Dual Credit/Early Entry Program
Best Practices

To ensure the success and longevity of the dual credit program Bismarck State College makes the following recommendations:

- Select courses that cover the general education requirements for a broad range of degree programs. Some examples of courses that work well for dual credit are:
  - COMM 110 Fundamentals of Public Speaking
  - ENGL 110 College Composition I
  - ENGL 120 College Composition II
  - PSYC 111 Introduction to Psychology
  - MATH 103 College Algebra
  - MATH 165 Calculus I
  - HIST 103 United States to 1877
  - HIST 104 United States since 1877

- When offering Math for dual credit, discussion with students about their educational goals prior to enrollment in the course becomes vital. In an ideal setting, a high school would offer both MATH 103 College Algebra and MATH 165 Calculus I to offer options to students with varying educational goals.

- When offering Math and/or English courses for dual credit that require ACT placement scores, it is important to promote early placement testing with interested students. The COMPASS exam is available for students who have not yet taken the ACT or have taken the ACT, but do not meet minimum score requirements.

- A dual credit course should ideally be added to the list of a high school’s course offerings rather than built into an existing course. This helps foster a clear, positive image of what dual credit truly is.

- If planning to offer more than one section of a dual credit course, limit the course to one or two sections throughout the day to encourage student populations with a majority of dual credit students attending.

- All dual credit courses taught at the high school must bear the college course title.

- Dual credit courses cannot be offered over the full year.

- Encourage students to register in the spring for the next academic year. This gives students time to consult with transfer institutions about the courses they plan to take as well as change their mind about enrolling in a course without transcript or financial drop date issues.

- It is important for all individuals involved in the dual credit program (students, parents, teachers, counselors, and administration) to fully understand that a dual credit course is a college course and that any student enrolled in a dual credit course is a college student and must abide by all college rules and regulations (tuition rates and fees, add/drop date deadlines, etc.).