

Articulation and Dual Credit

Many states are seeking cooperative agreements between secondary agricultural education programs and postsecondary education institutions. For the purposes of understanding these efforts, a definition of articulation and dual credit follow. As you move forward with starting a new agricultural education program, it is important to make school administrators aware of the potential for these agreements for future students. It will also be important to locate universities and community colleges who offer agriculture courses in your state that are already engaged in these agreements with other high schools or who are open to the possibilities of offering articulation agreements and/or dual credit for agriculture courses.

Articulation agreement

An articulation agreement is a written, formal document that specifies the process by which a high school student may earn college credit through successful completion of certain high school courses where students achieve learning outcomes, skills and abilities comparable to those covered in a college course. The process allows high school students to move smoothly into postsecondary education without experiencing delay or duplication of courses. Generally, the college credit is not awarded until the student is enrolled at the college issuing the articulation agreement and until the student has satisfactorily completed a designated number of credit hours or terms. Because the courses involved are at the high school level, the student pays no tuition.

Dual Credit

Dual credit provides the opportunity for high school students to enroll in courses approved by a postsecondary institution for college credit. The student is able to receive credit toward a high school diploma for such courses and upon graduating from high school receives college credit from the postsecondary institution involved and other colleges and universities, which accept transfer credit from that postsecondary institution. Dual credit courses are generally advanced-level courses and are open to students who qualify for admission for college-level work. The high school student generally pays tuition, though it may be reduced, for dual credit courses. In order for the course to meet the dual credit criteria, the postsecondary institution may dictate the textbook, syllabus, grading system, teacher qualifications and other course requirements.