

# Construction Dual Credit

## Background:

Dual credit courses are high school programming that is authorized and funded by Alberta Education in which students can earn both high school credits and credits that count toward a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree, including a journeyperson certificate.

Dual credit courses are intended to provide post-secondary career pathways that assist students in transitioning to the labour market.

There are two kinds of dual credit courses in Alberta: single enrolled courses and dual enrolled courses. Single enrolled courses are taught by qualified high school teachers without a post-secondary partner, and students may receive post-secondary credits, exam eligibility, or advanced standing. Dual enrolled courses are typically offered in partnership with a post-secondary institution, taught by a post-secondary instructor, and students receive post-secondary credits.

### Dual Credit Strategy

Between 2008 and 2011, the Government of Alberta funded pilot projects for dual credit courses. At the same time, independent dual credit agreements were established between local school authorities and partners. In 2013 the government developed a Provincial Dual Credit Strategy to provide consistency and start up funding for developing new courses.

In the period between 2013 and 2016 the government provided \$5.35 million of start up funding to 51 dual credit partnerships. Response to dual credit courses was positive, however difficulties were identified with funding the additional costs of dual credit courses, and with the time-intensive mapping of courses to the curriculum.

### Dual Credit Framework

In response to stakeholder concerns, the government released the Dual Credit Framework in 2017, with the following goals:

- Increase learner retention and high school completion rates.
- Increase participation of young adults in post-secondary programs.
- Assist students in making meaningful connections to the labour market.
- Effectively operationalize, support, and foster sustainable dual credit programming.

The Framework provides high-level direction for implementation of dual credit courses and consolidated responsibility for authorizing dual credit courses in Alberta Education.

New sustainable funding tied to student enrollment for dual enrolled courses was established, to cover the costs of additional instructors and logistics, and \$2 million of funding every school year between 2017 and 2020 for start up costs of new courses is to be provided.

The Framework preserves space for local initiative; local school authorities are able to develop partnerships, and then apply to Alberta Education for course codes unique to their program. Dual credit partners have the flexibility to determine delivery models that most effectively fit within their local context and suit their students.

## Analysis:

Dual credit courses have been developed by Alberta Education in several construction trades:

- Cabinetmaker
- Carpenter
- Electrician
- Heavy Equipment Technician
- Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)
- Instrumentation and Control Technician
- Insulator
- Painter and Decorator
- Plumber
- Welder

However, information on where these courses are offered and how many students have access to them is not easily available. The Alberta Education website previously had a searchable database of dual credit offerings, but at the present time this feature is no longer available. Information on the Transfer Alberta website is of a general nature, and points to the no longer functioning Alberta Education database.

Information on dual credit courses is also lacking from career websites such as Careers: The Next Generation, Tradesecrets, and CAREERinsite.

A scan of local authority and high school websites in each of the Local Construction Association areas was conducted to determine how much information on these or locally developed dual credit courses is available, as well as comparing this to the amount of information available on the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) (see Appendix 1).

As can be seen in Appendix 1, information on dual credit was lacking, with only 27% of websites surveyed displaying some information on construction dual credit courses. In contrast, information on RAP was more prevalent, with information on 60% of websites.

Without a centralized database of current offerings, and with incomplete information offered by local school authorities, it is difficult to determine the availability of construction dual credit courses. Students in Calgary (at both public and catholic schools) have access to carpentry, electrician, plumbing, and welding dual credit courses in partnership with SAIT. Welding is available to students at Edmonton Catholic, Red Deer Catholic, and Grande Prairie. Students in other areas likely have access to some dual credit opportunities, but more information needs to be made available.

## Recommendations

- Advocate for Alberta Education to once again provide support for a centralized database of current dual credit opportunities.
- Work with Local Associations to determine what locally developed dual credit opportunities exist in their area, and to share information on innovative partnerships.
- Work with partners such as Careers: The Next Generation and Alberta Labour to include more information on dual credit opportunities as it becomes available.

## Appendix 1 - Scan of High School Websites:

Name	Dual Credit	RAP	Notes
<b>Calgary Board of Education</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	Carpentry, Electrician, Welding, Plumbing at SAIT
Bowness	No	No	
Centennial	No	No	
Central Memorial	No	Yes	
Christine Meikle	No	No	
Crecent Heights	No	No	
Dr. E.P. Scarlett	Yes	Yes	
Dr. Gordon Townsend	No	No	
Ernest Manning	Yes	Yes	
Forest Lawn	Yes	Yes	
Henry Wise Wood	Yes	Yes	
Jack James	Yes	Yes	
James Fowler	Yes	Yes	
John G. Diefenbaker	Yes	Yes	
Lester B. Pearson	Yes	Yes	
Lord Beaverbrook	Yes	Yes	
Louise Dean	No	No	
Nelson Mandela	Yes	Yes	
Queen Elizabeth	Yes	Yes	
Robert Thirsk	Yes	Yes	
Sir Winston Churchill	Yes	Yes	
Western Canada	Yes	Yes	
William Aberhart	Yes	Yes	
William Roper Hull	Yes	Yes	
<b>Calgary Catholic School District</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	Carpentry, Electrician, Welding, Plumbing at SAIT
St. Timothy	No	No	
St. Martin de Porres	No	No	
Notre Dame	No	No	

St. Gabriel the Archangel	No	No	
Bishop McNally	No	No	
St. Francis	No	Yes	
Father Lacombe	No	No	
St. Mary's	No	No	
Bishop Carroll	No	No	
Bishop Grandin	Yes	Yes	Welding
Bishop O'Byrne	No	Yes	
All Saints	No	No	
<b>Edmonton Public School Board</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
Centre High	Yes	Yes	Carpentry
Eastglen	No	Yes	
Edmonton Christian	No	Yes	
Harry Ainley	No	Yes	
J. Percy Page	No	Yes	
Jasper Place	No	Yes	
L.Y. Cairns	No	Yes	
Lillian Osborne	No	No	
M.E. Lazerte	No	Yes	
McNally	No	Yes	
Metro Continuing Education	No	Yes	
Millwoods Christian	No	No	
Old Scona	No	No	
Queen Elizabeth	No	Yes	
Ross Sheppard	No	Yes	
Strathcona	No	Yes	
Victoria	No	No	
Vimy Ridge	No	No	
W.P. Wagner	No	Yes	
<b>Edmonton Catholic School District</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	Welding at St. Joseph
Archibishop McDonald	No	No	
Archbishop O'Leary	Yes	Yes	Apprenticeship Plumber Program

Austin O'Brien	No	Yes	
Blessed Oscar Romero	No	Yes	
Cardinal Collins	No	Yes	
Holy Trinity	No	Yes	
J.H. Picard	No	No	
Louis St. Laurent	No	No	
Mother Margaret Mary	No	Yes	
St. Francis Xavier	No	Yes	
St. Joseph	Yes	Yes	Welding
St. Margaret	No	No	
<b>Fort McMurray Public School District</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	Not on web, but electrical offered with Keyano College
Composite High	No	Yes	
Frank Spragins	No	Yes	
Westwood Community	No	Yes	
<b>Fort McMurray Catholic Schools</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	Not on web, but electrical offered with Keyano College
Father Mercredi	No	Yes	
Holy Trinity	No	No	
<b>Grande Prairie Public School District</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	Welding and safety courses at Grande Prairie Regional College
Charles Spencer	Yes	Yes	Welding and safety courses at Grande Prairie Regional College
Bridge Network Outreach School	Yes	Yes	Welding and safety courses at Grande Prairie Regional College
Grande Prairie Composite	Yes	Yes	Welding and safety courses at Grande Prairie Regional College
<b>Grande Prairie Catholic School District</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	
St. John Bosco	No	No	
St. Joseph	No	Yes	
St. Mary's	No	No	
St. Thomas More	No	No	
<b>Lethbridge School District No. 51</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
Chinook	No	No	
Immanuel Christian	No	Yes	

Lethbridge Collegiate	No	Yes	
Winston Churchill	No	Yes	
Victoria Park	No	Yes	
<b>The Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 4</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
Catholic Central	No	Yes	
St. Michael (Pincher Creek)	No	Yes	
St. Mary	No	Yes	
St. Michael (Bow Island)	No	No	
<b>Lloydminster Public School Division</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	
Avery Outreach School	No	No	
Lloydminster Comprehensive High School	No	No	
<b>Lloydminster Catholic School Division</b>	No	No	
Holy Rosary	No	No	
<b>Medicine Hat Public School District</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	
Crecent Heights	No	Yes	
Medicine Hat	No	Yes	
<b>Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	
Monsignor McCoy	No	Yes	
<b>Red Deer Public School District</b>	No	No	
Gateway Christian	No	No	
Hunting Hills	No	Yes	
Lindsay Thurbur	No	Yes	
<b>Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	Welding at Red Deer College
Notre Dame	Yes	Yes	Welding at Red Deer College
St. Dominic	Yes	Yes	Welding at Red Deer College
St. Joseph	Yes	No	Welding at Red Deer College