



College Now
Office of Academic Affairs
K-16 Initiatives
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TO: NYCDOE High School Principals and Staff Acting as Liaisons to the College Now Program
FROM: CUNY Central Administration of the College Now Program *Carla Cook*
RE: Awarding Dual Credit for College Now College Credits Courses: What to Consider
DATE: April 8, 2018

College Now, a free college transition and dual enrollment program, a collaboration between CUNY and NYC DOE, functions as a single university-wide program that runs at eighteen undergraduate colleges and is partnered with over 420 NYC public high schools to provide college credit courses for eligible students, pre-college courses to help students start college without remediation, college awareness courses and workshops, full day summer programs and access to CUNY campus events and facilities such as libraries, writing or tutoring centers. Students can use college credits earned in the program to gain greater academic momentum in their first year in college, which is key for on-time college completion. Credits are accepted in all CUNY undergraduate colleges, and at many, but not all, other public or private colleges and universities.

During the academic year, students participate in College Now through the partnership developed between a CUNY campus College Now program and their high school. Students participate outside of their regular school day in one of two ways:

1. Enrolling in a College Now course scheduled in their high school building before or after their school day, or
2. Enrolling in a College Now course alongside other NYCDOE high school students from several different partner high schools, scheduled on the college campus after school or on Saturdays.

Awarding Dual Credit: DOE Academic Policies

The decision to award high school credit for a college credit course rests with high school principals. The NYCDOE document linked below describes academic policies and addresses implementation and systems questions for programs in which DOE students enroll dually in courses provided by a college or university. (Note: access to this document is limited to NYCDOE school and network personnel).

<https://intranet.nycboe.net/CookieAuth.dll?GetLogon?curl=Z2FNRZ2FrdonlyresZ2F5D05CA80-6ED2-4692-A60F-5596C50C8643Z2F0Z2FAcpolicycollegefaq.pdf&reason=0&formdir=7>

Awarding Dual Credit: What to Consider

It is our recommendation that high schools ensure that students (and their parents/guardians) are made aware of the following implications of receiving dual credit for their College Now participation.

1. **College Now participation is voluntary** – If the college credit course is used to fulfill a high school graduation requirement, a student may feel obligated to enroll in the college course

rather than participate in some other extra-curricular activity that is not required for high school graduation.

2. **College grade calculation into high school GPA** – If the college credit course is being used to fulfill a high school graduation requirement, a student's overall high school GPA may be negatively impacted in the event that a student receives a low grade in a challenging college credit course. In addition, student's high school graduation depends on passing the college level course.
3. **College credit for the course may not be accepted for transfer** – While college credits earned in College Now are accepted at all CUNY undergraduate colleges and many other private and public universities and colleges, students and their parents must be made aware that accepting credits for transfer is a decision made by the receiving college, and varies from college to college. Students should contact college advisors to find out the policy at the college they intend to apply to.

The mission of College Now, as a dual enrollment program, is to prepare students for successful transition to college by providing them with opportunities to take rigorous college credit courses, earn free college credits, and gain academic momentum by transferring those credits in their first semester in college. Research on College Now students' postsecondary outcomes in CUNY has shown that they become successful college students. They:

- **transfer an average of 4.24 credits**, compared to 0.69 for those w/o CN participation
- **earn an average of 10.5 credits** (excluding CN credits) in their first semester, compared to 8.3 for those w/o CN,
- **have 14.74 credits transferred and earned** at the end of the first semester, compared to 8.99 for those w/o CN participation
- **have slightly (0.61) higher GPAs** in their first semester,
- **have higher first year retention rates** which increases their academic momentum, an important factor in college completion.

You can find links to individual college programs at our temporary College Now website

<http://www2.cuny.edu/academics/school-college-partnerships/college-now/>

For more information about our program's policies and practices email us at collegenow@cuny.edu