Mountain Empire Community College
3441 Mountain Empire Road • Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219

Dual Enrollment FAQ – Parents and Students

Who may enroll in Dual Enrollment courses, and is there a minimum age to participate in the program?

Dual Enrollment students are admitted according to the provisions in the current Virginia Plan for Dual Enrollment [PDF]. High school students must meet the following criteria to be eligible for dual enrollment programs:

- High school juniors or seniors attending a public or private school are eligible to enroll in dual enrollment courses. Exceptional freshman and sophomores may be eligible with approval by both high school principal and college president.
- Students must receive a recommendation of high school official.
- Parents must provide consent prior to student enrollment, by signing the Dual Enrollment Application and Virginia Instate Tuition Application. MECC does not have an application fee.
- All dual enrollment students, both academic and career and technical, must meet college placement requirements. MECC provides these exams at no cost.
- Home schooled students are also eligible. Students should contact their local community college to discuss options.
- Individuals below the age of 14 or below high school freshman level may apply to the college for special consideration for admittance which requires an interview with the parent and the student.

What is the cost of dual enrollment classes?

The new Dual Enrollment agreement between the school districts and MECC allows students to enroll in approved dual enrollment courses and pay only 20% of the normal rate for tuition and fees. Some school districts pay 10% of the portion that the student normally pays which leaves only10% of the cost of tuition and fees for the student. A. Linwood Holton Governor's School Dual Enrollment classes are offered with no cost for tuition, fees, or textbooks.

- To view the low cost of dual enrollment classes, visit: http://www.me.vccs.edu/de/de-savings.htm.

Is financial aid available for dual enrollment students?

Federal financial aid regulations prohibit a student from receiving federal financial assistance while still enrolled in secondary school. However, because of special agreements between the College and the secondary school divisions, the student generally pays no more than 20% of the tuition cost for a dual enrollment course. Usually, this is a greater savings of the tuition cost than the student would normally have received from regular financial aid programs.

Does MECC participate in the Wise County "Math and Science Initiative"?

Yes. The Wise County Board of Supervisors have funded a "Math and Science Initiative" to encourage and support those students who wish to enhance their knowledge of math and science by enrolling in approved college-level courses on the MECC campus or on their high school campus. Funds are available to cover the full cost of tuition/fees and books.

- View the list of courses for the Math and Science Initiative at http://www.me.vccs.edu/de/math-sci.htm.

Are students required to take the MECC placement test in order to enroll in dual enrollment courses?

Dual Enrollment students must take the placement test before the MECC can enroll them in courses unless they have scored at least 21 in English, reading and math on the ACT test or at least a 500 on the SAT test in reading, writing and math. Students receiving these scores are not required to take the placement test.

When do students take the placement test in order to enroll in dual enrollment courses?

MECC gives the placement test at the high schools during the spring semester. The high school counselors will know the date when it will be offered. Students who do not take the placement test at their high school may take the placement test at Mountain Empire Community College during regular Testing Center Hours. Prospective Dual enrollment students who need to take the test at MECC should contact the Testing Center at (276) 523-2472 before coming to the college to take the test.

How do we know which courses are approved for dual credit?

The high school guidance office can help the student select the courses approved by the individual school district for dual enrollment.

- To view the complete list of courses by areas of study at Mountain Empire Community College visit: http://www.me.vccs.edu/de/courses.htm.

Are there prerequisite courses which must be taken by students before enrolling in Mountain Empire dual enrollment courses?

Dual Enrollment courses have the same prerequisites as their non-Dual Enrollment counterparts. Specific course prerequisites are stated for individual courses in the MECC catalog, accessible online or in print. Questions about Transfer course prerequisites can be answered by calling 523-7460 and speaking with an advisor in the Division of Arts and Sciences; 523-7462 for Business Technology courses; 523-7456 for Health Science courses or 523-7465 for Industrial Technology courses. Courses also have placement score requisites.

What is the enrollment process for Dual Enrollment courses which transfer to colleges and universities?

For the student, the process begins at the high school by talking with the counselor to determine which dual enrollment courses are offered at the high school or on the MECC campus.

How do students get their grade report at the end of the semester?

After the exam period each semester, the final grade for the course is posted to the College's Student Information System – MECC OnLine. To view or print a copy of the grades, students should login to MECC Online using their user id and password. Paper grade reports are not mailed to the home address.

How do students get a grade transcript sent to the high school or another college?

To request an official grade transcript be mailed to your high school or another college, the student may login to MECC OnLine and request the transcript or submit the request in writing to the Registrar's Office in Godwin Hall. The request should include the name and address of the specific office where the transcript should be mailed as well as the student's name and either social security number or student user id. Written requests must be signed by the student. Transcripts are generally mailed within three days after the request is received.

For more information on MECC's Dual Enrollment Program, contact:
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