

# Policy change allows UND, NDSU to offer dual-credit classes for high schoolers

BY JEFF BEACH  
North Dakota Monitor

BISMARCK — Families in Cass and Grand Forks counties may soon have different options for college courses for high school students.

The State Board of Higher Education last week approved a policy change that allows high school students in those counties to take dual-credit courses — earning both high school and college credit — through the University of North Dakota and North Dakota State University.

Students in Cass and Grand Forks counties had previously been required to take dual-credit classes through one of North Dakota’s smaller public colleges, with the college getting the tuition revenue. Those students could only take a dual-credit course from UND or NDSU if it was not offered at a smaller college.

Leaders of those smaller colleges have resisted the change in part because of the tuition revenue they get from students taking introductory college courses while they are still in high school.

Those colleges include North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, Valley City State University, Mayville State University and Lake Region State College in Devils Lake.

Rod Flanigan, president of North Dakota

State College of Science, a two-year school, said the change could cost his school millions of dollars in revenue annually.

The college in Wahpeton in Richland County has about 1,500 dual-credit students this semester, most of them from Cass County, the neighboring county to the north.

“It will have an impact on us,” Flanigan told the State Board of Higher Education when it met Tuesday, Sept. 23, at Minot State University. “We will compete as best we can.”

Advocates for the change said the policy should be about choice for students, not the financial health of the small colleges.

State Board of Higher Education member Curtis Biller said during a Sept. 4 committee meeting that if there are financial implications for the small colleges, “we can deal with it as we move forward.”

It will be up to NDSU and UND to work with high schools on which courses to make available through dual credit.

NDSU Provost David Bertolini said the university will reach out to high schools in Cass County to understand what the schools, parents and students want for dual-credit offerings.

“We get requests from students who want to do dual credit with us, and historically, we have to say ‘no,’ ” Bertolini said in an interview. “From

the perspective of what families and students might want for themselves, their hopes and dreams for college or whatever their careers might be, student choice is paramount.”

Historically, the university system has encouraged campuses to operate in their own region.

Another college that could be significantly impacted is Lake Region, which has about 250 dual credit students from nearby Grand Forks County, home to UND.

UND President Andy Armacost said it would work with Lake Region to minimize the impact on the two-year school.

“We need to sit down and figure out how this is going to work,” he said at Tuesday’s meeting. He acknowledged that there would be pressure from Grand Forks residents who would prefer to use UND for dual credit over Lake Region.

Carmen Simone, who was appointed Lake Region president earlier in the meeting after serving as interim over the summer, said the college would work with UND.

“I’m not afraid of this change,” she said.

## How dual credit works

Lisa Johnson, deputy commissioner for the North Dakota University System, said in an interview that students generally take a dual-credit course one of two ways — either in person within

their high school or as an online course.

In-person classes at the high school are taught by a high school instructor who has the required credentials, such as a master’s degree and a certain number of college credit hours in the subject area.

Johnson said online courses are typically taught by a college instructor. She said that option, while more expensive, is popular in rural school districts that won’t have enough students to justify an in-person class. Students from several schools can be grouped together for an online class, which can still take place during regular school hours.

The North Dakota University System has targeted dual-credit offerings to high-demand classes, such as English 101 and college algebra, that can help fulfill general education requirements and are easily transferable through North Dakota’s colleges.

Johnson said earning college credit through NDSU or UND, the state’s two research colleges, would carry no more weight than through a smaller college, though that perception might exist.

“I think the extent to which they no longer enroll in community colleges and four-year regionals and gravitate to research institutions remains to be seen,” she said.

Johnson said a high

school can partner with more than one college on dual-credit classes.

If two colleges were offering the same course, Johnson said the high school would select which institution to partner with.

## Growth in dual credit

Johnson said dual credit has evolved over the decades. She said it started with the two-year colleges, such as Lake Region and the State College of Science, back in the 1980s.

Four-year colleges eventually began offering dual credit courses, and online courses have greatly expanded dual-credit opportunities.

“We actually have hundreds and hundreds of online courses,” she said.

Johnson said growth also was spurred when the state Legislature approved funding for a scholarship program in 2021. The scholarship provides \$250 per course, up to three courses.

“We really saw a marked increase in students participating in dual credit after the announcement of that dual credit scholarship,” Johnson said.

There is also a program through the Bank of North Dakota to cover dual-credit tuition for families who qualify for free and reduced school meals.

Johnson said a goal of Brent Sanford, who was just named the University System’s commissioner,

is to expand dual-credit offerings at high schools with career and technical education centers.

High school students have other options for earning college credit. Under early entry, a high school can take a college course that may not count toward high school graduation. Students can also take advanced placement classes, which may provide college credit depending on the student’s score on a standardized test.

Bertolini said an average student coming to NDSU already has 12 college credits, typically through dual credit, and he expects that to keep growing.

“It’s one way to lower college expenses, reduce your time to degree,” he said. “It also allows them, in an earlier framework, to figure out what they want to do for the rest of their lives.”

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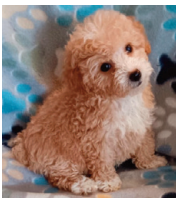
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**IN THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, COUNTY OF STUTSMAN IN THE DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHEAST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing,  
**Plaintiff,**  
v.  
Daniel Kenneth Pausig and Lenore Angeline Pausig and Charles Francis Wilke and Heirs & Devises of the Estate of Charles Francis Wilke and Sue Stoudt and Credit Bureau of Bismarck Inc. and John M. Steiner and State of North Dakota, acting by and through the Office of State Tax Commissioner and all persons unknown, claiming any estate or interest in, or lien or encumbrance upon, the real estate described in the complaint and United States of America, by and through the Internal Revenue Service, and any person in possession,  
**Defendants.**  
**NOTICE OF REAL ESTATE SALE**  
CIVIL NUMBER: 47-2023-CV-00178

1. Judgment in the amount of \$75,733.11, having been entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants, which Judgment was filed with the Clerk of Courts of Stutsman County, North Dakota, on March 27, 2025, for the foreclosure of a real estate mortgage.

2. Notice is hereby given pursuant to said Judgment that the real property described as: Lot 8 Block 49 Klaus' Addition, City of Jamestown, Stutsman County, North Dakota.

Real Property address: 324 3rd Avenue SW, Jamestown, ND 58401

The above real property is the subject of the Mortgage dated January 17, 2014, which Mortgageors, Daniel Kenneth Pausig, Lenore Angeline Pausig, Charles Francis Wilke, executed and delivered to Mort gage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Green Tree Servicing LLC, its successors and assigns, and recorded in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Stutsman County, North Dakota, on February 13, 2014, Instrument Number 0207394, which is subject to the entered Judgment. Said Mortgage was assigned to Plaintiff, its successors or assigns, by Assignment of Mortgage recorded September 27, 2023, Instrument Number 0244934.

3. In order to realize the amount of \$75,733.11, as of March 27, 2025, plus interest accruing thereafter on said amount as awarded by the court, together with the costs and expenses of sale, will be sold subject to redemption as provided by law as one parcel of land at public auction, subject to the lien for unpaid real estate taxes and assessments of Stutsman County, North Dakota, and easements and restrictions of record, to the highest bidder for cash under the direction of the Sheriff of Stutsman County, North Dakota, at the main entrance of the Stutsman County Courthouse located at 511 2nd Avenue Southeast, Jamestown, ND 58401, on October 23, 2025 ("Sale Date"), at 10:00 AM.

4. If the sale is set aside for reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgageor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. DATED this 13th day of September, 2025.

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By: Casey Yuncck  
Sheriff/Deputy Sheriff of Stutsman  
**Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C.**  
By: /s/ Tyler S. Wirick  
Tyler S. Wirick  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
376 East 400 South, Suite 300  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
Tel: 801-355-2886  
Email: tylerw@hwmlawfirm.com  
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