixed sum charged to students for items not covered by tuition and required of such a proportion of all students that the student who does not pay the charge is an exception.” General fees include fees for matriculation, library services, student activities, student union services, student health services, debt service and athletics. An institution may charge fees in addition to general fees that are course-specific or that pertain to a smaller proportion of students. Subsection B of Section 21-1-4 NMSA 1978 explicitly excludes general or other fees from the definition of “tuition.”

### Additional Dual Credit Resources

- [Dual Credit Annual Report 2018–2019](#) (New Mexico Public Education Department; New Mexico Higher Education Department); [Progress Report, Dual Credit: Funding and Student Outcomes](#) (Legislative Finance Committee, September 2017); [Policy & Procedures Manual for Dual Credit](#) (New Mexico Public Education Department; New Mexico Higher Education Department)