Guide to Dual Credit & Early Admissions

VICTORIA COLLEGE
Est. 1925
August 23, 2016

Dear Parents and Students,

You know that furthering your education is one of the best investments you can make to ensure your future success. So, why wait until high school graduation to begin college? There are many advantages to taking dual credit classes as a high school student, and Victoria College is ready to help you get a head start on meeting your goals.

What are the advantages?

**Quality.** Whether you plan to continue at VC after graduation or go directly to your university, the dual credit courses you take at VC will prepare you for success. Our reputation for quality is well known.

**Getting a Head Start.** College is a pathway to your dream career, so why wouldn’t you want to finish sooner. Plus, many “four year” degrees now take as long as five years to complete. Taking advantage of dual credit will put you on the fast track to finishing your degree.

**Lower Tuition.** Let’s face it, going to college costs a lot, even with financial aid and scholarships. Victoria College keeps tuition low, making college more affordable. **Tuition and fees at VC are a fraction of the tuition and fees at a university.** The more dual credit classes you take, the more money you save, compared to the university.

**Personal Attention.** As a dual credit student, you are an official college student with access to the full range of services available to all VC students. These services include assistance with academic and career planning, library access, tutoring, and all student activities.

**And Finally….Success.** Above all things, VC is focused on our students’ success. Helping you learn and reach your educational goals is our top priority. By beginning now at VC, we can help you build a bright future.

Sincerely,

David Hinds, President
How do I apply for Admission to Victoria College?

• Complete an admissions application at www.ApplyTexas.org
• Provide appropriate college readiness scores to the Admissions & Records Office.
• Provide proof of meningitis vaccination (if required)
• Provide an official high school or home school transcript.

What is Dual Credit Enrollment?
Dual Credit Enrollment is an educational program designed to enable high school students to enroll in college courses and receive both college and high school credits for the same course. Dual Credit Enrollment is a great way for high school students to get a jump start on their college education.

What is Early Admissions?
Early Admission is for students desiring to take college courses. Early Admission enrollment only earns college credit.

What are the advantages?
For the student who is eligible for the program and willing to work hard in college classes, the benefits of dual credit enrollment at Victoria College include:

• **Access:** Students are able to utilize academic and career planning, library access, computer lab access, and all academic support services.
• **Convenience:** Courses can be taught at the high school campus, at the college or online.
• **Close to Home:** Attending college classes while living at home allows students to experience college life while still in a familiar high school surroundings.
• **Cost:** Dual Credit Enrollment at Victoria College is much less expensive than classes at a four-year institution.
• **Student Success:** Successful completion of college level courses increases confidence and helps students to be successful in making the transition to a college campus later.
• **Transferability:** Dual Credit Enrollment classes are fully transferable to public colleges and universities in Texas and are generally transferable to other colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Applying Your Advanced Placement (AP) Scores to Earn College Credit
Both Dual Credit and AP courses are college level courses. In a Dual Credit course, college credit is awarded immediately upon successful completion of the course. In an AP course, the end-of-course exam must be passed before the student can apply to have the college credit awarded after graduation from high school.

Pirate Portal Username & Password
Start from the VC homepage and click the Pirate Portal icon located on the right side of the screen.
1. On the login page of the Pirate Portal, click the “Retrieve your username and password.” link.
2. Now click the “First time student/employee? Get your username and password here.” link.
3. You will be required to accept the regulations, enter your ID (SS# or V#) and birthdate.
4. Next you will setup your security question and answer.
5. Finally you will need to set your options for notifications.

Once you complete these steps, Banner will generate your Pirate Portal username, password, and student email account. If you would like to change your password, please return to “Get/Change/Forget Password” and do so.

Grades
Grades earned in Dual Credit or Early Admission courses will become a part of the student’s permanent transcript. Check the course syllabus for specific grading purposes.

Dropping a Course
Students who wish to drop a VC course must speak with their counselor and receive permission. If it is felt that dropping a course is in the best interest of the student, they may do so by logging into their Pirate Portal. Home schooled students who wish to drop a course must contact the Pre-College Programs & Recruitment office directly. The reason for the drop must be indicated on all drop requests.

To drop a course:
• Student will log into their Pirate Portal
• Click Student Resources tab
• Click Advising & Counseling Services link
• Click Online Drop Request Form link
Dual Enrollment
Student Checklist

☐ Contact a high school counselor about eligibility criteria. Home schooled students should call the Pre-College Programs & Recruitment office at (361) 485-6823 to speak with a recruitment representative.

☐ Apply to Victoria College at www.ApplyTexas.org and allow 3-5 days for processing. Write down the application ID, username and password for tracking purposes.

☐ Submit an official high school transcript to the Admissions & Records Office. The official transcript must be in the original sealed envelope.

☐ Complete testing requirements, if needed and submit scores to the Admissions & Records Office. Required scores are listed on page 5 of the Guide to Dual Credit & Early Admission.

☐ Attend a required dual enrollment informational along with one parent or guardian.

☐ Complete and submit the Dual Credit Agreement Form which can be accessed at www.VictoriaCollege.edu/DualCreditEarlyAdmission.

☐ Apply for scholarships.

☐ Pay all tuition and fees or enroll in an installment plan.

Checkpoint: ____________________________________________

Pre-College Programs & Recruitment
Phone: (361) 485-6823
Fax: (361) 582-2525
PreCollegePrograms@VictoriaCollege.edu
www.VictoriaCollege/PreCollegePrograms
Do I Qualify?

Students wishing to take advantage of Dual Credit or Early Admissions Enrollment opportunities may do so by meeting the following eligibility requirements:

- **Academic Requirements** – Student must attain the college readiness scores on one of the following assessments:
  - **ACT Scores**: Composite (Critical Reading plus Math) – 23; minimum of 19 on English test and/or Math
  - **SAT Scores (BEFORE March 2016)**: Critical Reading 500; Math 500; Composite 1070
  - **SAT Scores (AFTER March 2016)**: Evidence Based Reading & Writing 480; Math 530
  - **TSI Scores**: Math – 350; Reading – 351; Writing (subjective) – 363 with an essay score of 4 or an essay score of 5 with a subjective writing score of 350.
  - **STAAR EOC**: English III 4000; Algebra II 4000; English II 4000 (Waiver); HS Algebra II + Algebra I EOC – 70 in Algebra II and 4000 on EOC (Waiver)
  - **PLAN (Waiver)**: English 19; Math 19; Composite 23
  - **ACT – Aspire**: English 435; Math 431
  - **PSAT (BEFORE October 2015)**: Math 50; Reading 50; Composite 107
  - **PSAT (AFTER October 2015)**: To Be Determined by the Coordinating Board
  - **Credit by Exam** – Credit by Exam requirements and scores are outlined in the Victoria College Catalog.

Getting Registered

High School counselors have information regarding classes that are available for Dual Credit Enrollment and will assist the student in determining which classes are needed and will fit in the student’s schedule. Students who are eligible to participate in University Interscholastic League contests should verify with their counselor that participation in Dual Credit classes will not cause them to lose their eligibility under UIL rules. High School counselors and Victoria College will work collaboratively to finalize the registration process.

Dual Credit & Early Admission Agreement

- I understand that the student must complete an Apply Texas application and meet with their high school counselor to determine dual credit award prior to the registration process.
- I understand I will be enrolling in a college credit course(s) at Victoria College and will be receiving a letter grade that will be recorded on my permanent college transcript. A numerical grade may appear on the high school transcript for dual credit courses; conversion and weight of grades is the responsibility of the respective high school.
- I understand that Victoria College has no discretion to determine if any course(s) that I take will count as dual credit on my high school transcripts.
- I also understand that it is my responsibility to know what my tuition and fees total for the semester in which I am enrolled and pay by the deadlines set by Victoria College. It is my responsibility to be able to locate these payment deadlines. If I belong to a school district that pays for my tuition, fees, and/or books, that it is that school district’s discretion as to the terms and conditions of what they will or will not award funds for, and in return it is my responsibility to make sure that those funds are applied to my account.
- If I elect to pay by an installment plan, I understand that the installment plan fee of $20.00 is non-refundable. I understand that my initial payment method must remain the same for the second and third installment as per the installment agreement made with the Payments Office.
- I understand that if I wish to withdraw from or drop any of my college course(s) it is my responsibility to first discuss this matter with my parent(s) and high school counselor. In order to official drop a course I may do so through my Pirate Portal. I also understand that I may or may not receive a refund based on the timeframe I decide to withdraw from my college course(s). It is my responsibility to be able to locate these refund periods.
- I understand that by enrolling at Victoria College, I am responsible for knowing, understanding, and following all policies, rules, and regulations at Victoria College in addition to following the rules and regulations set forth by the high school. I also understand that as a minor, I may come into contact with adult content, controversial issues and opinions, and differing belief practices.
- I understand that all core curriculum courses are required by law to transfer to any public institution in the state of Texas; and it is my responsibility to ensure that any coursework attempted at Victoria College is following an appropriate degree plan of the institution that a degree is sought after.
- I understand that I and one parent/guardian are expected to attend Dual Credit Orientation prior to the first semester of enrollment.
- I understand my high school counselor(s) and principal(s) have legal, academic privilege to my Victoria College records.
Let’s Talk Cost

Tuition and fees for Dual Credit & Early Admission students are the same as for traditional college students. Students living in Victoria County will be charged in-county tuition. Students who do not reside in Victoria County will be charged an out-of-county fee in addition to regular tuition.

2016-2017 Tuition and Fees (Residents of Texas)

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Please Note: Additional fees for particular courses, labs and online classes may be applied to both in-county and out-of-county residents.

When is Payment Due? ______________

Registration and payment dates are available on the website at www.VictoriaCollege.edu/RegistrationStep1. Any classes not paid for by the due date will be dropped, and the student will be required to register again during the next registration period.

If I drop my classes, will I get a refund?

Whether a student is eligible for a refund or not is determined by the date the student’s classes are dropped. The refund policy and schedule are outlined in the College Catalog. If a refund check is issued, it will be mailed to the student’s address of record unless a Direct Deposit Refund Profile has been established. Direct Deposit to the student’s bank account can be arranged online upon admission to the college. Direct Deposit is the quickest and safest method for the student to receive refunds from the College.

How do I pay for classes?

- **Locations** - Payments can be made at the Payment Center on the Main Campus as well as at the Gonzales Center. Payments can also be made online through Pirate Portal.
- **Methods of Payment** – Victoria College accepts all major credit cards, debit/ATM cards, and money orders.
- **Installment Plan** – Students can enroll in an installment plan for an additional $20 installment loan fee. The installment plan can be established by paying 50% of the total tuition and fees. The remaining balance will be divided into two equal payments due later in the semester.
- **Dual Credit Scholarships** – Students can qualify for scholarships to help pay for Dual Credit by applying for the Dual Credit Scholarship. Visit www.VictoriaCollege.edu/Scholarships to apply.

TPEG Scholarship Application Checkpoints

Please review the following checkpoints for TPEG scholarship applications:

- Complete FAFSA on www.fafsa.ed.gov; complete early to accommodate processing times and determine if student meets need based eligibility criteria—Priority Deadline is March 2017. FAFSA is the Department of Education application but the student DOES NOT receive federal funds i.e. Pell Grant or student loans.
- Students can check application status or requirements needed to complete processing of their file in Pirate Portal or by contacting the Victoria College Financial Aid Office at (361) 572-6415.
- If a student is selected for verification, processing time can take 4-6 weeks after all required documents is submitted to Financial Aid Office.
- Dual Credit Agreement Form for approved academic year; with approved courses and signed by High School counselor must be on file.
- TPEG Dual Credit scholarship awards $275 for 3 hours and $550 for 6 hours
- TPEG Dual Credit scholarship award only pays for counselor approved courses included on Dual Credit Agreement Form.
- Continuing students must maintain 2.0 cumulative GPA.
Pre-College Programs & Recruitment
Phone:  (361) 485-6823
Fax:  (361) 582-2525
Email:  PreCollegePrograms@VictoriaCollege.edu
Website:  www.VictoriaCollege/PreCollegePrograms

Office Hours:
Fall and Spring…………….Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Summer………………Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Physical Location:
Student Services Building, Suite 105
Building 8 on VC Campus Map

Mailing Address:
Victoria College
Pre-College Programs & Recruitment Office
2200 E. Red River Street
Victoria, TX  77901

Pre-College Programs & Recruitment Team
Sabrina Romo, Coordinator    Sabrina.Romo@VictoriaCollege.edu
Robert Sanchez, College Recruitment Specialist    Robert.Sanchez@VictoriaCollege.edu
Sarah Saleh, Administrative Assistant    Sarah.Saleh@VictoriaCollege.edu

Notes: ___________________________________________________________________________________________
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