



Dual Credit at SWAU

swau.edu

Complete College Credit Early and Save Upwards of Nearly \$12,000 in Tuition



At Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU), dual credit is more than taking college classes early. It is a purposeful pathway designed to help students transition into college with confidence, balance, and preparation—while helping families reduce the overall cost of a degree.

Students who follow a recommended SWAU Dual Credit Pathway can complete real college coursework during high school. These courses appear on an official SWAU transcript and are aligned to SWAU degree requirements.

Depending on a student's major, dual credit supports one of two outcomes

- Start College One Semester Ahead by completing up to 15-18 credits before high school graduation, or
- Avoid Overloaded Semesters in structured majors by completing core coursework early so students can focus on labs, clinicals, or field experiences later.

The result: students arrive better prepared, more confident, and families can save upwards of nearly **\$12,000 in tuition** over the course of a degree.

Why SWAU Dual Credit?

SWAU's dual credit program is intentionally designed to prioritize student success over speed. Rather than encouraging students to rush through coursework, SWAU emphasizes readiness, pacing, and whole-person development.

Key benefits include

- Strong preparation for college-level expectations
- Reduced stress during the first year of college
- Earlier access to major coursework or lighter semester course loads
- Meaningful, long-term tuition savings
- A faith-informed approach that supports academic, personal, and spiritual growth

This model helps students build confidence while still benefiting from early academic progress.



Cost and Affordability An Affordable Investment in Your Future

SWAU believes access to college credit should be both meaningful and affordable.

This significantly reduced tuition rate allows students to earn real college credit at a fraction of traditional undergraduate tuition while still in high school.

By completing 12-18 college credits through dual credit, families reduce the number of credits a student must pay for after full-time enrollment. Over time, this can translate into savings of upwards of nearly \$12,000 in tuition over the course of a student's degree.

Dual Credit Tuition Rate
\$100 per credit hour



Eligibility Requirements

Who Can Participate?

To ensure students are prepared for college-level expectations, participation in the SWAU Dual Credit Program requires:

- **Minimum GPA:** 3.0 or higher

- **High School Partnership:**

The student must attend a high school with an active Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Southwestern Adventist University

- **Academic Readiness:** Students should demonstrate maturity, time-management skills, and readiness for college-level coursework

Academy/Highschool representatives and SWAU advisors work collaboratively to confirm eligibility and appropriate course placement.

Course Delivery

Flexible Instruction with Academic Oversight

Primary Instructional Model

SWAU dual credit courses are primarily taught online, providing flexibility, consistency, and direct oversight by SWAU academic departments.

Partner School Teaching Option

Qualified teachers at partner high schools may teach SWAU dual credit courses on-site if they

- Meet SWAU faculty credential requirements
- Complete required training and onboarding
- Receive formal approval from the appropriate SWAU department chair

Regardless of delivery format, all dual credit courses

- Follow SWAU-approved syllabi and learning outcomes
- Use SWAU grading and assessment standards
- Are overseen by SWAU academic departments
- Appear on an official SWAU college transcript

The Two Branded Pathways

The SWAU Dual Credit Pathways: Two Smart Ways to Start Strong

Semester-Ahead Pathway: Start College One Semester Ahead

This pathway is best for majors with flexible first-year coursework. Students complete 15–18 college credits before high school graduation; often entering SWAU with the equivalent of one full semester completed.



Best-fit majors include

- Psychology
- Business / Accounting / Digital Marketing
- Communication (all concentrations)
- English (all tracks)
- History / Social Science / Pre-Law
- Religion / Theology
- Criminal Justice
- General Studies / Interdisciplinary Studies / BAAS
- Associate of Science (General)



- **ENGL 121** – Freshman Composition (3)
- **COMM 111** – Speech (3)
- **HIST 111 or HIST 112** – U.S. History (3)
- **MATH 141** – Introduction to Probability & Statistics (3)
- **ARTS 222** – Art Appreciation (3) or **PHYS 114** – Physical Science (4)
- **KINT 112** – Whole-Person Wellness (2) and/or **KINT 116** – Physical Education Elective (1)

What Students Gain

- Faster progress to the major
- Reduced tuition costs
- Stronger first-year confidence and momentum

Balanced Load Pathway

Avoid Overload, Protect Your GPA, Stay on Track

Some majors have labs, clinics, or certification sequencing that cannot be shortened. For these programs, dual credit still provides major benefits by allowing students to complete core coursework early; reducing “heavy semesters” later and supporting stronger academic performance.

Best-fit majors include

- Nursing
- Medical Laboratory Science
- STEM (Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Computer Science)
- Education (Elementary & Secondary certification programs)
- Health & Fitness / Exercise Science / Physical Education

Balanced Load course package (12-15 credits)

- **ENGL 121** – Freshman Composition (3)
- **COMM 111** – Speech (3)
- **HIST 111 or HIST 112** – U.S. History (3)
- **MATH 141** – Probability & Statistics (3)
- **KINT 112** – Whole-Person Wellness (2)

Optional (degree-dependent)

- **PHYS 114** – Physical Science (4)
- **PSYC 212** – General Psychology (3)
- **ARTS 222** – Art Appreciation (3)

What Students Gain

- Fewer 16–18 credit semesters
- Better focus on labs/clinicals/fieldwork
- Reduced stress and stronger GPA outcomes



Incentives for Students Who Choose SWAU

Students who complete dual credit through Southwestern Adventist University and choose to enroll at SWAU may be eligible for a range of incentives designed to support a smooth and affordable transition into college, including

- Dual Credit Scholarship applied to undergraduate tuition
- Priority registration for the first semester
- Housing deposit credit for on-campus residents

These incentives recognize the academic effort students have already invested and reflect SWAU’s commitment to rewarding preparation and commitment, not penalizing choice.



Steps to Get Started

For Students and Families

Getting started with SWAU Dual Credit is a guided, collaborative process.

Step 1

Talk with Your High School/Academy Representative

Discuss readiness, scheduling, and whether your school has an active **MOU with SWAU**.

Step 2

Identify Your Intended Pathway

Work with your counselor and SWAU advisors to determine whether the Semester-Ahead or Balanced Load pathway best fits your academic goals.

Step 3

Confirm Eligibility

Verify GPA eligibility (3.0 or higher) and course readiness.

Step 4

Apply and Enroll

Complete the SWAU dual credit application and register for approved courses.

Step 5

Begin with Confidence

Students receive clear expectations, academic support, and guidance throughout the dual credit experience.

School Partnership Overview

For Principals, Counselors, and District Leaders

SWAU partners closely with high schools to ensure dual credit supports student success, graduation requirements, and postsecondary readiness.

School Partnerships Include

- Clear academic standards and faculty oversight
- Curriculum alignment with SWAU degree pathways
- Training and approval processes for partner-school instructors
- Ongoing communication and support

This collaborative model ensures that dual credit offerings maintain academic quality while meeting the needs of students and schools.

Ready to Apply?

Applying to our Dual Credit program is easy

[Download the Dual Credit Application](#)

■ Select Your Courses

Send your **dual credit applications** via email to dualcredit@swau.edu by August 21st (Fall) or January 5th (Spring)

- **(optional) Course Applications:** For schools teaching Dual Credit classes with their professors, course applications can also be sent to dualcredit@swau.edu.

Questions? Please email us at dualcredit@swau.edu



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

How much does dual credit cost?

Dual credit courses cost **\$100 per credit hour**.

Are these real college courses?

Yes. Courses are taught to college standards and appear on an official SWAU transcript.

Does my high school need an agreement with SWAU?

Yes. An active MOU is required for participation.

Who teaches the courses?

Courses are taught online by SWAU-approved instructors. In some partner schools, qualified high school teachers may teach after training and department chair approval.

Will dual credit shorten time to graduation?

In many majors, yes. In structured majors, dual credit primarily reduces overload and stress rather than total program length.

Do grades count toward college GPA?

Yes. Dual credit grades become part of a student's official college record.

What if a student changes majors?

Most dual credit courses meet core requirements and typically still apply.

Who should consider dual credit?

Motivated students who demonstrate readiness for college-level expectations.

Dual Credit Course Availability by High School Year and Semester

What Students Can Take — and When

To support student readiness and long-term success, Southwestern Adventist University structures dual credit course access by high school year and semester. This tiered approach allows students to build confidence gradually while maximizing opportunity as they progress.



Sophomore Year

Introductory, Limited Course Options

Sophomore students begin with foundational wellness courses designed to introduce college expectations without academic overload.

Available Courses

Fall Semester

KINT 116 – Physical Education Elective (1 credit)

Core Area: Whole Person Wellness

Spring Semester

KINT 112 – Whole-Person Wellness (2 credits)

Core Area: Quality Enhancement Plan

Why These Courses Are Offered First

- Low-risk introduction to college-level grading and expectations
- Builds confidence, discipline, and time-management skills
- Applies broadly across SWAU degree programs



Junior Year

Expanded Core General Education Options

Junior-year students may take both sophomore- and junior-level dual credit courses, allowing them to complete high-impact general education requirements that apply across most majors.

Available Courses

Fall Semester

ENGL 121 – Freshman Composition (3 credits)

Core Area: English Composition

HIST 111 – U.S. History to 1865 (3 credits)

Core Area: History & Social Science

Spring Semester

HIST 112 – U.S. History from 1865 (3 credits)

Core Area: History & Social Science

COMM 111 – Speech (3 credits)

Core Area: Competence in Communication

ARTS 222 – Art Appreciation (3 credits)

Core Area: Humanities

Junior-Year Focus

- Completion of widely transferable core courses
- Strong preparation for senior-year dual credit options
- Supports both the Semester-Ahead Pathway and the Balanced Load Pathway

Senior Year

Full Dual Credit Course Access

Senior-year students may pursue all approved dual credit courses, including math, science, social science, humanities, and religion courses aligned with their intended degree path.

Available Courses

Fall Semester

PHYS 114 – Physical Science (4 credits)

Core Area: Life & Physical Science

PSYC 212 – General Psychology (3 credits)

Core Area: History & Social Science

RELB 211 – Life and Teachings of Jesus (3 credits)

Core Area: Religion

Spring Semester

MATH 141 – Introduction to Probability & Statistics

(3 credits)

Core Area: Mathematics

RELB 211 – Life and Teachings of Jesus (3 credits)

Core Area: Religion

Senior-Year Outcomes

- Completion of 15–18 credits for the Semester-Ahead Pathway
- Completion of 12–15 credits for the Balanced Load Pathway

Questions?

Please email us at dualcredit@swau.edu or visit <https://swau.edu/admissions-aid/dual-credit/>

*Current SWAU MOU Dual Credit Partners

Blue Mountain Academy

Burton Adventist Academy

Campion Academy

Chisholm Trail Academy

Dallas Christian Academy

Forest Lake Adventist Academy

Houston Adventist Academy

North Dallas Adventist Academy

North Tampa Academy

Ozark Adventist Academy

Parkview Adventist Academy

Sandia View Academy

Scenic Hills Adventist School

South Texas Christian Academy

Sycamore Academy

Tulsa Adventist Academy

