WHAT ARE ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES?

Advanced Opportunities are a series of course choice options for Idaho students in grades 7-12. These include options like Dual Credit, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Career Technical Education.
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FAST FORWARD PROGRAM

When participating in Advanced Opportunities, it is likely that students will accrue costs related to these activities. The Fast Forward program gives public school students in grades 7-12 an allocation of $4,125 to use toward the cost of: Overload Courses, Dual Credit tuition, and Exams.

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

**Dual credit** courses are transcribed on students’ high school and college transcripts. Through the Fast Forward program, students can request funding for up to $75 per credit.

**Exams** related to Advanced Opportunities coursework can be paid for with Fast Forward funds. These include: Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), and Professional Certifications.

PARTICIPATION FORM

Students and parents must fill out a participation form outlining program risks and regulations prior to using Fast Forward funds. This form is turned in to your school and kept on file with other student records. It can be found online at the [www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov) or at your school.

SIGN UP FOR AN ACCOUNT

Students can create a Fast Forward account at [advancedops.sde.idaho.gov](http://advancedops.sde.idaho.gov) to request Fast Forward funds and track their account balance. Accounts must be approved by the school’s Advanced Opportunities designee. In some cases, schools require that students request funding through the Advanced Opportunities portal, while other districts handle this process internally. Please follow local policies and procedures, as these vary by school. Please contact the school’s Advanced Opportunities designee to learn about local processes and deadlines.
COURSE CHOICE

Idaho’s Advanced Opportunities programs are nationally recognized as a model for course choice. Students are empowered to create individual learning plans that jump-start them into their future careers. As students participate in Advanced Opportunities, they are not limited to only the courses offered at their local high school. Instead, they are able to mix and match between options in their high school, dually enroll in more than one high school, access online coursework, and even take courses on a college campus.

Idaho Digital Learning (IDL): IDL is an online course provider that offers courses in partnership with all the public middle and high schools around the state. If certain courses are not available through the student’s school, students can sign up for the course online. In addition to typical course offerings for secondary credit, IDL also offers dual credit, Advanced Placement, and flex options.

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 still in high school.
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

This is an opportunity for students to participate in challenging and rigorous coursework. As they navigate these programs, it is the student’s responsibility to meet with their advisors 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 Fast Forward, may be required to pay for that course, or will have their Fast Forward funds frozen until they pay for and pass a similar course.

ADVISING

Proper advising is key to navigating the Advanced Opportunities program. Making connections with the school counselor, college and career counselor, and/or college advisors can go a long way. Students who use Fast Forward funds to earn more than 15 dual credits must receive advising from the school or college 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 tricky to navigate. How a course is transferred or accepted, is determined by the receiving institution. If students are receiving college credit from more than one institution, it is important to plan ahead and consider how courses will transfer, and which courses will count toward their degree. Each institution 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.
EARNING COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL

**Dual Credit:** Across the state of Idaho, there are a number of colleges and universities that offer dual credit (also known as concurrent credit). Typically, this means that a high school teacher is credentialed through a college/university as adjunct faculty and raises the rigor of a high school class to mirror the college curriculum. Each college/university is regionally accredited and will have a unique admissions and registration process.

When enrolling in a dual credit course, there may be additional costs that are not covered by Fast Forward funds, such as books, lab fees, etc. It is important to keep track of the institution through which students receive dual credit. Upon enrolling in a postsecondary institution, they will be required to provide official transcripts in order for these credits to count towards their degree.

**IDAHO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS**

- **Boise State University:** concurrentenrollment.boisestate.edu (208) 426-3750
- **Brigham Young University-Idaho:** www.byui.edu/concurrent-enrollment (208) 496-1300
- **College of Eastern Idaho:** www.cei.edu/high-school (208) 535-5330
- **College of Southern Idaho:** www.csi.edu/dual-credit (208) 933-2320
- **College of Western Idaho:** www.cwidaho.cc/dc (208) 562-3371
- **Idaho State University:** www.isu.edu/ecp (208) 282-6067
- **Independent Study in Idaho:** uidaho.edu/isi (208) 885-6641
- **Lewis-Clark State College:** www.lcsc.edu/dual-credit (208) 792-2280
- **North Idaho College:** www.nic.edu/dualcredit (208) 769-3321
- **Northwest Nazarene University:** highschool.nnu.edu/concurrent-credit (208) 467-8373
- **University of Idaho:** dualcredit.uidaho.edu (208) 885-4074
**AP:** Advanced Placement courses are college-level courses that prepare students through advanced and rigorous curriculum. At the end of the year, students take an AP exam and received 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. By doing this, 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.

**On Campus:** Many high school students are choosing to attend courses on the college and university campus. Each postsecondary institution will have policies and guidelines for this activity, and local restrictions may apply. In some cases, students will be charged full tuition and must follow the same deadlines as all regular college students. Students must also work with their local school district if they would like for their college credits to count as high school credits. Only those credits that are transcribed by both the college and high school are eligible for Fast Forward funding.

**Online:** Students are able to access online dual credit courses through the Idaho Digital Learning (IDL) or directly through the college or university.
Tuition Savings

When maximized, the Fast Forward program enables Idaho families to save thousands of dollars on college tuition. The ratio of cost savings is $4.00 for every $1.00 spent. In 2017, Idaho spent $10 million on dual credits; if Idaho students earned these same credits after high school, the price tag would have been more than $46 million.

Below is a table that outlines examples of savings that Idaho families and individual students experience by maximizing the Fast Forward program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Cost Through In-State University</th>
<th>Cost Through Community College</th>
<th>Cost to Idaho Through Fast Forward Funding</th>
<th>Cost to Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student earns 66 college credits (associates degree)</td>
<td>$19,074</td>
<td>$8,580</td>
<td>$4,125</td>
<td>$165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student earns 30 college credits (1 year of college)</td>
<td>$8,670</td>
<td>$3,900</td>
<td>$1,950</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student earns 15 college credits (1 semester of college)</td>
<td>$4,335</td>
<td>$1,950</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It’s easy to get lost in the process of signing up for the right class. In some cases, it may feel like the students are required to jump through many hoops just to get into a course. It’s important to ask lots of questions, and reach out for help if challenges arise. For example, some postsecondary providers require that students go through the college admissions process before registering for a dual credit course, while others merge the two processes into one application. Students might find themselves proceeding through the following steps in order to sign up for an online dual credit course:

1. **Register** for an online course (i.e., through IDLA)
2. Submit a college **admissions** form
3. **Register** for the college course
4. Create an **Advanced Opportunities Account**
5. Request **Fast Forward** funding to pay for course

Navigating all of these processes simultaneously can be overwhelming at times, particularly the first time around. There are a myriad of individuals available to assist in this process including school counselors, district personnel, college advisors, dual credit coordinators, and the Advanced Opportunities Support team.
EARLY GRADUATION

Some students choose to advance in their high school journey by graduating early from high school. And although this option is not appropriate for all students, it is a possibility. If this is something a student hopes to pursue, they should talk to their advisor early to make a plan for early graduation. Early Graduation Scholarships are available to students who graduate from high school at least one year early. This scholarship is roughly $1,500 for every year skipped, and can be used at any Idaho public post-secondary institution. This scholarship is available to students for up 28 months after graduation.

HOMESCHOOL AND PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS

According to Idaho code 33-4602, the Fast Forward program is available to all students who attend an Idaho public school. Attendance policies around the state vary from district to district. In some cases, districts requires that students attend 3 or more periods a day in order to be enrolled, while other districts only require enrollment in a single class. Many homeschool and/or private school students choose to enroll in an online public charter school that allows them to get access to Fast Forward funding, while maintaining schooling in a homebound environment.

IN THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR...

- 58% of all seniors in Idaho used Fast Forward funding towards a course or exam
- More than 32,000 students across the state participate in Advanced Opportunities
- Idaho students earned more than 180,000 dual credits
- Idaho families saved more than $55 million in college tuition through Fast Forward
CONTACT INFORMATION

The Advanced Opportunities designee at your school will be the best point of contact as you navigate the Advanced Opportunities program.

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Blogspot:

https://facebook.com/advancedops/
https://twitter.com/advancedops2015
https://advancedopportunitiesupdates.blogspot.com

Text alerts
School Users: Text @sdeschool to 81010
Students: Text @sdestudent to 81010
Parents: Text @sdeparent to 81010