

News Release

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Contact: Patrick Gasper, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559
Teri Venker, UW Colleges Public Information Officer, (608) 263-5061

UW Colleges and DPI announce expanded dual enrollment program

Program will allow students to take UW Colleges courses at their high schools

WAUSAU, Wis. — High school students in Wisconsin will be able to earn college credits while still in high school under a new dual enrollment program announced today by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the University of Wisconsin Colleges.

Tony Evers, state superintendent of public instruction, and Ray Cross, chancellor of UW Colleges and UW-Extension, signed an agreement and announced the new statewide model for dually enrolling high school students in high school and UW Colleges courses. They spoke at a ceremony at the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County, one of the UW Colleges campuses in Wausau. UW Colleges is the UW System's network of 13 freshman - sophomore campuses and UW Colleges Online.

Evers and Cross said the new partnership would allow students across Wisconsin to access UW Colleges courses in their high schools via classroom teachers and online. The new dual enrollment program would accelerate students' ability to earn UW credits, reduce the cost of obtaining a college degree, and increase the readiness of high school graduates for either college or the workplace. The program should be in place no later than the 2013-14 school year.

"We're trying to better serve high school students by bringing our University of Wisconsin courses right into their high schools in a cost-effective way," said Cross. "We're committed to making these UW credits as affordable as possible for high school students, their families, and the school districts."

"More students need the opportunity to take advanced courses and earn high school and college credit simultaneously," Evers said. "This statewide dual enrollment agreement is a great way for students to get an introduction to college coursework and earn credits before even enrolling in a school of higher education. This will increase the number of students who graduate from high school ready for college and careers."

(more)

Dual enrollment courses will be taught by trained high school teachers who are approved to teach college-level courses by the appropriate UW Colleges academic department, with ongoing support and professional development from their high school and the UW Colleges. The courses will be focused on high school juniors and seniors, but will be open to younger students as well. There will also be an online option for students who cannot take desired classes in their high schools.

The new dual enrollment partnership will complement concurrent enrollment programs offered by UW Colleges, UW-Oshkosh, and UW-Green Bay because it expands access to UW credits statewide. The new partnership differs from Wisconsin's Youth Options program, which allows high school students to take courses at a University of Wisconsin campus, technical college, or other institution of higher learning. Youth Options students must take classes at the college or university.

UW Colleges offer an Associate of Arts and Sciences degree and prepares students of all ages and backgrounds for baccalaureate and professional programs. UW Colleges enrolled 14,614 students in 2011.

The Department of Public Instruction is the state agency that advances public education and libraries in Wisconsin. The department is headed by the state superintendent of public instruction, a nonpartisan, constitutional officer elected every four years. The state superintendent serves as a member of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents.

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NOTES: This news release is available electronically on the Department of Public Instruction website at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2012_73.pdf. A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding is available online at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/uw_colleges_dpi_mou.pdf. More information about UW Colleges Online is available at <http://www.online.uwc.edu/>. Information about Associate of Arts and Sciences degrees available through UW Colleges is available at <http://www.uwc.edu/academics/associate-degrees/>.