



**Dual Enrollment:  
Program structure, take up, and  
early outcomes**

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# What is Dual Enrollment (DE)?

- **Postsecondary credit-bearing course;** taught at high school or at/through higher education institution
- High school students earn postsecondary credit upon course completion
  - Courses transferable upon entering higher education (in TN)

# TSAC Dual Enrollment Grant

- **First two DE courses free to student** (\$500 grant; from lottery funds)
  - \$200 grant for third course,
  - Students pay for fourth course out of pocket.
- For DE courses 5+, student can use HOPE lottery funds
  - Dips into funds available when entering higher education.

# Participation increasing.

Academic year	N participants	Program cost
2011-12	16,995	\$8.7M
2012-13	17,759	\$9.8M
2013-14	20,594	\$11.8M
2014-15	21,745	\$12.6M
2015-16	24,671	\$15.9M
2016-17	26,659	\$19.3M

- **57 percent** increase in dual enrollment take up from 2011-12 to 2016-17
- Award amounts changed to \$500, 500, 200, 0 in **AY 2014-15**

# Who takes Dual Enrollment?

- Majority **high school juniors and seniors.**
- **Higher achieving, higher income** students.
  - Average **ACT** = 24
  - Average **HS GPA** = 3.3
  - Average **EFC** = \$10,500
- ~75 percent **white**, 25 percent **nonwhite**
- ~60 percent **female**

# Where do students take DE?

- Majority of students take DE at/via community colleges (**~75 percent**)
  - **11 percent** TCATs
  - **~15 percent** at public/private four-years
    - Equal split between private and public
- Over 200 high schools offer at least one DE course.

# Research on DE

- Propensity score matching
  - Match students **enrolled in** higher education with similar characteristics (i.e., race, sex, ACT, GPA) who **did and did not** take dual enrollment courses in high school
- Investigate effects of DE on persistence, graduation, and time to degree.

# Effects on persistence

- Students who take DE courses **are more likely** than their non-DE peers to persist Y1 to Y2:
  - 2 year: ~1.5 percentage points
  - 4 year: ~1.5 to 5 percentage points
- Effects vary by the **number of DE courses** taken.

# Effects on graduation

- Students who take DE courses **are more likely** than their non-DE peers to graduate, and **have shorter TTD**.
  - 2 year:           **2-6** percentage points (AA)  
                          **1-7** percentage points (BA)
  - 4 year:           **3-10** percentage points (BA)
- Again, effects vary by the **number of DE courses** taken.

# Future research

- Optimum number of DE (EPSO) courses?
- Outcomes of those who take DE but **do not** enroll in higher education
- Outcomes of those who take DE courses and enroll **out of state**
- Effects of **ALL** early postsecondary courses, using consistent methodology
  - Collaboration with Research team at TDOE



**Questions?  
Thank you!**

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