

## **Dual Credit Partnership Agreement 2025-2026 Academic Year**

By definition of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, dual credit is “a system under which an eligible high school student enrolls in college course(s) and receives credit for the course(s) from both the college and the high school.” Dual credit courses may be taught on the high school campus by an approved instructor or on the college campus. Dual credit courses include both academic and technical courses.

South Plains College (SPC) recognizes the importance of allowing highly motivated high school students the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. Additionally, SPC understands the importance of facilitating a smooth transition for students from high school to an institution of higher education, by offering students different pathways to achieve their educational and career goals while limiting student debt and unnecessary financial burdens.

**South Plains College**, an educational institution of Hockley County, in the State of Texas, and O'Donnell Independent School District agree to enter a partnership to offer dual credit courses to eligible students which will allow them to earn college credits while simultaneously granting credit toward their high school graduation requirements. Both the College and the District agree that all course policies and practices are under the jurisdiction of the College.

This partnership details outlined in this agreement also apply to school districts who have been approved to offer an active Texas College and Career Readiness School Model (CCRSM) by the Texas Education Agency – either an Early College High School (ECHS) and/or a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH).

In consideration of this partnership agreement, the parties agree to the following:

### **1. Student Eligibility for Dual Credit**

To be eligible for enrollment in a dual credit course, a high school student must meet all requirements for admission to South Plains College in addition to applicable student eligibility requirements as established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter D, Rule § 4.85.

Specific TSI course requirements that have been identified by the institution can be found here: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/dualcredit/Courses.php>

Students must be initially recommended (i.e., approved) by a high school principal or district designee (e.g., high school counselor) for participation in the dual credit program. Once a student completes their first dual credit course with South Plains College, district recommendation/permission will no longer be required prior to enrollment. Students should seek advice from their high school counselor prior to enrolling each semester to ensure that their dual credit courses are transcribed properly.

Prospective dual credit students will then complete a dual credit application to South Plains College and demonstrate college readiness in accordance with the current rules and processes established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (see Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter C, Rules § 4.54 - § 4.59).

Students in grades nine through twelve are eligible to take dual credit courses provided they meet college readiness criteria established by the THECB.

Test scores demonstrating college readiness are not required for Career and Technical Education (CTE) students enrolling in dual credit courses that are part of a Workforce Education Level 1 Certificate, excluding academic programs that have restricted admission (e.g., Fire Academy, Emergency Medical Services – EMT Basic, Vocational Nursing, etc.).

## **2. Eligible Courses**

Only college-level courses approved by the Academic Council of the College, which are listed in the most recent edition of the Academic Course Guide Manual or the Workforce Education Course Manual, will be considered for dual credit.

Courses approved as part of the College's core curriculum, a career and technical education course, or a foreign language course may be offered for dual credit. This provision does not apply to a college course that is being offered for dual credit as part of an approved early college education program established under TEC Section 29.908 or an early college program, as defined in TAC Chapter 4 Subchapter D, which assists students in earning a certificate or associate's degree while in high school.

No developmental education or remedial courses can be offered for dual credit.

*Institutional guidelines governing the instruction of college preparatory courses are not included within this document, but are addressed in a separate memorandum of understanding.*

High school students may enroll in the number of classes appropriate to their needs so long as it does not exceed the institutional limit of 18 hours per semester, as listed in the College's Academic Catalog. Students must still meet established course pre-requisites prior to enrolling in classes.

A course equivalency crosswalk which equates high school courses with college courses offered through the dual credit program will be made available online and/or upon request of the district.

## **3. Dual Credit Instructor Qualifications & Teaching Requirements**

The hiring of dual credit adjuncts will be exclusively made by South Plains College. At a minimum, any individual who is approved to teach a dual credit course must meet the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on College (SACSCOC) guidelines for community college faculty.

