

The Dual Credit Program

A Special Report on Del Mar College's Dual Credit Students

Fall 2000

For many years, Del Mar College has provided academically advanced students the opportunity to gain college credit while still in high school. There are two ways students may accomplish this task. One way is the Dual Credit Program, in which students receive both credit toward high school graduation and college credit at the same time. Dual Credit students take classes on-site at their high school or may enroll for a college class on the Del Mar College campus. The other method is through Early Admissions, in which a high school junior or senior may take a limited number of college courses for credit. They do not earn high school credit for the class. The students discussed in this report are the Dual Credit students, who took courses as a group rather than on an individual basis.

Where Do These Students Come From?

Dual Credit students come from most of the local high schools, and enrollment in the Dual Credit Program has remained strong. The chart below lists the fall enrollments for the last five years for area high schools.

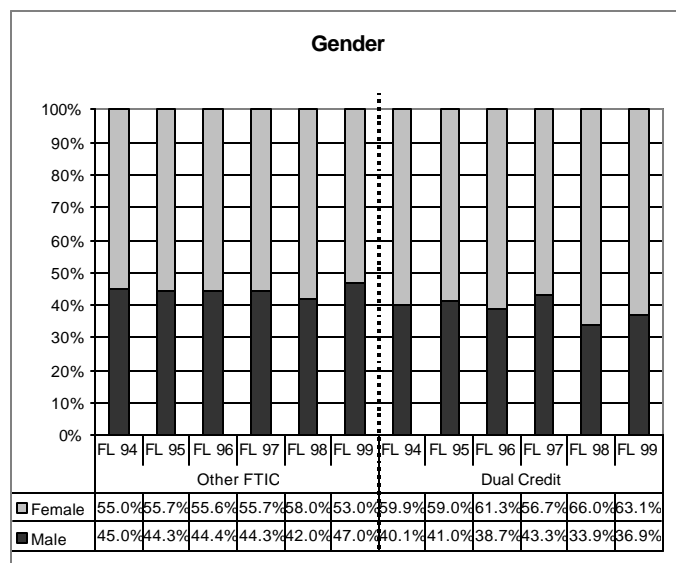
| Fall Dual Credit Enrollment* | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| High School** | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| Calallen | 14 | 22 | 7 | 20 | 47 |
| Carroll | 46 | 54 | 75 | 33 | 103 |
| Flour Bluff | 0 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 5 |
| Gregory-Portland | 43 | 21 | 48 | 39 | 38 |
| King | 13 | 33 | 18 | 36 | 0 |
| Miller | 10 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Moody | 8 | 14 | 8 | 8 | 13 |
| Ray | 8 | 16 | 25 | 27 | 38 |
| Robstown | 8 | 7 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| Tuloso-Midway | 42 | 22 | 35 | 33 | 29 |

* Students are counted for each class in which they are enrolled; therefore the counts are higher than the actual number of individuals.

** Other area high schools have participated at various times in the Dual Credit Program, but are not listed here due to small enrollments.

Gender

When compared to other traditional first-time-in-college (FTIC) students at Del Mar College, there are proportionately more female students in the Dual Credit program.



The percentage of male students in the Dual Credit group fell to its lowest level in Fall 1998, but rebounded slightly in Fall 1999. Male students still represent just over a third of the Dual Credit students. The chart above contains the proportion of male and female students for the fall semesters from 1994 to 1999.

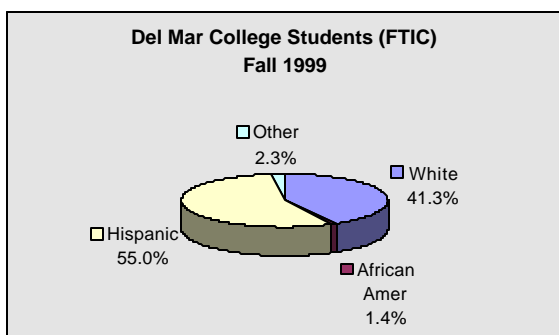
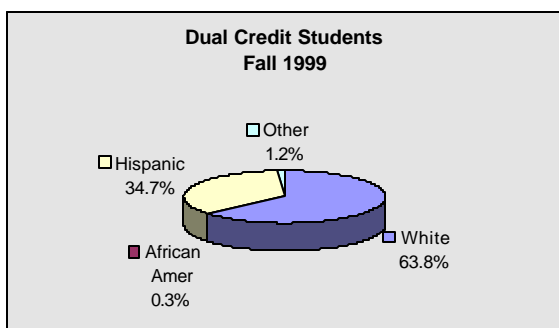
What Are Their Majors at Del Mar College?

Only 25 to 40 percent of Dual Credit students formally declare a major at Del Mar College. Of those who do, the most frequently declared majors are typically pre-professional or transfer programs: medicine, veterinary medicine, or engineering, followed by business administration, computer science, liberal arts, and psychology.

Other FTIC students, conversely, declare a higher proportion of technical (career) majors, with the largest percentages in registered nursing, business administration, criminal justice, and other health sciences. About 30 percent of other FTIC students have not declared a major at the time they enter the college, compared to 60 percent of Dual Credit students.

Race/Ethnicity

The charts below show the race/ethnicity comparisons for the Fall 1999 groups, both the Dual Credit students and the typical, traditionally-enrolled FTIC student population. Race/ethnicity proportions have remained fairly stable over the last five years within each group, but the Dual Credit program has a substantially higher percentage of white students than the group of other FTIC Del Mar College students.



How Do These Students Do At Del Mar College?

On average, the Dual Credit students complete from one-half to one semester less at Del Mar College than their traditionally enrolled counterparts. Over the last five years, the average grade point of the Dual Credit students has been over one point higher (Fall 1998 GPA for Dual Credit students was 3.31, compared to a non-remedial GPA of 2.45 for other Del Mar FTIC students). In addition, the Dual Credit students completed semester course work at a somewhat higher rate than traditional students, with the Fall 1999 course completion rate for Dual Credit students around 97 percent and traditionally enrolled FTIC students at 80 percent.

Where Do They Go After Dual Credit?

One important question about the Dual Credit students is “Do they remain at Del Mar College, or do they transfer their earned credits to another college or university?” In Fall 1995, 156 students were classified as Dual Credit.

Sixty-four of these students went on to take additional courses at Del Mar College within four years of their initial enrollment. In that time, 10 (6.4%) gained an additional 1 to 5 hours of college credit, 22 (14.1%) attempted 6 to 11 additional hours, 14 (9%) took 12 to 30 hours more and 18 (11.5%) enrolled for over 31 credit hours in that four-year period. Of the 156 Dual Credit students taking one or more courses in the fall of 1995, 65 (41 percent) transferred without taking any additional courses at Del Mar College. Of those 65 transfer students, their selected transfer institutions included:

- Texas A & M – College Station 16 students (24.6%)
- Texas A & M – Corpus Christi 13 students (20.0%)
- University of Texas – Austin 13 students (20.0%)
- Texas Tech 8 students (12.3%)
- Southwest Texas State University 2 students (3.1%)

Transfer information was not available for all students; some may have transferred out-of-state or to private institutions that do not report enrollment data to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Given that so many Dual Credit students transfer immediately, it is not surprising that few graduate from Del Mar College. Only one student from the Fall 1995 cohort had graduated from Del Mar College after four years. However, 49 of the students who had additional credit hours at Del Mar College beyond their Dual Credit courses transferred to universities, including 16 (32 percent) who went to Texas A & M – College Station, 12 (24 percent) who went to University of Texas – Austin, and 8 (16 percent) who went to Texas A & M – Corpus Christi. Thus, 114 of the 156 Dual Credit students from Fall 1995 have transferred to 4-year institutions within four years, a rate of 73 percent, compared to 8 percent of other FTIC students.

Summary

Although these students take fewer courses than their other FTIC counterparts, Dual Credit students complete a higher proportion of coursework attempted, earn higher GPAs, and transfer at higher rates than traditional FTIC students. The Dual Credit program provides an effective method to attract academically advanced students to Del Mar College, and offers the community a unique opportunity in higher education.

For additional information on the Dual Credit program, please contact Berta Flores, Coordinator, at Del Mar College, at (361) 698-1634. If you have questions on information within this report, please contact the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at (361) 698-1207.