

VIU Transition Opportunities Dual Credit

What School Counsellors and other key school staff need to know?

Students in high school who meet admission requirements can take VIU courses for dual credit.

Credits towards both high school diploma and university, available for both academic and trades programs.

There are three options for academic courses:

1. **Enrichment**– this opportunity is targeted for students entering Grade 12. It is marketed to schools and the community in early February. Students review a number of preselected courses that are approved by Faculties **and consult with high school contacts to ensure feasibility**. These courses have a limited number of reserved seats and are made available to students to apply late April early May. Admission is considered based on Incoming Outstanding Student criteria: 3 A's and 1 B in core grade 11 courses. Once all applicants are reviewed and registered, remaining available seats are opened up for general registration to full time VIU students. Maximum of two courses per semester. Accepted students will be notified early May. Public school systems are funding these courses for students. Application fee, books, supplies and Student Union and Activity fees are paid for by the student.
2. **Special Admission** – Students at any time of the year can apply to take a course as long as they meet course prerequisites. Students apply with a letter of permission from the school principal and need to contact the VIU instructor directly to receive approval. Accepted students will be contacted once completed applications are processed. Maximum of two courses per semester for a total of four. School districts will fund these courses as well. Refer to viu.ca/dualcredit for outline of step by step process.
3. **Cohort Model** – Principals, Counsellors, or other school staff can gather students to fill an entire course. These arrangements need to begin with the Dual Credit Coordinator and will develop in consultation with the specific Faculty Dean. This option can be arranged at a start time preferred by the school. Eg: start in February to align with high school semesters. A survey is currently underway to determine feasibility for February 2016.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When can I learn more about this program?

A: Attend an information session in early February of your Grade 11 year. You can also email your questions to Jennifer.Merner@viu.ca to learn how to plan ahead.

Q: What is the maximum number of courses I can take?

A: You can take a maximum of two courses per semester for a total of 4 courses in one year.

Q: Does completing this course count as credit toward a program or degree I might enroll in later?

A: Absolutely, all courses will be listed on your transcript and will count for full credit towards any future program to which it can be applied. If you want to see how a course will transfer to a specific University you can consult the BC Transfer Guide at <http://www.bctransferguide.ca/>

If you plan to attend a school out of province or country you will need to check with the specific institution.

Q: Can I get high school credit for completing a course at Vancouver Island University?

A: Your course is a dual credit course and will be reflected as post-secondary institute (PSI) on your high school transcript. If you require a transcript from VIU, to transfer these courses to another institution, you will be required to request and pay for the transcript.

Q: Some VIU courses require that I have certain Grade 12 courses done before I apply. How do I do this?

A: You need to plan your courses with your school counsellor, so that you complete any required courses in the first semester of your grade 12 year.

Q: What are some examples of courses students can take?

A: English, Psychology, History, Marketing, Social Work, Anthropology, Media Studies, Philosophy, Biology, Chemistry, Math, Music, etc.

Q: What times are these courses offered?

A: Courses are offered at all times of the day from 8:30am to 9:00pm. A number of different times are available to give options for students.

Q: How can I take a University level English course?

A: We recommend that you take English 12 in Grade 11. You can be completing your English 12 in first semester of grade 12 and take first year university English in spring semester at VIU.

Q: What do I have to pay?

A: The School District pays your tuition and you are responsible for the cost of books, application fee and Student Union and Student Activity Fees.

Q: How can I take a course if I don't meet the Incoming Outstanding Student (IOS) criteria?

A: All reserved seats are offered to those that qualify for IOS first. If seats are still available then yes, as long as you meet the minimum course prerequisite for the course you choose to take and you have a letter of permission.

Q: Can I take courses while in Grade 12 if the timeframe for the reserved seats has passed?

A: You can apply for [Special Admission](#). You can see steps at viu.ca/dualcredit.

How can you help? What do you need to know?

- Start identifying students that would benefit from this opportunity as early as grade 10.
- Encourage strong students to take English 12 in second semester Grade 11 to leave more options open for courses.
- Refer students to viu.ca/dualcredit.ca to see posted Information Session dates and other important notices.
- Work directly with a student to ensure the courses they want will work with their high school timetable.

Interesting Facts:

How many students have participated in this program?

Year	Students	Courses
2015	42	92
2014	49	90
2013	35	60
2012	7	13

Did you know?

Students select choices from 150 sections of courses.

Courses in Biology, Chemistry, Math, Business, Interior design, and Graphic design were all added in 2015.

What students are saying about this opportunity:

C. McNicoll, 2015

My dual credit experience at VIU was great. It gave me the chance to ease into University by trying a few classes. It felt a lot different than high school so I appreciated the opportunity to get prepared for coming full time. I was able to use this experience to improve my study skills and learn how to manage my time.

M. Plaxton, 2013

I really liked how my instructor added in the real life to his teachings so it made everything more relatable and easier to recall. You can tell he's very passionate about his job and it reflects on his students. His enthusiasm made me really want to participate in the class. The other students I met were very accepting as well. It didn't matter to them that I was in high school, and going into this whole program was my biggest fear. I actually made a few friends that I am hoping to see again on campus next semester.

Visit viu.ca/dualcredit for the full list of FAQ's and other important information.

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