



Dual Credit Guide for Families





What is Dual Credit?

Dual Credit allows students to earn both **high school** and **college credits** at the same time by taking college-level courses while still enrolled in high school. The college courses can be in the Trades, Vocational, or Academic program areas.

In many cases, a student can gain the credits needed to graduate from high school through Dual Credit and, at the same time, achieve their first level towards a Red Seal in the Trades, complete a vocational certificate, or complete an academic certificate that can ladder into a university degree – **all while paying \$0 in college tuition!**



How Dual Credit Works

First, let's take a look at what your child needs to graduate high school in BC. There are a set of 13 required high school courses (and at least seven additional courses that you can choose) in the **BC Graduation Requirements** that your child will need to take to graduate. At the Grade 12 level, students must complete a minimum of four Grade 12 courses, including a Language Arts 12 and Career Life Connections 12.

Students can take courses at Northern Lights College and count them towards the additional seven electives needed to graduate from high school. When students take a one semester program, such as Explore Trades for Youth (also known as Youth Explore Trades Sampler), they typically receive the equivalent of three high school courses in credit (that's 12 credits, 4 credits per course). A student who completes a full year at Northern Lights College during their Grade 12 year may receive up to the equivalent of 10 high school courses in credit, depending on the program – that is often enough to cover all of the elective requirements to graduate from high school.

Let's take a look at a few examples of Dual Credit students:



Meet Sara

She took an Academic program

Sara gets all of her required courses done by the end of her Grade 11 year, including an English 12 and Career Life Connections 12. She wants to complete the first year of university courses in her Grade 12 year through the **Business Management Certificate**.

In Grade 10 she took:

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Literary Studies 10	Social Studies 10	Science 10	Food Studies 10
Foundations of Math and Pre-calculus 10	Physical and Health Education 10	Career Life Education 10	Power Technology 10

In Grade 11 she took:

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Literary Studies 11	Life Sciences 11	English Studies 12	BC First Peoples 12
Pre-calculus 11	Food Studies 11	Career Life Connections 12	Anatomy and Physiology 12

For her Grade 12 year, Sara applied to the Business Management Certificate at Northern Lights College. She met the minimum admissions requirements (at least a “C” in English 12 and in any Math 11) and was gladly accepted.

NLC Business Management Certificate	Equivalent of 8 electives (32 credits)
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Over two semesters at NLC, she completed 10 university level courses and graduated with a post-secondary certificate at the same time as she graduated from high school.



Meet Morgan

She took a Trades program

Morgan gets most of her required courses done by the end of her Grade 11 year but has not yet completed an English 12 and Career Life Connections 12. She wants to take the **Electrician Foundation Certificate** in her last semester to get a head start on her Red Seal.

In Grade 10 she took:

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Literary Studies 10	Social Studies 10	Science 10	Physical and Health Education 10
Foundations of Math and Pre-calculus 10	Power Technology 10	Career Life Education 10	Metalwork 10

In Grade 11 she took:

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Literary Studies 11	Life Sciences 11	Metalwork 11	BC First Peoples 12
Pre-calculus 11	Engineering 11	Physics 11	Genocide Studies 12

For her Grade 12 year, Morgan applied to the Electrician Foundation Trades Certificate at Northern Lights College. She met the minimum admissions requirements (at least a “C+” in English 11, Pre-calculus 11, and Physics 11) and was gladly accepted.

In Grade 12 she took:

Semester 1 at high school		Semester 2 at NLC	
English Studies 12	Physics 12	Electrical Foundations Certificate	Equivalent of 4 electives (16 credits)
Career Life Connections 12	Study Block		

Morgan graduated high school while taking the first step towards becoming a Red Seal Electrician!



Meet Dylan

He took a Vocational program

Dylan gets all of his required courses done by the end of his Grade 11 year, including an English 12 and Career Life Connections 12. He wants to start a career in Health Care and go straight to work after high school, so he decides to take the **Health Care Assistant Certificate** as his first step.

In Grade 10 he took:

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Literary Studies 10	Social Studies 10	Science 10	Food Studies 10
Foundations of Math and Pre-calculus 10	Physical and Health Education 10	Career Life Education 10	Woodwork 10

In Grade 11 he took:

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Literary Studies 11	Life Sciences 11	English First Peoples 12	Law Studies 12
Foundations of Mathematics 11	Woodwork 11	Career Life Connections 12	Work Experience 12

For his Grade 12 year, Dylan applied to the Health Care Assistant Certificate at Northern Lights College. He met the minimum admissions requirements (at least a “C” in English 10) and was gladly accepted.

NLC Health Care Assistant Certificate	Equivalent of 7 high school courses (28 credits)
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Over 10 months at NLC, Dylan completed a course which allowed him to go straight into a high-demand job in health care, all while completing enough credits to graduate from high school.

Why choose Dual Credit at NLC?

Below are some key reasons why enrolling your child in dual credit with your local School District and Northern Lights College can be a great decision.

Pathway to High School Completion

Dual Credit allows students different paths to completing their high school education with programs that meet their interests and career goals. Some students will prefer to spend their Grade 12 year in hands-on training to become a Professional Cook, Hairstylist, Health Care Assistant, Automotive Mechanic, Millwright, or some other profession. Dual Credit could help them stay on track for graduation.

Accelerated Career Path

Dual Credit can put students onto a fast track to the workforce or advanced studies, providing your child with a competitive edge in their future career. They could graduate high school ready for a career, with a first step towards a Red Seal, or with studies that ladder into university under their belt.

Expanded Course Offerings

Northern Lights College offers a wide range of courses that may not be available at the high school level. These courses provide students with a more diverse academic experience, and allow them to explore areas of interest that could shape their future career paths.

Preparation for the Future

Taking college-level courses while in high school helps students develop important academic and life skills, such as time management, self-discipline, and independent study. These skills are essential for success in both post secondary education and the workplace.

Cost Savings

Dual credit programs are an excellent way to save money on future college tuition. Your child can get a head start on their post-secondary education with a lower financial commitment since you don't have to pay tuition fees while your child is a Dual Credit student.





Understanding Dual Credit Costs

When your child registers at NLC through Dual Credit, the tuition costs are covered by your high school – so the tuition is free to you! Remember though, tuition is not the only cost of college studies. Dual Credit students and their families are responsible for paying these costs:

Student Fees

This cost covers things like library, IT, and student council activities.

Instruction-Related Fees

This cost is different for each program, and these fees pay for the materials and tools that are used in each specific program.

Textbooks

In college, students pay for their own books. These can be expensive, often over \$100 for a single book.

Clothing, Safety Training, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Some programs require uniforms, some require additional safety training, like First Aid, while others require PPE, such as steel-toed boots. Students and their families must cover these costs.

Transportation and Housing

If you need to travel to campus daily, or live on campus, there will be further costs to plan for.

So, while Dual Credit can save your family over \$3,000 in college tuition, there are other costs that you need to be ready for. You can find these fees and additional requirements for the program you are interested in here: www.nlc.bc.ca/programs

Planning for Dual Credit

Ok, so you're interested in Dual Credit for your student. **The key to successful participation in the Dual Credit program is planning.** Getting set up to take the right NLC program during the right semesters, and to meet all the high school graduation requirements and meet the NLC admissions requirements — all of this requires careful planning and communication with the Career Counseling team at your student's school.

If you think your student would like to take Dual Credit during their last year of high school, then they should be planning as early as middle school — since making the right choices for courses for Grade 10 can make or break their chances at Dual Credit

1



Connect with the Careers Counselor or Dual Credit Coordinator at your high school. Let them know you are interested in Dual Credit.

2



Get to know your options at NLC. Participate in a Career Cruising workshop, a campus tour, Student for a Day, Open Houses, or just chat with an NLC recruiter when they visit your high school.

3



Make a plan to pick your courses to meet all of your High School graduation requirements and any admissions requirements at NLC. When picking courses, keep your future options open!

4



When the time comes, meet with your high school's Dual Credit Coordinator to prepare an application for Dual Credit.

5



If you meet the entrance requirements, and if there is a seat available in the program, you will be offered a spot at Northern Lights College.

6



Before committing, make sure you've thought through any potential challenges.

- Is your program at a campus in another community? Do you need to plan for student housing?
- Are you sure you can make the time commitment to study your program full-time?
- Tuition is free, but there are other costs, such as instruction-related fees, textbooks, or personal protective equipment (PPE). Do you have a plan to cover these costs?

7



Your school district covers the deposit on your behalf. All you need to do is accept and confirm your seat via email.

8



Attend the on-campus Dual Credit orientation for students and their families. Keep an eye out for your invitation!

9



Prepare to start as a Dual Credit student. Check with NLC to make sure you know what you'll need to succeed, including any textbooks or equipment, or any additional program requirements. Come out to NLC's orientations, welcome events, and semester start-up workshops.

10



Study, participate, have fun, and then graduate from both high school and NLC in the same year!



What to expect when your child studies at Northern Lights College:

Lots of Support

Here are some of the people who will support your child's success:

The Student Success Hub team, including:

- Learning Support Specialists: learningsupport@nlc.bc.ca
- Access Services Coordinator: accessservices@nlc.bc.ca
- Program Advisors: advising@nlc.bc.ca
- Indigenous Student Navigators: indigenous@nlc.bc.ca

The Registrar's Office team, including:

- Admissions: dualcredit@nlc.bc.ca
- Enrolment Services: studenthelp@nlc.bc.ca
- Financial Aid: finaid@nlc.bc.ca

On-campus services, such as:

- Student Housing: StudentHousing@nlc.bc.ca
- Bookstores: dc-bookstore@nlc.bc.ca or fsj-bookstore@nlc.bc.ca

Communication from your High School

Don't forget, your child will also be registered as a student in their high school while at NLC. Expect regular communications from them.

Student Accountability

Remember, your Dual Credit student is now in an adult learning environment at the College. Your student is responsible for their own participation and learning. As well, all students must contribute to a positive learning environment, and any student who does not will be held accountable for their behaviour. Students should become familiar with the NLC Non-Academic Code of Conduct and the *NLC Student Handbook*. (www.nlc.bc.ca/student-life).

A great on-campus experience

College life includes fun student events, extracurricular learning, recreational activities, cultural opportunities, and more!



Keys to success for Dual Credit students and their families:

Planning

Start early and begin planning before your child selects their Grade 10 courses. Keep their options open and focus on required courses. When the time comes, they should apply early to make sure they get into the program they want!

Communication

Check with your child to make sure they are in contact with their Careers Counselor and the high school Dual Credit Coordinator. Ask them to connect with an NLC Recruiter when they visit the local high school.

Exploring Career Options

Help your child think through the career opportunities available to them. Encourage them to participate in the various career exploration activities at their high school and at Northern Lights College. Do a campus tour or attend an Open House with your child.



For more information, check out these websites:

Ministry website for Dual Credit

www.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/dual-credit

BC Transfer Guide

www.bctransferguide.ca

SD 60

www.prn.bc.ca

SD 59

www.sd59.bc.ca

SD 81

www.sd81.bc.ca

Northern Lights College

www.nlc.bc.ca

For more information, contact us at info@nlc.bc.ca