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WHAT IS ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES?

Advanced Opportunities is a program that provides funding for Idaho students to prepare for college and/or their career. The program is designed to provide an allocation of **$4,125** for each student in grades 7-12 attending an Idaho public school. The money is to be utilized toward costs that students may incur for educational choices. The program offers numerous opportunities for a student to pursue their future by providing funding for:

- **Overload courses:** Overload courses are high school courses that are taken in excess of 12 credits and outside the regular school day. Students can use up to **$225** per course.

- **Dual credit:** A dual credit course is a course transcribed on both a student’s high school and college transcript. Students can request funding for up to **$75** per credit.

- **Exams:** Students can use funds to cover the full cost of the following exams: Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), and Professional Certifications.

- **Workforce Training:** Students can use funds for approved courses that directly relate to workforce needs. Students can request up to **$500** per course or **$1000** a year.

- **Early Graduation Scholarship:** This scholarship can be awarded for a student’s early graduation, that must be at least one year early.
STUDENT LEARNING PLANS

By the end of eighth grade, all students will develop a four-year learning plan for their high school pathway. While this working document may change over time, eighth grade is the perfect time for students to begin thinking about their plans after high school and map out the types of advanced coursework they can leverage while in high school. The Advanced Opportunities program can then compliment the goal of a student’s learning plan.

COURSE CHOICE

Idaho’s Advanced Opportunities program is nationally recognized as a model for course choice. Students are empowered to create an individual learning plan that will jump-start them into their future. As students participate in Advanced Opportunities, they are not limited to only the courses offered at their local high school. Students are able to find the best educational path for them by choosing from various options that could include: dual enrollment in more than one high school, direct experience in the work environment, accessing online coursework, or even taking courses on a college campus.
HOW TO PARTICIPATE

PARTICIPATION FORM

Students and parents must fill out an Advanced Opportunities participation form that outlines program risks and regulations prior to using funds. This form needs to be turned in at the school and will be kept on file with other student records. The participation form can be found online at the [www.sde.idaho.gov/student-engagement/advanced-ops/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/student-engagement/advanced-ops/) or at the student’s school.

COURSE AND CREDIT TRANSFERABILITY

Students should create an Advanced Opportunities account at [advancedops.sde.idaho.gov](http://advancedops.sde.idaho.gov). Creating an account will allow students to request funds and track their account balance. Accounts must be approved by the school’s Advanced Opportunities staff. In some cases, school districts handle the request funding process internally. Please follow local policies and procedures, as local policies and deadlines can vary. Contact the Advanced Opportunities staff at the student’s school district for details.

HOMESCHOOL AND PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS

According to Idaho code 33-4602, the Advanced Opportunities program is available to all students who attend an Idaho public school. Attendance policies around the state vary from district to district. Homeschool and/or private school students can choose to attend a public school that will allow them access to Advanced Opportunities funding. Students should talk with their local district for more information.
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Advanced Opportunities program is an opportunity for students to participate in challenging and rigorous coursework. As students navigate the program, it is their responsibility to meet with their advisor or counselor to create a plan, work hard to successfully complete all courses, and pay attention to important deadlines and registration processes. Students who fail to earn credit for a course paid for by Advanced Opportunities, must then pay for and successfully earn credit or complete one (1) like course before future reimbursement can be made by the Idaho State Department of Education.

ADVISING

Proper advising is key to navigating the Advanced Opportunities program. Making connections with the school counselor, the college and career counselor, and/or a college advisor will be critical. Students who use Advanced Opportunities funds to earn more than 15 dual credits must receive advising on how the credits will translate into their post-high school aspirations and fit into their program of study.

COURSE AND CREDIT TRANSFERABILITY

As is the case for all college students, course transferability can be complex to navigate. How a course is transferred or accepted is determined by the receiving college. If students are receiving college credit from more than one college, it is important to plan ahead and consider how courses will transfer, and which courses will count toward their degree program. Each college has a transfer guide that provides information on how credits will be accepted. Information about how courses transfer between Idaho public institutions can be found at coursetransfer.idaho.gov.
OVERLOAD COURSES

Overload courses can help students accelerate their goals. A student may want to graduate early or have flexibility in their schedule later in their high school experience and overload courses would provide this opportunity. Overload courses are secondary courses taught by an Idaho certified teacher, taken in excess of a full credit load and outside of the regular school day such as after, before school or in the summer. These courses should be planned on the student’s learning plan. There are various providers for these courses, students should talk with their school about opportunities.

IDAHO DIGITAL LEARNING ALLIANCE

To help provide course choices, the State of Idaho provides the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA) as an online course provider that offers courses in partnership with all Idaho public middle and high schools. If certain courses are not available through the student’s local school, students can sign up for the course online through IDLA. In addition to typical course offerings for secondary credit, IDLA also offers dual credit, Advanced Placement, and flex options. More information can be found at www.idahodigitallearning.org
TUITION SAVINGS

There are a number of colleges and universities across Idaho that offer dual credit (also known as concurrent enrollment). This means that a student receives both high school and college credit. Generally, a high school teacher is credentialed through a college or university to teach a college level course, but students can attend courses on campus or online.

When maximized, the Advanced Opportunities program enables Idaho families to save thousands of dollars on college tuition. Please note Advanced Opportunities only pays for tuition costs, additional costs such as books and lab fees are not provided. Talk to the provider if assistance is needed. Possible savings are listed in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCENARIO</th>
<th>SAMPLE COST THROUGH IN-STATE UNIVERSITY</th>
<th>SAMPLE COST THROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE</th>
<th>COST TO IDAHO FROM AO FUNDING</th>
<th>COST TO FAMILY AFTER USING AO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student earns 60 college credits (associates degree)</td>
<td>$23,095</td>
<td>$8,243</td>
<td>$4,125</td>
<td>$375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student earns 30 college credits</td>
<td>$11,547</td>
<td>$4,122</td>
<td>$2,250</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student earns 15 college credits</td>
<td>$5,774</td>
<td>$2,061</td>
<td>$1,125</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average in-state four-year college costs per credit based on Boise State University ($366.64), Idaho State University ($402), Lewis-Clark State College ($356), and University of Idaho ($415).

Average community college costs per credit based on North Idaho College ($141.50), College of Western Idaho ($139), College of Southern Idaho ($140), and College of Eastern Idaho ($129).
DUAL CREDIT ENROLLMENT

Processes vary by each college so students should contact the college and the school’s Advanced Opportunities staff for more information on taking dual credit.

1. **Submit** a Dual Credit Application
2. **Register** for the college course
3. Create an **Advanced Opportunities Account**
4. Request **Advanced Opportunities** funding to pay for course

It is important to keep track of the college(s) which students receive dual credit. Upon enrolling in a college after high school, students will be required to provide official transcripts in order for course credits to count toward a student’s degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDAHO COLLEGE</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boise State University</td>
<td>concurrentenrollment.boisestate.edu</td>
<td>(208) 426-3750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigham Young University-Idaho</td>
<td>byui.edu/concurrent-enrollment</td>
<td>(208) 496-1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Eastern Idaho</td>
<td>cei.edu/high-school</td>
<td>(208) 535-5330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Southern Idaho</td>
<td>csi.edu/dual-credit</td>
<td>(208) 933-2320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Western Idaho</td>
<td>cwi.edu/programs-degrees/dual-credit</td>
<td>(208) 562-3371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho State University</td>
<td>isu.edu/ecp</td>
<td>(208) 282-6067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis-Clark State College</td>
<td>lcsc.edu/dual-credit</td>
<td>(208) 792-2280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Idaho College</td>
<td>nic.edu/dualcredit</td>
<td>(208) 769-3321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Nazarene University</td>
<td>highschool.nnu.edu/concurrent-credit</td>
<td>(208) 467-8373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Idaho</td>
<td>dualcredit.uidaho.edu</td>
<td>(208) 885-4074</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXAMS

COLLEGE CREDIT BY EXAM

**AP:** Advanced Placement courses are college-level courses that prepare students through advanced and rigorous curriculum. Students take an AP exam and receive a score between 0-5. Depending on the score, a college/university may waive a requirement or grant credit for a parallel course. In most cases, a score of 3 is considered to be a passing score; in more competitive circumstances (i.e. ivy league or private schools), students must earn a 4 or 5.

**CLEP:** The College Level Examination Program allows students to challenge a course by taking an exam. Often referred to as “clepping out,” students who pass the exam earn the corresponding college credit, instead of sitting through the entire course. Students might be charged a small transcription fee for the credits, which is usually only a fraction of the full credit price. Many students also receive high school credit when they present the evidence of the credit to their high school. Local school district policies may vary.

CHALLENGE EXAMS

Many school districts provide options for students to challenge courses for credit. If the student meets the level of mastery set by the local school board for a given set of standards, the school can grant the student a high school credit without requiring the student to take the course. Contact the local school district for more details.
CAREER & TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Advanced Opportunities program provides opportunities for students who want to pursue a career and technical education (CTE) program. CTE goes beyond the traditional path of academia and tends to be both hands-on and have applied learning concepts connected to industry needs. For information on CTE visit cte.idaho.gov/students.

- **CTE Certifications**: The Advanced Opportunities program provides a list of eligible career and technical exams that students can use that lead to industry-recognized certificates, licenses, or degrees.

- **Workforce Training**: Workforce training programs such as apprenticeships and in-the-field experiences are courses that are not offered for college credit, but have a clear path that leads to careers. From an approved list of course offerings, Idaho technical colleges provide learning opportunities beyond the semester system that are designed to meet the needs of industry.

EARLY GRADUATION

Some students choose to advance in their high school journey by graduating early from high school. Student who plan to graduate early, should talk to their counselor early to make a plan. Early Graduation Scholarships are available to students who graduate from a public high school at least one year early. This scholarship is estimated at $1,800 for every year skipped in grades 1-12, and can be used at any Idaho public post-secondary institution. The student must apply for the scholarship within two years of graduating through the student’s Advanced Opportunities account.
The Advanced Opportunities staff at the student’s local school will be the best point of contact to navigate the Advanced Opportunities program.

For additional assistance, contact us at (208) 332-6944. 
www.sde.idaho.gov/student-engagement/advanced-ops/