

The Department of Education's *Experimental Sites Initiative*

Dual Enrollment

January 2016

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- Overview of the Experiment

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- How to Apply

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- Reporting and Evaluation

Responsibilities of Institutional Offices



Administrative Capability
668.16(b)(1) and (4)

Dual Enrollment

Description

- The experiment will allow participating postsecondary institutions to provide Pell Grants to students who are enrolled in secondary school while also enrolled in Title IV-eligible postsecondary programs

Dual Enrollment

Objectives

- Learn how Federal Pell Grant funding can expand opportunities for students from low-income backgrounds to participate in dual enrollment
- Explore how Pell Grant funding can expand access to rigorous coursework for high school students
- Provide information regarding the number and characteristics of Pell-eligible students who would likely participate in dual enrollment programs

Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment arrangements of particular interest to the Department:



High-demand fields including Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics



Career pathways and other career preparation programs

Dual Enrollment

Current Rules

- A student may not receive Title IV aid, including Pell Grant funds, for postsecondary enrollment if the student is also enrolled in secondary school
- A student must have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent in order to receive Title IV aid

Experiment

- An otherwise-eligible student who is enrolled in both secondary school and an eligible postsecondary program may receive a Pell Grant
- An otherwise-eligible student enrolled in both secondary school and an eligible postsecondary program does not need to have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent to receive a Pell Grant

Dual Enrollment

Waivers

Law/Regulation

Description

Section 484(a)(1) of the HEA and 34 CFR 668.32(b)

Prohibits a student who is enrolled in secondary school from receiving funds under the Federal Pell Grant program

Section 484(d) of the HEA and 34 CFR 668.32(e)

Requires that a student have a high school diploma, or its recognized equivalent, to be eligible for Federal Pell Grant funds

Requirements

Participating institutions must have an arrangement with one or more Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) or public secondary schools

Requirements

Arrangement(s) must:



Require dually enrolled students to enroll in Title IV-eligible postsecondary programs as regular students



Provide that students only receive Pell Grant funds for coursework that applies towards completion of the postsecondary credential at the postsecondary institution



Ensure that dual enrollment arrangements do not impede participating students' academic progress and persistence in secondary school

Requirements

Arrangement(s) must:



Offer students the opportunity to earn the equivalent of at least 12 credit hours while the student is also enrolled in secondary school



Ensure students are adequately prepared academically for postsecondary-level coursework



Prohibit the use of Federal Pell Grant funds for remedial coursework for dually enrolled students

Dual Enrollment FAQs

Q. What does it mean to “offer students the opportunity to earn the equivalent of at least 12 credit hours”?

A. In order to meet the requirements for the experiment, an institution is required to make available to dually-enrolled students coursework that constitutes at least 12 credit hours while the students are still enrolled in secondary school. We do not require an individual to actually enroll in and complete 12 credit hours during the experiment.

Requirements

Arrangement(s) must:



Provide student support services to increase student preparation for and success in postsecondary education



Provide assistance completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Dual Enrollment FAQs

Q: Are home-schooled students eligible for the experiment?

A: To participate in the experiment, students must be considered legally enrolled under state law in a public secondary school. Participating postsecondary schools should check with their state to see how this is defined, but if the state does not consider home-schooled students as legally enrolled in a public secondary school, then those students would not be eligible to receive Pell Grant funds under the experiment.

Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU)

Dual Enrollment and Pell LEU



Federal Pell Grants received under the experiment will count towards a student's lifetime eligibility for Pell Grant funds

Requirements

Awards and Disbursements



Pell Grant awards will be determined using the Federal Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement schedules for the relevant award year (e.g. full-time, three-quarter time, half-time or less than half-time)



Normal requirements for student eligibility, calculating a student's cost of attendance, and disbursing Pell Grant funds remain in effect

Dual Enrollment FAQs

Q. Do credit balances need to be disbursed to students under the experiment?

A. Yes. The experiment requires that any credit balances created through disbursement of Pell Grants be provided to students under the normal requirements for release of credit balances.

Requirements

Remaining Institutional Charges



After all Federal Pell Grants, State, local, institutional aid, or other resources have been applied to student charges, students must not be responsible for remaining institutional charges for dual enrollment programs under the experiment

Requirements

Notice of Transferability of Credit



Any information about potential restrictions on the transferability of dual enrollment credits received must be disclosed to students and their families prior to the student's participation in the experiment

Requirements

Use of Funds



Federal Pell Grants must not supplant public and institutional sources of funding



Institutions will be required to annually submit information about the total cost of operating the dual enrollment arrangement and the sources of funding for the arrangement

How to Apply

Requirements for the Letter of Interest

- Should be on institutional letterhead
- Signed by the institution's financial aid administrator
- Submit as a PDF attachment to an email to: experimentalsites@ed.gov no later than February 1, 2016. The subject line of the email should read "ESI 2015-Dual Enrollment"
- Must include the institution's official name and OPEID, mailing address, email address, FAX number and telephone number of a contact person

How to Apply

Requirements for the Letter of Interest

- Content of the letter should include:
 - A brief description of the proposed dual enrollment arrangement(s)
 - How the arrangement meets requirements outlined in the Federal Register Notice
 - If the institution identifies one or more public schools it will partner with, include identifying information for each public secondary school and the school's LEA
 - An estimate of the number of students who will be served

Application Review

When selecting institutions, the Department will consider:

- Past Title IV, HEA administration and compliance, including financial responsibility ratios, cohort default rates, and, for proprietary institutions, “90/10” ratios
- Strong record on student outcomes and in the administration of the Title IV, HEA programs, including completion rates, loan repayment rates, and evidence of credit transferability

Program Participation Agreement



FSA sends the school the Amendment to the PPA

School signs and returns hard copy document via delivery service



FSA sends the school a countersigned amendment to the PPA and a welcome letter

- School retains copies of both of those documents for their records

Reporting and Evaluation

Information to be collected for evaluation:

- The number and characteristics of students enrolled in dual enrollment
- The number of postsecondary credits the students have attempted and earned
- The amount of Federal Pell Grant funding provided to each student
- Indicators of academic progression and completion
- The number and characteristics of low-income students who participated in dual enrollment prior to the experiment

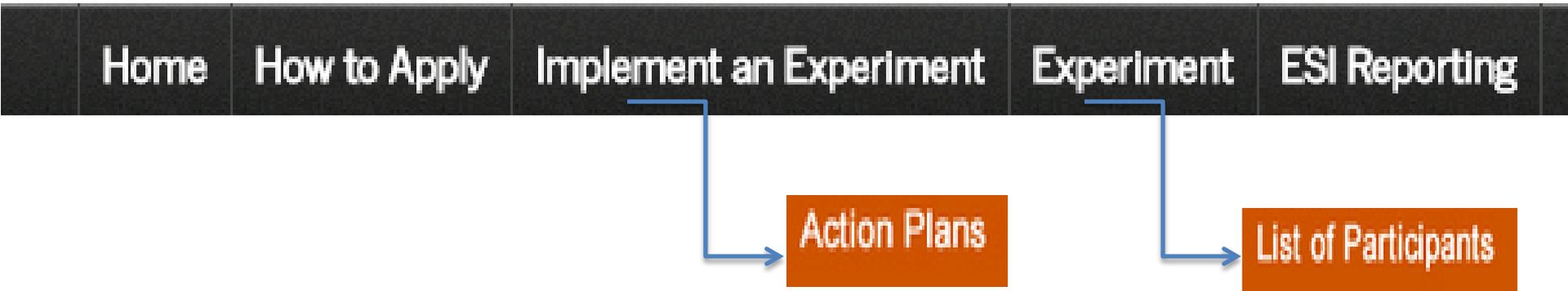
Reporting and Evaluation

Participating institutions will be required to:

- Participate in annual surveys that include:
 - Information about the institution's dual enrollment arrangement(s) and any unforeseen challenges
 - Characteristics of the institution's dual enrollment arrangement (e.g., tuition and fees, caps on credits earned, support services provided, instructional delivery methods, and faculty characteristics)
- The Department will finalize specific evaluation and reporting requirements prior to the start of the experiment

Experimental Sites Initiative Website

<https://experimentalsites.ed.gov>



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Questions and Answers