

# How do credits earned through dual enrollment programs impact a student's financial aid eligibility?

<b>Financial aid eligibility of dually enrolled students while in high school:</b>	Students participating in dual enrollment programs are not eligible for federal or direct state financial aid.
<b>Financial aid eligibility of former dually enrolled students:</b>	Basic eligibility for federal and state need-based aid is dependent on the student and family's income and family size, not participation in dual enrollment. Credits earned through participation in dual enrollment, however, affect the length of time a student can continue to receive state and federal financial aid, the satisfactory academic progress evaluation, and the annual maximum award amounts for federal student loan programs. Students with questions about the effect dual credit programs on their student aid or scholarship packages should always check directly with the admissions, financial aid, and scholarship offices of the college they are planning to attend upon graduation from high school.

## Maximum Timeframe

Many types of financial aid have a maximum timeframe for eligibility that limits the length of time to receive aid. The limitation depends on the state, federal, and institutional policy, but is generally either 125 or 150 percent of the program length.

For example, if a student has earned 90 quarter credits through participation in dual enrollment:

<b>And the four-year institution's maximum timeframe policy is:</b>	<b>And the minimum credits required to complete a bachelor's degree is:</b>	<b>The maximum credits that can be earned before potentially jeopardizing student aid eligibility is:</b>
150%	180 quarter/120 semester	270 quarter/180 semester
125%	180 quarter/120 semester	225 quarter/150 semester

## Appeals of the Timeframe

Depending on the college, individual students may be allowed to appeal the overall time limit. Appeals, if accepted, are based on each student's individual circumstances. Appeals often revolve around changes to the student's major, reconsideration of earlier remedial coursework, or unavoidable circumstances that extend the student's course of study.

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

One of the requirements for financial aid eligibility is that students maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP). Poor academic performance, including withdrawing from courses, can negatively impact student aid eligibility. SAP is a measurement of academic performance in terms of GPA and completed credits. Specific standards may vary by institution. All prior college coursework, including that taken through a dual enrollment program, will be evaluated for SAP.

## Scholarships

Many four-year colleges and universities allow students who participated in dual enrollment programs to apply for scholarships. Students should check with the scholarship office of the institution in which they are enrolling upon graduation from high school to understand the college or university policy. It is up to each scholarship donor or each higher education institution to determine how dual enrollment credits impact consideration for scholarships that are reserved for freshmen.

## Effect of the Year-in-College on Maximum Annual Federal Student Loan Amounts

The federal student loan programs permit higher awards for second- and third-year college students than for first-year students. Running Start student who achieve third-year college status at the end of their dual enrollment program will qualify for the higher loan amounts right out of high school.

\*adapted from Running Start FAQs: <http://www.k12.wa.us/DualCredit/pubdocs/RunningStartFAQs.pdf>

## High School Partnerships

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