

# PERFORMANCE AUDIT

Work in progress: Audit description

## Running Start and College in the High School: Assessing dual-credit transferability

Washington's dual credit programs allow students to earn credits that count toward both high school graduation and college-level coursework. These credits can give them a head start in accumulating the academic credits they will need to graduate from postsecondary education. However, each two- and four-year college and university establishes its own policies and procedures determining how credits earned in a high school dual-credit program are transferred and accepted. Depending on the college that students eventually apply to, they may or may not gain full credit of the dual courses they took in high school.

In addition, students may not be receiving meaningful information about how the earned credits will transfer to different institutions of higher education. Without accurate and sufficiently detailed information, students may take dual credit courses that their chosen college will not apply toward degree requirements or accept at all. Students hoping to reduce the time and money needed to obtain a degree may find their graduation delayed and their costs unexpectedly higher.

### Preliminary scope and objectives

This audit will assess eight institutions of higher education to learn the extent to which they accept dual credits earned in two of Washington's large dual credit programs: Running Start and College in the High School. The audit will seek to answer the following questions:

1. To what extent do higher education institutions accept dual credit earned in the two programs?
2. Are there differences in dual-credit transfer rates between higher education institutions? If so, why?
3. How do higher education institutions communicate with students about the transferability of dual credit courses?



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