



Every Child a Graduate College and Career Ready

College Credit and Work Experience in High School



Wisconsin is working to expand programs that help students gain college credits and employment

skills while still in high school. The effort is one of many to help ensure every child graduates ready for college and career.

The Department of Public Instruction and the University of Wisconsin Colleges signed an agreement (summer, 2012) which will make it easier for high school teachers to teach college courses to their students, for college credit, at little or no cost to families.

This arrangement is an example of a **dual enrollment** program. Such programs make college more affordable for families and introduce students to higher level coursework before they immerse themselves in college life.

Other dual enrollment programs include:

- Youth Options
- College Credit in High School Program - including Cooperative Academic Preparation Program
- Transcribed Credit

Another type of program which sometimes leads to college credit is **work-based learning**.

Work-based learning is also beneficial because it lets students explore and experience a workplace firsthand. They see what skills are needed, observe how knowledge from school applies to employment, and learn about career pathways they are considering.

Among the many forms of work-based learning are:

- Youth Apprenticeships
- Skills Certificate Programs
- Job Shadowing
- Internships
- School-Based Enterprises

Other ways to earn college credit in high school include:

- Examination Programs: students earn college credit after passing tests based on coursework. Examples: Advanced Placement, Project Lead the Way, International Baccalaureate, and the College-Level Examination Program.
- Advanced Standing, Retroactive Credit, or Credit for Prior Learning Agreements: school districts and colleges negotiate an agreement that certain high school courses are worth college credit for students once they enroll in college.
- Early and Middle College High Schools: Wisconsin has a number of these high schools which operate in partnership with colleges and technical colleges.

Whatever programs students choose, they provide a cost effective way for students to get a head start on college credits and work experience, helping them on the path to graduate ready for college and career.

More information can be found at:
dpi.wi.gov/cte/pdf/dualenrollop.pdf and
dpi.wi.gov/cte/workbase.html.

We want students to have more opportunities to gain college credit and employment skills while still in high school.