

UK Next Generation Scholars Memorandum of Agreement 2025-26

**DUAL CREDIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
AND
HOPKINS COUNTY SCHOOLS**

UK Dual Credit Website:<https://dualcredit.uky.edu/>

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1. Introduction

In an effort to provide a seamless educational pathway for high school students seeking the academic rigor of a Research I institution and to redesign the high school experience to better prepare students on that path, the University of Kentucky (UK) and Hopkins County, have agreed to cooperate in UK Next Generation Scholars, an initiative for secondary students (grades 9-12) to receive dual credit toward both the high school and UK curriculum requirements. The parties share a two-part mission:

Dual Credit Mission - Provide access to University of Kentucky courses to a diverse population of students in high school to increase college- and UK-going rates across the Commonwealth while reducing both the cost and time to degree.

Network Mission - Link together schools in Kentucky through a formal Network operated by the UK Center for Next Generation Leadership, in the College of Education, to address the challenges of leading and reforming school models in the 21st Century. Network schools will collaboratively work toward deeper learning models that prepare all students for success in college, careers, and life.

Collectively, the effort to achieve both components of the mission shall be entitled UK Next Generation Scholars. Students enrolled dually in high school and UK shall be referred to as Next Gen Scholars. Member schools shall be referred to as Next Gen Network Schools. The UK Center for Next Generation Leadership of the College of Education will serve as the intermediary and operator of UK Next Generation Scholars.

This Agreement specifies the roles and responsibilities of UK and District, (collectively, the Parties) in the dual credit partnership as well as the school improvement network for the purpose of implementing the Kentucky Dual Credit Scholarship Program.

The Program will include high school students from Madisonville North Hopkins High School screened by Hopkins County Schools, hereafter referred to as District, for eligibility, and District employed teachers partnered with UK faculty in the appropriate academic departments offering the dual credit courses. For the purposes of this Agreement, dual credit is defined as a college-level course offered to eligible high school students with the enrolled students earning high school credit and college credit simultaneously. This definition is consistent with Kentucky Revised Statute 164.002 and the University Senate Rules section 3.2 and 4.2.1.3.1.2.

2. Dual Credit

2.1 - UK Responsibilities

2.1.1 - Course Availability - District and UK agree that for the purposes of this Program, UK will annually determine the courses to be offered for dual credit. The courses offered in this program will be in

accordance with the current UK Senate Rules and be transferable for general education certification in Kentucky following CPE Dual Credit policy.

2.1.2 - Canvas Access - UK will provide guest access to the Canvas course shells to the high school faculty prior to the term in which courses are offered. High school faculty are responsible for regularly accessing the course shell and contributing in the predesignated ways as determined by each UK course instructor.

2.1.3 - Enrollment Management - UK's Office of Enrollment Management, in coordination with the Center, will designate a single point of contact to assist in the management of admission and registration of high school students into the Next Gen scholars program.

a. UK's Enrollment Management staff in collaboration with the Center for Next Generation Leadership staff will be responsible for informing the school staff and teachers of the current requirements, costs and fees associated with enrollment at UK as a participant in the dual credit initiative.

b. High school staff will be responsible for gathering all the information needed for the online UK application for the students who choose to participate in the dual credit initiative and will adhere to due dates and guidelines, as outlined in the UK Bulletin.

c. UK's Enrollment Management staff (in collaboration with the appropriate Center for Next Generation Leadership staff) will be responsible for assisting students with enrolling in the dual credit course section at UK.

d. In some cases ACT equivalents or UK Placement Tests may be used for certain courses at UK as required by specific course expectations applicable to all UK students. The professional advising staff will be responsible for working with the UK department and college staff to assure appropriate placement and/or supplemental instruction, if required, for each student.

e. UK's Enrollment Management staff will work with District, and KHEAA when necessary, to identify and report on each student who chooses to participate in the dual credit initiative to establish deadlines, to bill for payment, and to communicate tuition rates and refund policies.

f. District staff will use Infinite Campus in accordance with KDE Course Data Standards (<http://education.ky.gov/districts/tech/sis/pages/ksis-data-standards.aspx>) to identify the course alignment and titles for dual credit courses and allow for KHEAA to create the report for statewide accounting purposes.

g. School staff will be responsible for obtaining parental permission for the release of all grades in the dual credit class, if necessary, from District to UK.

2.1.4 - Teacher Training and Information - The UK Center for Next Generation Leadership, in conjunction with UK faculty of each dual credit course offered, will train the high school teachers to teach the curricula for all academic dual credit courses in this Program. This training will occur in advance of the

academic term in which instruction occurs, and supervisory oversight and/or mentoring by UK personnel will occur throughout the academic term as defined by UK's academic calendar.

UK faculty and staff will train the high school instructors on the information about the course being taught, including how to provide students with information about the course they are enrolling in and the benefits and risks of enrolling in such courses. UK faculty will be available for questions from the District staff who function as the students' advisors who are responsible for maintaining contact with the students; informing the student of significant dates (i.e., add/drop dates, first and last day of class dates); grading policies, and monitoring student progress. Academic alerts will be handled within the District system, and at midterm and at the end of each semester, the instructors will submit the students' grades via the MyUK portal. Upon a formal concern arising about a student in a dual credit course, the high school instructor will notify their partner UK instructor or dual credit program administrator.

2.1.5 - Syllabus - An official UK syllabus will be prepared for each dual credit course. One copy will be submitted to the UK department and made available to students who enroll in the UK course.

2.1.6 - Alignment of Rigor - The UK department is responsible for periodic assessment of student artifacts to ensure comparable learning with traditional, non-dual-credit UK courses.

2.1.7 - Student Advising - the Center will provide a student advisor for students in the Dual Credit program. This student advisor will:

- a. Meet virtually or in person with each student upon request to discuss progress in the Dual Credit program and will provide timely support for students as they prepare to transition to UK.
- b. Serve on an as-needed basis to answer student questions on dual credit courses and college transitions.
- c. Provide support to Dual Credit students in completing their application to UK.
- d. Help dual credit students complete college application supporting materials such as the FAFSA upon request.
- e. Provide information and support to students regarding a successful transition to a post-secondary institution.

2.1.8 - Evaluation of Dual Credit - The success of the program will be determined jointly by UK and District faculty and staff. The Center will design evaluation tools and collect and analyze relevant Program data such as quantitative data (ACT sub-scores, withdrawal rates, failure rates) as well as qualitative data (such as post-attrition survey responses, faculty interactions, surveys from the faculty development experiences, perception data from students, faculty, and teaching partners, or teacher course evaluation responses).

2.1.9 - Application of the UK Code of Conduct: The UK Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct apply to all students enrolled in dual credit courses at UK. Failure to comply with these principles or code of conduct may result in disciplinary consequences up to and potentially including dismissal from the University.

2.1.10 - Student Privacy in Dual Credit - Students in a dual credit course with the University of Kentucky

shall be considered UK students for purposes of student privacy. Instructors shall maintain student confidentiality as provided in the UK Right to Privacy in Student Records component of the UK Code of Student Conduct, including the application of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

2.1.11- Compliance - The Next Gen Scholars Dual credit program will comply with Ky dual credit policies and practices as outlined in Kentucky Revised Statute 164.002, the University Senate Rules section 3.2 and 4.2.1.3.1.2., and CPE Dual Credit Policy for Kentucky Public and Participating Postsecondary Institutions and Secondary Schools.

2.2 - School Responsibilities

2.2.1 - Course Offerings - District will offer at least one UK Dual Credit course in each of the Fall and Spring semester with a minimum enrollment of at least 10 students. Failure to offer at least one UK Dual Credit course per semester may result in termination.

2.2.2 - High School Enrollment - Staff from the high schools in conjunction with UK's Office of Enrollment Management and Center for Next Generation Leadership will be responsible for enrolling the students in dual credit classes.

2.2.3 - Additional Supports - District will be responsible for purchasing required course materials for the purposes of this Program. District will be responsible for providing access to any library or other support resources necessary for student success as outlined by SACSCOC Dual Enrollment Policy Statement (provided in Appendix A).

2.2.4 - Course Payment - Payment for courses in the dual credit model may be paid by either the school or the student as determined by district policy/practice. However, for students qualifying for free or reduced lunch meals, the District will approve the release of an amount of money commensurate with the state-approved dual credit tuition rate (currently \$92 per credit hour but subject to change) for all students who successfully complete the UK course. Successful completion of the UK course is defined as earning a passing letter grade (i.e., not including E, U, I or W). For paid-lunch students for whom the student's family is paying dual credit tuition, UK is not permitted to charge the student in the event of a course failure per KRS 164.768(1)(h)(3). For those students that have individually paid and not earned a passing grade, the participating high school shall pay one-half of the dual credit tuition charged to the University.

2.2.5 - Collaborative Instruction of Courses - To provide the best possible outcomes on dual credit course enrollments, District is expected to assign a qualified teacher to collaboratively teach each dual credit course unless otherwise notified. Expectations for the collaborative instruction of courses include:

- a. Each assigned high school teacher will meet the minimum qualifications established by UK and provided in advance. These include a teacher in at least their second year of service and with expertise in the content area. High School Teachers wishing to teach WRD 110 or WRD 111 independently must be dual credit certified.
- b. Each high school teacher will provide student-level support to all students in the assigned dual

credit course.

- c. With the approval of the UK Instructor, each high school teacher will design, implement, and grade projects and performance assessments that reinforce the content and instruction in each dual credit course. Each major project and performance assessment will be approved in advance by the UK course instructor as a support to the overall course syllabus.
- d. High school teachers are expected to stay in regular communication with UK course instructors. UK course instructors and academic advisors shall be notified when student issues arise in the classroom.
- e. High schools shall align the instructional time in the high school schedule to the UK course starting and ending times in the UK course catalog to permit full participation of students.
- f. Students and collaborating teachers are expected to be in attendance at all scheduled class times in accordance with the UK Academic Calendar unless otherwise notified by UK faculty.

2.2.6 - Student Advising - In addition to the advising services provided by UK, District guidance or other personnel will provide advising to all students participating in the Dual Credit Program. Guidance personnel will provide specific guidance to struggling students about withdrawal policies and assist students in obtaining the withdrawal.

2.2.7- Compliance - High Schools participating in the Next Gen Scholars Dual credit program will comply with Ky dual credit policies and practices as outlined in Kentucky Revised Statute 164.002, the University Senate Rules section 3.2 and 4.2.1.3.1.2., and CPE Dual Credit Policy for Kentucky Public and Participating Postsecondary Institutions and Secondary Schools.

2.2.8. - Aligned Grading - High school students enrolled in the UK course will receive a grade using the UK grading scale, available for reference in the Undergraduate Bulletin. The UK grade must be reflected in the corresponding grade earned in the high school equivalent course. Students participating in the UK dual credit program must receive credit at both institutions. Students may not audit the class but must be fully enrolled and follow the UK academic calendar.

2.3 - Student Responsibilities

2.3.1. Application for Non-Degree - High school students choosing to earn UK credit through this dual credit initiative must apply for and obtain acceptance as a non-degree-seeking student each semester. Students are required to complete the non-degree-seeking online application.

2.3.2 - Admission to Dual Credit - Admission to a UK Dual Credit course is required before a student may enroll in a UK class and is contingent upon permission from District (in collaboration with UK regarding the student's eligibility). However, enrollment in the specific UK course is ultimately determined by the UK personnel teaching that course, with the consent of the school's guidance counselor and principal.

2.3.3 - Course evaluation - Students enrolled in dual credit courses will complete an evaluation for each

course taken as a dual credit course. Evaluation forms (whether on paper or in electronic format) will be handled in a private and secure manner as required by UK Senate Rules.

2.3.4 - Matriculation - Students participating in dual credit courses who wish to matriculate to UK as degree-seeking freshmen should apply to UK during their senior year, prior to the December 1 deadline. All students participating in UK dual credit courses will be encouraged to complete the full UK application.

2.3.5 - Grades & Transcript - Grades earned at UK for dual credit courses will be a part of the student's permanent academic record at UK and therefore will count in the student's overall cumulative UK GPA. High school students who are eligible to earn the UK course credit will have UK course titles posted to their UK transcript regardless of the title of their high school course.

2.3.6 - Academic Calendar - Students enrolled in dual credit courses will adhere to the regular UK Academic Calendar. Should any one of the schools be closed for weather-related occurrences, all UK coursework must be made up in a manner approved by the instructor. UK holidays will be observed by UK employees.

2.3.7 - Additional Non-Course Based Activities Required - Students are expected to engage and complete additional non-course based activities related to gaining college-related skills, student advising, and UK recruiting. Failure to participate in and complete these non-course based activities may result in an inability to register for future dual credit courses.

2.3.8 - Student Handbook - UK will provide on an annual basis access to the Next Gen Scholars Student Handbook, incorporated by reference, which shall provide additional detail and guidance in the operations and student governance of the dual credit program. A copy of the presently active student handbook will be made available on the dual credit website at all times. Students are expected to comply with the policies and guidelines therein. Failure to follow the policies and processes therein may result in suspension or dismissal from the dual credit program.

3. Professional Learning Network

3.1 - Membership Criteria

3.1 - Membership Criteria - Professional Learning Network membership is required for access to the Next Gen Scholars dual-credit model provided by UK. The Center for Next Generation Leadership, in conjunction with the Kentucky Next Generation Scholars Network, hereafter referred to as “the Network”, shall define the criteria for Network membership and provide guidance documents to potential member districts. In advance of the 2025-2026 academic year, a Request for Partnership and Onboarding to participate in the Network will be published based on Network principles. The

Professional Learning Network membership provides access to professional development opportunities and will require payment of professional learning fees to the Center.

[3.2 - Annual Professional Learning Network Fees](#)

3.2 - Annual Professional Learning Network Fees - Access to the professional learning member benefits, articulated in this section, requires payment of an annual professional learning fee. Schools with student enrollments less than 1000 will pay \$1,500.00 annually and schools with student enrollments over 1000 will pay \$3,000.00 annually to UK Center for Next Generation Leadership of the College of Education.

[3.3 - Network Functions](#)

3.3 - Network Functions - Professional learning, provided by the Center team and designed to support the development of innovative deeper learning practices at the school site, include school-based activities and benefits such as in-person convenings, virtual faculty learning sprints, coordinated UK campus visits for students, individualized school consultation, college support (admission, registration, advisement) UK dual credit course schedules, innovation funds, and access to teacher scholarship opportunities.

4. Additional Material

[4.1 - Confidentiality](#)

4.1 - Confidentiality - District agrees to maintain the confidentiality of communications between the partners related to student performance, as governed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and operating conversations in the execution of the partnership. Either party may seek authorization from the other before sharing operating details with third parties.

[4.2 - Cooperation](#)

4.2 - Cooperation - Although the parties have attempted to address the issues needed for a successful initiative, both Parties acknowledge that this is a new undertaking and agree to reasonably cooperate to resolve unaddressed issues.

[4.3 - Term](#)

4.3 - Term - This Agreement shall remain in effect until one or both parties decide to terminate the agreement or until June 30, 2026, whichever comes first. This agreement shall automatically renew for another one (1) year term, unless either party provides written notice to the other of its intent to terminate this agreement not less than thirty (30) days before the end of the then current contract term.

4.4 - Termination

4.4 - Termination - Either Party may terminate this MOA by providing at least 30 days written notice to the other Party. Upon notice of termination, dual credit will not be provided for any following semesters and access to Network resources such as digital platforms will be terminated.

4.5 – Data Security

4.5 – Data Security - To the extent UK provides District with Personal Information as defined by and in accordance with Kentucky’s Personal Information Security and Breach Investigation Procedures and Practices Act, KRS 61.931, 61.932 and 61.933 (the “Act”), District shall secure and protect Personal Information by, without limitation: (i) complying with all requirements applicable to non-affiliated third parties set forth in the Act; (ii) utilizing security and breach investigation procedures that are appropriate to the nature of the Personal Information disclosed, at least as stringent as UK’s and reasonably designed to protect the Personal Information from unauthorized access, use, modification, disclosure, manipulation or destruction; (iii) notifying UK of a security breach relating to Personal Information in the possession of District or its agents or subcontractors within seventy-two (72) hours of discovery of an actual or suspected breach unless the exception set forth in KRS 61.932(2)(b)2 applies and District abides by the requirements set forth in that exception; (iv) cooperating with UK in complying with the response, mitigation, correction, investigation and notification requirements of the ACT, (v) paying all costs of notification, investigation and mitigation in the event of a security breach of Personal Information suffered by District; and (vi) at UK’s discretion and direction, handling all administrative functions associated with notification, investigation and mitigation.

4.6 – Governing Law

4.6 – Governing Law – This MOA shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, without regard to its conflict of laws principles.

Amy Smith
Superintendent
Hopkins County Schools

Date

Danelle Stevens-Watkins, Ph.D.
Acting Dean College of Education
University of Kentucky

Date

Robert DiPaola
Provost
University of Kentucky

Date

Eric Monday
Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration
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Mark Maier

Date

Appendix A: SACSCOC Dual Enrollment Policy Statement



*Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097*

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Policy Statement

For SACSCOC purposes, “dual enrollment” refers to courses taught to high school students for which the students receive both high school credit and college credit, regardless of location or mode of delivery. This would include such coursework offered at the high school, on the institution’s campus, or via distance education. This also includes programs and courses that may be offered under different names such as “early college,” “dual credit,” or “concurrent enrollment.” The academic rigor of such coursework matches the quality of other institutional coursework, regardless of location or mode of delivery.

Institutions must ensure that their dual enrollment courses and programs comply with the *Principles of Accreditation*. This applies to all such educational programs and services, wherever located or however delivered. In addition, institutions being reviewed should also be prepared to demonstrate clear institutional control over these dual enrollment courses and programs.

Applying the Principles of Accreditation to Dual Enrollment

With the underlying concept that the *Principles of Accreditation* apply to all programs of the institution, regardless of mode of delivery, institutions should consider the following statements in implementing and reporting on dual enrollment programs. Similarly, reviewers should consider these statements when approving or evaluating dual enrollment programs.

Substantive Change

An institution offering dual enrollment ensures appropriate notification and prior approval (if needed) of off-campus instructional sites where dual enrollment courses and programs are offered. Another aspect of dual enrollment that may require notification or approval could be the use of a cooperative academic arrangement to deliver courses. (Please refer to the SACSCOC policy “Substantive Change for SACSCOC Accredited Institutions.”)

Faculty

SACSCOC defines an “instructor of record” as the faculty member qualified to teach the course. This person has overall responsibility for the development and implementation of the syllabus and for issuing grades. The faculty member will provide direct instruction for the course.

The institution ensures appropriate faculty qualifications for those who provide instruction for dual enrollment courses; these faculty members possess the same academic credentials and/or documented professional experience required by the institution of all of its faculty. Graduate teaching assistants, if they are the instructor of record and providing direct instruction, should meet the same academic and/or professional criteria. In all cases, the institution bears responsibility for documenting and justifying the qualifications of its dual enrollment instructors, and they are included on the Faculty Roster when appropriate for review by a SACSCOC committee. (Please refer to the *Resource Manual*, Standard 6.2.b, for a broader discussion of faculty qualifications.)

An institution offering dual enrollment courses or programs ensures that a sufficient number of full-time faculty members teach and/or provide appropriate oversight for the courses/programs. Materials submitted for review by SACSCOC explain the nature of faculty oversight that ensures the quality and integrity of the courses offered. The institution has clear criteria for the evaluation of faculty teaching dual enrollment courses and demonstrates the use of these criteria.

Curriculum and Instruction

For all dual enrollment courses offered, the institution employs sound and acceptable practices for determining the amount and level of credit awarded. Course content and rigor of dual enrollment courses are comparable to that of the same courses taught to the institution's other students. (Please see the SACSCOC policy "The Quality and Integrity of Educational Credentials.")

The faculty assumes primary responsibility for dual enrollment courses. Such oversight ensures both the rigor of programs/courses and the quality of instruction.

Institutional Effectiveness

Dual enrollment students are included within the processes used to ensure the effectiveness of campus programs. If dual enrollment students can earn a credential, then that credential and those students should be part of the institutional effectiveness process of the institution. The institution regularly assesses the effectiveness of its provision of library/learning resources and student support services for dual enrollment.

Library and Learning Resources

Students have access to appropriate library resources, and the institution demonstrates that students are able to use such resources effectively. If the high school is the provider of these materials, the institution establishes the appropriateness of the collections for the courses and programs offered. The institution ensures that its students have access to regular and timely instruction in the use of library and other learning resources.

Academic and Student Support Services

Academic support services are appropriate for the courses and programs offered. Institutions ensure that dual enrollment students are appropriately advised regarding the collegiate curriculum. Student support services are appropriate for dual enrollment students.

Institutions have an adequate and published procedure for resolving written student complaints, and the institution follows its policies and procedures. The institution ensures that its dual enrolled students are appropriately oriented regarding their rights and responsibilities. Documented procedures assure that security of personal information is protected.

Admissions and Transparency

The institution implements appropriate eligibility and placement procedures to ensure that potential dual enrollment students are prepared for college-level courses. Dual enrollment students are usually admitted under exceptions to an institution's published admissions policies, and the institution follows commonly accepted practices in making such exceptions. Advertising, recruiting, and admissions information adequately and accurately represents the programs, requirements, and services available to students.

Statements and other representations regarding the ability to transfer credit earned in dual enrollment programs and courses are accurate and complete. The institution ensures that its registration and transcripting practices for dual enrollment students are consistent with those in effect for all other students.

Facilities

Dual enrollment courses are offered in adequate physical facilities, whether under the control of the institution or under the control of the high school.

Document History

*Approved: SACSCOC Board of Trustees, June 2018
Revised: SACSCOC Board of Trustees, December 2018*