



## THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY

### **2026-27 Dual Credit Memorandum of Understanding Between Thomas More University & Bellevue Independent School District**

#### **Purpose**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a collaborative relationship between Thomas More University (“TMU”) and its partnering high school or school district to offer dual credit opportunities for secondary school students who meet the requirements for admission into TMU’s Dual Credit program.

This agreement incorporates by reference the stipulations originating in KY HB 206 (2017), which implements the Kentucky Dual Credit Scholarship (“DCS”) Program and is managed by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (“KHEAA”). The language of the Dual Credit Scholarship Program was updated in KY HB 193 (2025).

#### **Defining TMU’s Dual Credit Program**

Thomas More University’s Dual Credit Program allows high school students to enroll in college-level courses offered by a college and simultaneously earn credit towards high school graduation and/or a postsecondary degree (courses must be college-level, not remedial or developmental). Students must also meet course prerequisites. Specific to TMU’s Dual Credit Program, courses may be offered at a high school, online, or at a designated-TMU campus.

#### **Student Participation in the Dual Credit Program**

##### **Admission policy**

The following groups of students are eligible for this program if they meet the following requirements:

1. High school juniors and seniors:
  - Must have a high school unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher.
  - Must meet any course prerequisites.
2. High school sophomores:
  - Must have a high school unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher.
  - Must meet any course prerequisites.
  - Must only take courses offered at their high school unless granted an exception as noted in “*Admission policy exceptions*”.

Students must complete a TMU Dual Credit application packet (online application and transcript). If required as a pre-requisite for a course, a student’s test scores (ACT, SAT, and/or AP) should only be provided with each student’s transcript; however, some placement testing may be available.

Completed TMU Dual Credit application packets do not guarantee admission into the program or eligibility for any specific course. All submitted applications will be reviewed by the TMU Dual Credit Office for admission eligibility. All new students will have to read and agree to our disclosure form embedded within the online application (See “Disclosure Form” in Appendix A).

All applications must be completed by the student and submitted in their entirety by the high school counselor (or responsible high school contact) by the designated deadlines for each academic semester. If a student’s qualifications do not qualify for the TMU Dual Credit program by those deadlines, they will not be admitted for that intended semester but can apply for a later semester if their qualifications change.

*Please note: Thomas More University will not award degrees to high school students currently enrolled in the Thomas More Dual Credit Program or classified as an active dual credit student. Students are encouraged to utilize their dual credits from Thomas More University and other institutions towards the pursuit of a degree at Thomas More after they have graduated high school. To receive a degree at Thomas More University, students must meet the minimum requirements for traditional admission (i.e. earning their high school diploma or G.E.D.).*

#### Admission policy exceptions

- All requirements in this policy for Dual Credit participation are the requirements for TMU. If a high school wishes to impose additional requirements for participation in dual credit courses, those requirements will be enforced.
- Sophomore students will be limited to only taking classes offered at their high school.
  - Public or private high school sophomores who wish to take an online or on-campus course can petition the TMU Dual Credit Office by submitting with their application to the TMU Dual Credit Program:
    - A letter of intent from the student outlining their academic plan for taking courses online or on-campus (e.g., what course(s) they’re trying to take and how that will further their academic goals).
    - A letter of recommendation from their high school’s principal certifying their approval for the applicant to participate.
    - A letter of recommendation from a high school educator certifying their belief in the sophomore applicant’s academic and emotional capability to participate in college courses.
  - Students must still meet any course prerequisites.
- Freshmen are unable to participate in TMU’s Dual Credit program.

#### Continued enrollment

Once in the program, students must maintain a TMU GPA of 2.0+ to remain in the program. At the end of each semester, TMU Dual Credit program will identify students who do not meet this requirement and that will be communicated with each high school partner, the students, and their parent/guardian.

#### Orientation for students

Each semester, the TMU Dual Credit program will provide information to all high school partners for dual credit students to set up their TMU accounts. High school counselors are expected to relay this information to their students. This information will include each student’s username, temporary

password and any instructions for setting up passwords, registration for classes, and how to access our orientation.

All TMU Dual Credit students will be provided with a link to our Canvas orientation prior to the start of the semester to help students further orient to the TMU Dual Credit program, learn about TMU resources, and learn how to best prepare for their TMU course(s). The orientation will also include the instructions to pay tuition, buy textbooks, and access TMU email. It is expected that every student will review this material. The TMU Dual Credit program will also host open house sessions for students taking classes on TMU’s campus to tour and complete any necessary pre-semester preparations.

### Communication

Thomas More University utilizes Slate and Mongoose as our customer relationship management systems (CRM) and Outlook (via an @thomasmore.edu domain) to engage high school students for recruitment, admissions, and communicate about dual credit courses. In addition, Canvas is our official learning management system (LMS) and is used to support academic delivery and student learning across all courses and programs.

Each of these communication methods is traceable and would comply with the regulations set forth in KY SB 181 for KY public schools. Any parent questions can be directed to the Dual Credit Program.

### Data Sharing

Thomas More University and Bellevue Independent School District agree to share data on participating students as is necessary to administer and support the Dual Credit Program, including but not limited to recruitment, eligibility verification, course registration, academic advising, billing, transcripts, and continuous program improvement.

## Dual Credit Courses and Faculty

### Course Offerings

Thomas More University and Bellevue Independent School District have agreed to work collaboratively to provide the following course schedule during the fall and spring semesters:

<u>Class Location</u>	<u>Type of Instructor</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Fall 2026 Course</u>	<u>Spring 2027 Course</u>
In addition to online and on-campus options through Thomas More University					

Once students are enrolled in a course, they will have an official academic record at TMU. The TMU Dual Credit Office will provide a roster of registered TMU Dual Credit students to each high school partner with the expectation that the rosters will be verified with the high school’s records and the high school partners will submit any changes to the Dual Credit Office, as necessary. It is the high schools’ responsibility to provide a primary contact person to Thomas More for the purpose of dual credit.

TMU reserves the right to cancel a TMU faculty-led course that does not meet enrollment targets or alter the proposed course list based on faculty availability. The ideal enrollment for courses taught by a TMU faculty should be 16 or more students. Dual Credit courses (online or on campus) may consist of high school students-only or a mix of high school and Thomas More University students. For courses

with a high school credentialed instructor, enrollment requirements are determined by the high school partner.

### Academic Quality

Dual Credit courses taught on the high school campus, whether by a TMU faculty or a TMU-credentialed high school teacher, shall meet the rigor for postsecondary credit and be congruent with the University's standard offerings. Classes offered in the high school settings shall conform to the University's academic standards. Faculty for all dual credit courses shall be approved by the appropriate department at the University and meet all SACSCOC credentialing requirements. Credentialing documents are approved by the University's Vice President for Academic Affairs office.

Instructors are required to submit and have a syllabus on file with the TMU Dual Credit Program AND their respective TMU academic department for each semester they're offering a dual credit course. Failure to submit may result in termination of course offerings.

All Dual Credit faculty, whether a TMU faculty or a TMU-credentialed high school teacher, are expected to read and comply with relevant sections of the *TMU Faculty Handbook*.

### Grades for TMU Courses

Dual credit courses allow a student to earn high school credit and college credit simultaneously.

Per KY CPE's Dual Credit policy: "The postsecondary institution's grading policy will apply to dual credit courses and be used by the secondary school awarding credit."

Thomas More University will communicate a student's midterm and final grade(s) each semester to the designated high school Dual Credit contact in a letter grade format. Regardless of course location, the grade a student earns in their Dual Credit course will be the grade awarded on their Thomas More University college transcript. Students who are applying to other institutions are responsible for requesting their Thomas More transcript to be sent to those institutions.

### Credentialing High School Instructors

Faculty teaching in undergraduate programs in general must hold a master's degree in the content area of the requested course(s) with 18 credits of graduate coursework in the discipline of those courses. Qualifications required by academic departments may vary.

The instructor/high school must complete an online application through TMU's Dual Credit Program. Unofficial graduate-level transcripts and resumes for each instructor applicant must be submitted to the TMU Dual Credit Office and are then relayed to the appropriate department chairperson for pre-approval.

Approval of an instructor is documented on the Faculty Credential Analysis form. The Faculty Credential Analysis form must be approved by the department chairperson and submitted to the Vice President for Academic Affairs' Office for approval.

TMU will provide a faculty liaison for newly credentialed high school teachers for every semester that they teach a new course for TMU in the Dual Credit program to assist with course development and oversight to ensure the academic quality of the course aligns with similar sections at TMU.

All dual credit faculty, whether a TMU faculty or a TMU-credentialed high school teacher, will be enrolled in the TMU Dual Credit Faculty Orientation each semester. All instructors are expected to complete this orientation and any additional required departmental training prior to the start of the semester. Additionally, all instructors are expected to attend a professional development event each August to provide additional training, address questions that arise from the TMU Dual Credit Faculty Orientation and get any University/Program updates.

### **Students with Learning Disabilities**

Students enrolled in a TMU course who need accommodation due to a disability should register with TMU's Office of Student Accessibility, in accordance with TMU policy. While having a 504 on file at the high school covers accommodations for high school classes, it does not apply toward university courses, even if the university course is being taught at the high school.

Instructions for how to register with the TMU Office of Student Accessibility will be provided to students enrolled in the TMU Dual Credit Program.

### **Transferability**

It is communicated to all prospective students and their parents through information sessions and the student orientation that Thomas More University cannot guarantee transferability to another institution. Most colleges and universities will accept Thomas More University credits due to SACSOC accreditation, but only the receiving institution can determine if and how they will award transfer credit for dual credit course work. All students are encouraged to retain a copy of their syllabi to share with their intended college or university in the event of transferability questions.

Whenever possible, the Dual Credit program strives to offer dual credit coursework that is widely transferable and that is supported by KHEAA and their Dual Credit or Work Ready Scholarships.

### **Instructional Continuity**

In the event of a natural disaster, pandemic, or other academic disruption; course instruction for Dual Credit courses will continue through TMU's learning management system (e.g., Canvas) or other system agreed upon between an instructor and their academic department.

## **Negotiated Costs**

### **Tuition Rate and Payment**

The tuition rate for all eligible participating students will be set in accordance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulations each academic year. The tuition rate will be posted and shared with high school counselors when determined.

TMU's Student Account Services department will send an electronic bill to each student's TMU email addresses prior to the start of the semester. All students are expected to pay their tuition by the first day of classes. Students who are receiving the Kentucky Dual Credit or Work Ready Scholarships will be reimbursed for those funds once KHEAA dispenses the DCS funds to TMU.

### **Participation in KHEAA's Dual Credit Scholarship Program:**

Thomas More University is a participating institution in KHEAA's Dual Credit Scholarship program.

The Kentucky Dual Credit or Work Ready Scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis; beginning for each student once they set their scholarship preferences with KHEAA. It is our recommendation that students select their fall and spring preferences each fall. Students who do not earn either scholarship and fail to pay their tuition could face an inability to register for future classes and/or request transcripts. Any school districts who pay tuition for their students will have tuition bills calculated after the KHEAA scholarship has been processed.

The school district will be responsible for transmitting all data required by the Kentucky DCS Program to KHEAA and following all procedures necessary to administer the DCS. TMU will be responsible for transmitting enrollment verification and final grade reports to KHEAA at the end of each semester, in accordance with the DCS procedures.

**Other Related Course Expenses**

According to KY HB 193 (2025), the Participating Institution (TMU) “charges no more than the Dual Credit tuition rate ceiling per credit hour, including any fees, for any Dual Credit course it offers.” The following additional charges associated with operating a college course will be allocated as follows and agreed upon by TMU and Bellevue Independent School District.

Expense	Responsible Party	
	TMU	Bellevue Independent School District
Laboratory and other fees associated with specific courses	X	
Professional liability insurance	For TMU faculty	For Bellevue Independent School District faculty

Each Dual Credit student will be responsible for the cost of textbooks, digital content, and/or eResources, unless otherwise covered by the school district. This information is shared with students prior to the start of each semester and may be accessible through TMU’s Bookstore website.

**Approvals**

**The agreement is effective with signatures below for the 2026-2027 academic year.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Misty Middleton**  
**Superintendent**  
**Bellevue Independent School District**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

  
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**James Catchen**  
**Director, Dual Credit and Transfer Pathways**  
**Thomas More University**

\_\_\_\_\_ **1/5/26** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

## Appendix A: Disclosure Form

All new students **must complete the online application** to be admitted into Thomas More's Dual-Credit program.

Additionally, for the Thomas More Dual-Credit program, I agree to and understand:

1. In order to be eligible for continued enrollment in the program, students must maintain a TMU GPA of 2.0 or higher while in the program. Failure to meet this standard will result in removal from the program for the following semester, though an appeal is possible (*see Thomas More University's Dual Credit "Grade Policy" for details*).
2. Tuition must be paid in full by the first day of class each semester. The tuition amount varies each year. Thomas More recommends paying by the first day of class and receiving a refund later if a student receives scholarship money from KHEEA.
  - a. **By agreeing to this statement, students and parents/legal guardians accept the financial responsibility incurred by registering for taking dual-credit classes and that failure to pay can result in accumulated debt for classes taken and difficulty in sending Thomas More transcripts to other institutions.**
  - b. **Thomas More is a participant in the Kentucky Dual-Credit Scholarship Program. Tuition for dual-credit courses may vary each academic year and will be posted to the Thomas More Dual-Credit website as well as shared with your high school.**
3. Students are responsible for purchasing the necessary course materials and textbooks prior to the start of the semester. Instructions will be provided to students through the Dual Credit Orientation.
4. Students are responsible for setting up and checking his/her Thomas More email regularly throughout the semester. Instructions will be provided to students through the Dual Credit Orientation.
5. Students, not parents/legal guardians, are responsible for contacting their professors should issues arise in their courses. Thomas More's dual-credit office can help troubleshoot if further issues persist.
6. Prior to each semester, each student will receive information on how to set up their TMU accounts from their counselor and/or the Dual Credit program. This information will provide instructions to students regarding registration, billing/payment, Canvas, and textbook information. Students are responsible for providing their parents/legal guardians with this information. This information is also available at: <https://thomasmoreky.instructure.com/courses/15568>.
7. Students are required to review the Thomas More Dual-Credit Orientation in Canvas. Details are included in each student's account set up instructions but will be emailed routinely leading up to the start of the semester, as well.
8. Students are expected to adhere to the Saints Community Standards and Honor Code while participating in Dual Credit courses. This information can be found under "Responsibilities and Expectations" within the Dual-Credit Orientation.
9. Thomas More courses are college-level courses and may contain mature content not typical in a high school environment. By submitting this disclosure, each parent/legal guardian and student understands that students may be exposed to mature content as part of each Thomas More course's curriculum.
10. While in Thomas More's dual-credit program, students may be surveyed to obtain information about their interests and experience to enhance the Thomas More Dual Credit program, as well as connect students with Thomas More programs, faculty, and students.
11. Students may receive Thomas More undergraduate admissions promotional materials and communication (e.g. emails, postcards, etc). Any Thomas More student who meets the eligibility criteria for undergraduate admission will also be automatically admitted to the University during their senior year to preview their financial aid and scholarship offers.
12. **By agreeing to this disclosure statement, the student (and parent/legal guardian, if the student is under the age of 18) agree to the aforementioned disclosures and give their permission to Thomas More to release grades, performance information, and other educational information to the student's parent/legal guardian and to the student's high school in conjunction with Thomas More's dual-credit program.**
  - a. **FERPA Rights:** If a student is attending a postsecondary institution – at any age – then the student's rights under the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) have transferred to the student. However, when a student is enrolled in BOTH a high school and a postsecondary institution, the two schools may exchange information on that student. If the student is under 18, parents/legal guardians still retain the rights under FERPA at the high school level and may inspect and review any records sent by the postsecondary institution to the high school.
  - b. **Communication:** While in this program, Thomas More faculty and staff may communicate with students from our TMU email addresses, Slate, Canvas messages or using the Mongoose texting platform. This helps to ensure that communication remains traceable, transparent, and professional. When appropriate, communications from the Dual Credit program may also be shared to the student and parent personal emails on file after the submission of their online application.