

# Early-Entry Facts

Learn more about the Early-Entry and Dual-Credit Programs at NDSU.

To ensure all potential early-entry students receive accurate information about the program, use this fact sheet when speaking with students and families about the program.

Here is a list of facts that can help answer the most commonly asked questions.

## What is Early Entry & Dual Credit?

**EARLY ENTRY\*:** Students in early entry earn college credit for the 100 & 200-level classes they take. They do not need to have a high-school diploma or administrator approval to apply for this program.

**DUAL CREDIT:** Students in dual credit earn both college and high-school credit upon approval of their school administrator. Students who want to earn dual credit will work closely with their school counselor to determine appropriate 100 & 200-level classes. All early-entry classes can be approved for dual credit.

\* This program is NOT the same as early admission.

## Who is Eligible?

Current public, private or homeschool students who are enrolled in grades 10, 11, and 12. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended. Students from any state or country are eligible.

## What Do These Classes Cost?

Both early-entry and dual-credit classes have a discounted tuition rate that is set by the North Dakota state legislature. This rate is about 1/3 to 1/2 the undergraduate tuition rate.

Because early-entry students do not pay full student fees, they have to pay separately to use the wellness center or get student tickets to sporting events.

## Is There Tuition Assistance Available?

Early-entry and dual-credit classes are not eligible for use on federal financial aid, as a result there are families who cannot afford the tuition for these classes. To help break through this barrier some colleges and departments will offer scholarships.

## Why Do High-School Students Take These Courses?

Many advanced and gifted high-school students choose these courses to continue learning and challenging themselves in a subject area of interest. This is known as academic acceleration. Learn why acceleration is important at [www.accelerationinstitute.org/educators.aspx](http://www.accelerationinstitute.org/educators.aspx).

There are many other reasons students choose to take early-entry classes but reasons may include to maintain good study habits during the summer or their last semester of school, to save money on tuition, to get a head start on their degree program, to get to know NDSU instructors, and to gain confidence in college coursework.

## What Are Early-Entry Pathways Guides?

Early-entry pathways guides are a curated list of online classes that apply toward general education requirements and specific degree programs. These guides help students maximize the classes they take for their general education requirements or their chosen program of study.

## How Do Students Apply?

Interested students use NDSU's FREE application for admission form. In that form they select the "early-entry" option.

Upon admission, students are contacted by an early-entry advisor who helps them select and enroll in their courses.

For more information or assistance, contact:

**NDSU Office of Teaching and Learning**  
701-231-7015 | [ndsuo.tl@ndsuo.edu](mailto:ndsuo.tl@ndsuo.edu)  
[www.ndsu.edu/continued-learning/k12-students/early-entry](http://www.ndsu.edu/continued-learning/k12-students/early-entry)