Essential Components of Dual Credit in New Mexico: A Delphi Study

By: Gregory D. Carlson and Dr. Myron A. Eighmy

Abstract

This Delphi study determined the essential components of Dual Credit in New Mexico. Dual Credit experts from colleges and high schools were asked to participate in a three-round Delphi study to help determine what the future state of Dual Credit in the state should be, and why it should be that way. The first round instrument was developed by the researcher based upon an extensive literature review regarding Dual Credit and specific items relating to the structure of Dual Credit; while subsequent round instruments were developed based upon responses from the expert panel. Consensus and non-consensus items were used to develop recommendations for Dual Credit policy and can be used by stakeholders to guide institution Dual Credit procedures.

Purpose of the Study

New Mexico legislation provides that students may earn high school and college credit for qualifying courses. State laws also require that students must complete at least one high school credit through Dual Credit; while subsequent round instruments were developed based upon responses from the expert panel. Consensus and non-consensus items were used to develop recommendations for Dual Credit policy and can be used by stakeholders to guide institution Dual Credit procedures.

Research Questions

• What future actions should be taken regarding dual credit?
• What should be the future philosophy and practice of dual credit in the state?

Literature Review

The literature review provided background for an understanding of Dual Credit.

Major topics included:
• Data Collection and Analysis
• Dual Credit in New Mexico

Methods and Participants

As required for use of the Delphi technique, participants were identified and selected based upon research and knowledge criteria established by the researcher (Goetz & LeCompte, 1984; Edwards, 2001; Stone Fish, & Busby, 1996).

To be included in this study, participants should:
• Possess statutory knowledge of dual credit provisions in New Mexico.
• Possess procedural knowledge of dual credit provisions in New Mexico.
• Currently hold or have previously held a position described previously that requires knowledge of and interaction with dual credit instruction and administration efforts.
• Be committed to providing educational opportunities for students.

Major Findings

Consensus to Agree = m ≥ 3.0,
SD = ≤ 1.0, ≥ 80%