

POST-SECONDARY PLANNING PACKET

Materials for the Class on 2021

Class of 2021: Welcome to the Post-Secondary Planning Process!!

Senior year of high school require a decision from you that will probably be one of the most important ones of your lifetime: Making plans for your life after high school. Your post-secondary plans often impact many other life choices – lifestyle, values, and occupation – and you should be thorough and strategic about this decision.

We recognize that each student begins the post-secondary planning process in a different place, and as your School Counselors, we hope to meet you where you are. We hope that you will take the lead in researching and applying to higher education institutions, and we will work to support you through every step of the way.

In this packet you will find a number of resources designed to help you stay on track and be prepared throughout the post-secondary application process. However, you are bound to have questions that are not covered in this guide, that are more specific to you and your post-secondary choices. Strive to become your best advocate and be sure to seek out your School Counselor to let us know how we can best support you. You should also feel comfortable talking to the various institution’s admissions offices.

We look forward to working with you and your family during this exciting time. Good Luck!!

Class of 2021 School Counselors

Mrs. Wheeler
Mrs. Wilde

INSIDE THIS PACKET

Senior Year Planning Timeline	2-3
Financial Aid Checklist for Seniors	4
ACT vs SAT Comparison	5
ACT Testing Dates & Information for 2020-2021	6
SAT Testing Dates & Information for 2020-2021	7
Quick Guide to Application Plans	8
Making the Best of a College Interview	9
Guide for Visiting Post-Secondary Campuses	10
Campus Visit Worksheet	11
Scholarship Resources	12
Dual Credit Information	13

Kristin.Wheeler@k12.sd.us
Lacey.Wilde@k12.sd.us

Ext. 8706
Ext. 8705

Senior Year Post-Secondary Planning Timeline

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- Enroll in Honors, AP and Dual Credit classes
 - Post-secondary schools want to see that you are continuing to challenge yourself, and not slacking off your senior year.
 - REMEMBER: With Dual Credit classes you earn BOTH high school and college credit at a discounted price
- Keep up your grades and involvement
 - Colleges have the right to take back an admissions offer if you slack off senior year
- Continue to SAVE money!
- Continue to search and apply for any and all scholarships you qualify for!
 - Go directly to the schools you are looking at and fill out their scholarship applications if offered.
 - Check out the HHS Scholarship page located on Huron's Student Services webpage.
 - Get connected with various scholarship search engines.
 - A list can be found on the Student Services Webpage, under "Useful Resource Websites."
 - REMEMBER: There is no limit to the amount of scholarship money you can take with you
 - FREE MONEY IS THE BEST MONEY!

FALL:

- Complete your Senior Conference Form and email to your School Counselor.
- Start planning for what you want to do after high school:
 - Post-secondary education?
 - Military?
 - Workforce?
- If you have not done so already, or need to again, register for the ACT and/or SAT exams(s).
 - Ideally, you should not be taking these exams beyond December, unless absolutely necessary.
- Schedule visits with the post-secondary institutions that you are considering.
- Keep your Resume Up to Date!
 - It is important to have your resume up to date with all the information on your participation in school and community activities, work experience, leadership positions held, awards and recognition received, etc.
 - Your resume will be an important part of job applications, as well as post-secondary and scholarship applications.
- Are you interested in joining the military?
 - Visit with a recruiter from the branch you are interested in, as they will help you get the application process going.
 - Take the ASVAB exam, if you haven't done so already.
- Start asking individuals to write letters of recommendation for you, such as teachers, school counselors, coaches, Club/activity sponsors, employers, etc.
 - There are some admission applications and/or scholarship applications that require letters of recommendation, so it is always good to be prepared and have these letters ready.
 - Fill out the Senior Personal Data Sheet or provide an updated resume for these individuals; it gives them more information about you that they may not know, and will help in writing the best possible recommendation for you.
 - Be aware of deadlines!! Give these individuals plenty of time to write your letter!

FALL CONTINUED:

-As you write essays for post-secondary applications and/or scholarship applications, be sure to have a teacher or school counselor review them.

-Get advice on college essay writing at www.bigfuture.college.org/get-in/essays/3-ways-to-approach-common-college-essay-questions

-Are you interested in playing college athletics?

-If you are looking at Division I or II schools:

-Register online for the NCAA Eligibility Center

-Fill out a transcript request form to have your official transcript sent to NCAA

-You must send your ACT scores directly to NCAA using the code 9999

-BE AWARE OF APPLICATION DEADLINES!!! Give yourself plenty of time to complete applications and anything that goes along with it, such as an essay, letters or recommendations, etc.

-REMEMBER: "Early Decision" applications are binding; this means that if you are accepted, you **MUST** attend that school and can no longer apply to any other colleges. November 1st is a common Early Decision deadline.

- "Early Action" is similar to Early Decision, but it is **NOT** binding.

-Participate in South Dakota College Application Week, Date TBD.

-During this time, HHS seniors can apply to up to three South Dakota post-secondary institutions for **FREE!**

-Be sure to send your Official Transcript when you apply to a post-secondary school

-Pick up and fill out a Transcript Request form located in the Student Services

-FILL OUT YOUR FAFSA!

-The FAFSA application window opens October 1st. Everyone will use their tax return from the prior year to fill out the FAFSA.

-Plan to attend the Financial Aid Night, date and time TBD. This a great opportunity for you and your parents to earn more about the FAFSA application process, any changes for this year, and answer questions you might have.

-REMEMBER: You want to meet school priority deadlines with the FAFSA form, and submit your application before that school's priority deadline.

-Schools have a limited supply of financial aid, so in order to receive the best financial aid package possible, students will want to submit their FAFSA as soon as possible.

WINTER:

-Once you have completed the FAFSA, watch for the email notice indication your Student Aid Report (SAR) from you FAFSA application is ready.

-Be sure to review your SAR for errors and make any corrections as indicated.

-Continue to stay on top of the application deadlines. Always submit information on time.

-Try to have college applications sent out by the time you leave for Christmas break.

-Keep searching and looking for any and all financial aid that you qualify for, such as grants and scholarships.

-Check with the financial aid offices at the schools you are considering to ensure your paperwork is complete. Submit tax forms if requested.

- Research Advance Placement (AP) or College-Level Examination (CLEP) exams.

-Be on the lookout for acceptance letters.

-Write "Thank You" notes to the individuals who wrote letter of recommendations for you.

SPRING:

-Take AP exams, if applicable, and request that your scores be sent to the college that you will be attending.

-Review acceptance letters and compare financial aid offers.

-If you are waitlisted, contact the admissions office to tell them you are still interest in attending.

-Make sure that you accept an offer of admission before May 1st, and mail deposits and paperwork, as required.

-Notify the schools you have chosen **NOT** to attend.

-Plan for registration, orientation and housing, and mark your calendar with important dates.

-Follow up with the Records office to ensure that your final transcript will be sent to your college.

-Write "Thank You" notes for scholarship award and anyone who helped you through the post-secondary admission process. **-GRADUATE!!!**

Financial Aid Checklist for Seniors

SEPTEMBER:

- Research scholarship opportunities and deadlines, and request application materials, if needed.
- Apply for a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) at www.fafsa.gov. Keep your ID in a safe place where you can refer to it often.
- Your parents/guardians need to register for an FSA ID also.

OCTOBER through MARCH:

- Apply for your FSA ID, along with your parents/guardians
- Plan to attend Financial Aid Night in the Arena, date and time TBD.
- Work with your parents/guardians to gather the financial documents and materials necessary for filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- The FAFSA application window opens October 1st.
- Complete and submit the FAFSA form online at www.fafsa.ed.gov in order to apply for state, federal, and institutional grants and loans.
- After you have submitted your FAFSA, you will receive your Student Aid Report (SAR). Check it for any errors and return the SAR ONLY if you need to make corrections.
- Follow the directions in all financial aid correspondence that you receive in a timely manner.
- Continue to complete and submit scholarship applications.

APRIL

- Review and compare the financial aid packages offered in the financial aid award letters sent by colleges that accepted you.
- Identify a financial aid contact at each college where you have been accepted. Check in with -that person about the status of your financial aid package.
- Organize all correspondence that you receive regarding financial aid in a safe place.

MAY/JUNE

- Work with your parents/guardians to apply for Federal Direct PLUS Loans (Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students) and other private loans, if necessary. If your Federal Direct PLUS application is denied, inform your college's financial aid office.
- Visit www.studentloans.gov to complete your Loan Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note for any federal loans noted on your financial aid letter.
- Review all bills for tuition, room and board, as well as other correspondence from your school's financial aid office.
- Follow all directions carefully and meet all deadlines!

ACT vs. SAT: Which One Should I take?

<u>ACT</u>	CONTENT	<u>SAT</u>
Four required separate sections- Reading, English, Math, Scientific Reasoning; one optional section -Writing with an essay		Two parts – Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (Reading and Writing & Language) and Math; one optional section - Essay
Four separate sections ranging from 35 – 60 minutes, each subject area is completed before moving on to the next content area; 30-minute essay section at end of test	FORMAT	Four separate sections ranging from 25-65 minutes, each subject area is completed before moving on to the next content area. There is an optional 50-minute essay, and total testing time with the essay is 3 hours and 50 minutes.
Each subtest scored 1-36; composite score also 1-36 (not a strict average of the four sections); essay also scored 1-36 but NOT included in composite score	SCORING	Each section scored 200-800; all two sections included in overall score for a maximum possible total 1600; overall score achieved by adding up scores of each subtest
ACT (No Writing): \$52 ACT Plus Writing: \$68 (Fee Waivers are available for eligible students)	COST	SAT (No Writing): \$49.50 SAT Plus Writing: \$64.50 (Fee waivers are available for eligible students)
Four scores can be sent to colleges along with registration fee; \$13 per school after fourth selection; students not obligated to send scores anywhere, but will pay an additional fee if sending scores after testing	SENDING SCORES	Four scores can be sent to colleges along with registration fee; \$12 per school after fourth selection; students not obligated to send scores anywhere, but will pay an additional fee if sending scores after testing
Each individual ACT test is independent and must be sent separately to schools- scores do not accumulate on test record	TEST RECORD	Each individual SAT test is independent and must be sent separately to schools – scores do not accumulate on test record
Every four-year school in the US accepts the ACT (with the exception of the Webb Institute in NY)	SCORE ACCEPTANCE	Accepted by all four-year colleges in the US – preferred by schools outside the US
No Subject Tests or equivalent- however, some colleges allow ACT to be substituted for BOTH SAT Reasoning and Subject tests in admission	SUBJECT TESTS	One-hour multiple choice Subject Tests available in languages, sciences, math, social studies and literature
No penalty for incorrect answers – blank and incorrect responses incur the same “points off”	TEST STRATEGY	No penalty for incorrect answers – blank and incorrect responses incur the same “points off”
Six times per year – never on same date as SAT	FREQUENCY	Seven times per year – never on same date as ACT
www.act.org	REGISTER	www.collegeboard.org
https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-day.html	TEST DAY	https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/taking-the-test

ACT Planning

April is nationally the most popular date for high school junior to take the ACT for the first time. Reason being, is students are encouraged to get through as much of their junior year coursework as possible.

- Students can take this test more than once, post-secondary institutions will look at the best score
- Students can register for the ACT at www.act.org
- Students should set aside about 30-45 minutes when sit down to build ACT account
 - There will be an Interest Inventory that will need to be completed, as well as inputting courses taken in high school, amongst other things
- The best way to prepare for the ACT is to PRACTICE!
 - Students should **NOT** go into an ACT exam unprepared
 - SDMyLife has a great FREE ACT prep program called Method Test Prep
 - Mr. Dix offers ACT Math prep courses each semester
 - There are other FREE ACT prep websites listed on the Student Services webpage, under “Useful Resource Websites”
- A 24 ACT composite score is needed in order to meet one of the eligibility requirements for the SD Opportunity Scholarship
- In order for students to **not** have to take Remedial English courses, they must score an 18 or higher English subscore
- In order for students to **not** have to take Remedial Math courses, they must have an 1150 or higher Math Index for South Dakota schools.
 - The Math Index is determined by a formula that takes into account the students ACT Math Subscore and cumulative GPA
- Student should send their score report to post-secondary institutions they are interested in
 - ACT will send a score report to up to 4 schools for FREE
 - Students can send scores to more than 4 schools for a small fee
- Scores are normally reported 3-8 weeks after the test date
- You will find a detailed checklist on www.actstudent.org about what to bring to the test center, what not to bring, and requirements for admission.

2020-2021 ACT Test Dates

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE FEE REGISTRATION
December 12, 2020	November 6, 2020	November 7-20, 2020
February 6, 2021	January 8, 2021	January 9-15, 2021
April 17, 2021	March 12, 2021	March 13-26, 2021
June 12, 2021	May 7, 2021	May 8-21, 2021
July 17, 2021	June 18, 2021	June 19-25, 2021

SAT Planning

The SAT is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions. It is a multiple-choice, pencil-and-paper test administered by the College Board.

The purpose of the SAT is to measure a high school student's readiness for college, and provide colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare all applicants, very similar to the ACT. College admissions officers will review standardized test scores alongside your high school GPA, the classes you took in high school, letters of recommendation from teachers or mentors, extracurricular activities, admissions interviews, and personal essays. How important SAT scores are in the college application process varies from school to school.

Overall, the higher you score on the SAT and/or ACT, the more options for attending and paying for college will be available to you.

Spring is nationally the most popular time of year for high school juniors to take the SAT for the first time. Reason being, is students are encouraged to get through as much of their junior coursework as possible. Also, if you need to retake the test, you can do so fall of your senior year.

- Students can take this test more than once, post-secondary institutions will look at the best score
- Students can register for the SAT at www.collegeboard.org
- The best way to prepare for the SAT is to PRACTICE!
 - Students should **NOT** go into SAT exam unprepared
 - There are other FREE SAT prep websites listed on the Student Services webpage, under "Useful Resource Websites"
 - Princeton Review has great FREE resources at www.princetonreview.com
- Student should send their score report to post-secondary institutions they are interested in
- Scores are normally reported 3-8 weeks after the test date
- You can find more information of what to expect on test day on www.collegeboard.org

2020-2021 SAT Test Dates

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE FEE REGISTRATION
December 5, 2020	November 5, 2020	November 6-24, 2020
March 13, 2021	February 12, 2021	February 13-March 2, 2021
May 8, 2021	April 8, 2021	April 9-27, 2021
June 5, 2021	May 6, 2021	May 7-26, 2021

Quick Guide to Application Plans

There are a number of different plans that post-secondary institutions offer to students. The type of plan offered can impact the timing for your applications, so it is important to know what plan(s) that colleges you're applying to offer. The possibilities include:

Rolling Admissions

- Schools that use a Rolling Admissions plan generally begin accepting applications in the fall and will make decisions on applicants on an ongoing or rolling basis. Students can improve their chances of acceptance at Rolling Admissions schools by getting their applications in as early in the admissions window as possible. Since these schools fill their incoming spots over the course of a couple of months, the longer you wait to submit your applications, the less space they have available and the higher the admissions standards become.

Regular or Deadline Admissions

- Many schools set a deadline for applications to be submitted. With deadline schools, all application material must be present in the admission office before the date set by the school. No decisions will be made on applications until after the deadline has passed and the admission office has had the opportunity to review all applications. Therefore, the timing of your submission does not impact your admissions decision, as long as you submit prior to the deadline.

Early Decision (ED)

- Colleges and universities that offer an Early Decision option require that these applicants be submitted early, usually by November 1st or November 15th. Students can only submit an ED application to ONE school. The benefit of applying ED is that students that apply using this option will receive a decision usually in mid-December or early January. Keep in mind, ED application are binding; students are agreeing in advance that if the school accepts their application, they will withdraw applications from other schools and attend their ED school. Students are required, as part of the ED application, to submit an ED agreement form, which is essentially a contract signed by the student, parent and counselor. Because these applications are binding, it is crucial that students only apply ED if they are fully confident that this is the right school for them.

Early Action (EA)

- Some post-secondary institutions offer an Early Action option which provides the same benefits as an ED application (early submission date, early notification of admissions decision) without the binding contract. Students have no obligation to attend an EA school, and may submit multiple EA applications.

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

- Very few schools offer Restrictive Early Action (REA) plans, but those that do set specific conditions for applicants. Usually, schools that offer REA admissions don't allow students to submit either ED or EA application to any other school. Be sure you read carefully and follow any restrictions the school places on this program. These applications generally follow a similar timeline as ED and EA, but like with EA applications, students are not obligated to attend if accepted.

Making the Best of a College Interview

Relax, prepare and get ready to enter into a great conversation with your interviewer. Take advantage of the chance to get to know your prospective college a little better.

PREPARATION

- Know the basics. Learn as much about the institution as possible before you go in. Scour the school's brochures and Web site
- Review your application materials (if you already applied). The interviewers may use your application materials to strike up a conversation with you. Review your application essay so it's fresh in your mind when you interview.
- Practice some generic questions. There are a few basic questions you can probably count on hearing: Why do you want to go to this college? What do you expect to gain from the college experience? What do you plan to major in and why? You don't need to memorize your answers, but think through the issues ahead of time so you'll have some ideas to discuss.
- Practice some specific questions. You'll also want to prepare for questions that ask you to identify key topics or experiences that are important to you. Think in advance about some of your favorite experiences, activities, or plans. If you've identified your own "hit list," you'll find them easier to recall when asked.
- Prepare some questions to ask. Show your interest in the school by asking specific questions, such as, how would you describe the student body? What are the most popular majors and why? What are the school's strengths? Where does the school need to improve?

INTERVIEW DAY

- Dress appropriately by choosing a more conservative outfit; modest and non-distracting with a minimum of accessories, make-up, jewelry and perfume.
- Make sure you know exactly where your interview is being held. Call in advance and ask for direction if you are unsure, and schedule enough time to get there.
- You should also plan to arrive several minutes early. The extra time may come in handy if you encounter delays, and arriving early will let you take a few moments to relax and prepare yourself mentally.
- Introduce yourself and greet the interviewers with a handshake, smile and positive attitude.
- Remember that this is a conversation, and that the interviewer wants to know more about you. Be yourself and be honest in your answers. And to score points:
- Provide more than a "yes" or "no" answer. Keep your answers as conversational as possible. Try to find specifics that naturally back up your answers.
- Be spontaneous. Though you should practice answering some basic questions, answer honestly, naturally and spontaneously in the interview.
- Be positive. Highlight the good things from your academic past and put a positive "spin" on your background.

POST-INTERVIEW

- Send a "Thank You" note or "Thank You" email shortly after the interview. Showing interest and appreciation goes a long way!

Getting the Most Out of a College Visit

Being on a college campus, even for a few hours, can tell you a lot about the college and how well you might fit in at that institution. Below are some tips for how to get the most out of visiting college campuses.

Things to Consider Before You Visit:

- While it is tempting to visit only the most prestigious schools on your list, you should make sure you visit colleges that are within the realm of possibility for you.
- Good times to visit:
 - Second semester of 11th grade – you do get two days as a junior to go and visit campuses during the school day – See your School Counselor for more information
 - Any school breaks you may have during 11th and 12th grades
 - Summer before your senior year- Remember that campuses may not seem lively over the summer because the student body is not there. Try not to let this sway your opinion
 - Visit the school's admissions website to look at different opportunities for prospective student visits

Things to Do During Your Visit:

- Campus Tours
- Information Sessions
- Class Visits
 - Many schools invite prospective students to sit in on a class or two. Sometimes this needs to be pre-arranged. Contact the admissions office or check that school's website for specific information.
- Overnight Visits
 - Many colleges arrange for prospective students to stay on campus with a student host. You can eat in the dining hall, visit some classes, and spend the night in a residence hall.
- Meeting with an Academic Department or Professor
 - If you have specific questions about the opportunities in a specific major, use this occasion to try to meet with someone in the department. Be sure to arrange this in advance.
- Meeting with a Financial Aid Counselor
 - If you will be applying for financial aid, this is your opportunity to ask about grants, scholarships, and student loans. Pick up any forms or applications you may need to apply for aid.
- On-Campus Interviews
 - If you are visiting a school that offers interviews and you are very interested in the school, make an appointment before you get to campus for an interview. Be prepared to sell yourself as a successful candidate for admission. Also, prepare some school-specific questions for your interviewer.

Making the Most of Your Visit:

- Don't get too emotionally involved with your tour guide
 - These students love their college and are trained by the admissions office to be honest, but to say positive things about the school. Their view may not be the most objective.
- Pay close attention and ask questions of the tour guide.
 - Why did you choose this school? What do you like best about being at this school? What do you like least? What courses have you enjoyed the most and why? What are the big issues on campus right now?
- Things to consider and observe while you are on tour:
 - The appearance of campus; student dress – casual or sophisticated; friendliness of the community; hot topics – pick up a student newspaper to see what's happening on campus; how are students getting around campus; library; residential options; amenities; food
- If there is something you want to see that wasn't on the official tour, ask your guide if you can see it!

Campus Visit Worksheet

Post-Secondary School: _____ City, State: _____

CAMPUS	
Are the facilities up to date and operating?	Notes:
Is the campus safe?	
Is the library good for studying and research?	
Is there a student health facility?	
What is the surrounding city or town like?	

ACADEMICS	
What is the average class size?	Notes:
What is the most popular major or classes?	
Are there Teaching Assistants (TA)?	
What academic supports are available?	

STUDENT LIFE	
Diversity	Notes:
Clubs/Organizations	
Dorms	
Dining	
Athletics/School Spirit	
Social-Greek Life	

OVERALL IMPRESSIONS

Scholarship Resources

Here are some scholarship search engines. These are excellent resources for students, to try and get your hands on more money for your post-secondary endeavors. We strongly encourage you to get some accounts up and running, and start applying to any and all scholarships you are eligible for. FREE MONEY IS THE BEST MONEY!

- www.raise.me/- This is a new site where students are awarded scholarship money from colleges each time they demonstrate success in high school. Goals such as receiving an A or a B in a class, participating in a school club, or spending a few hours volunteering in your community could earn a young person money for college. Raise.me is entirely free. The cost of the program is paid by colleges and charitable foundations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Facebook's charitable giving.
- www.fastweb.com –Fastweb, which has helped 50 million students find money since the site was founded 15 years ago, was the first online scholarship matching service and the first free national scholarship matching service. Fastweb's site indicates they currently have roughly 1.5 million scholarships worth \$3.4 billion in their database.
- www.Collegenet.com – CollegenET is a technology company that builds web-based tools for event and academic scheduling, prospect and admissions management, tuition processing, and alumni development for colleges and universities. CollegenET also operates a scholarship search engine and social network where students create topics, participate in discussions, and vote on scholarship winners.
- www.scholarships.com- Scholarships.com now claims to be the largest free and independent scholarship search and financial aid information resource on the Internet, with more than 2.7 million scholarships worth a total of \$19 billion in their database.
- www.christianconnector.com- Online Christian College Scholarship Resource Program
- www.scholarshipmonkey.com- ScholarshipMonkey.com claims their database provides students access to more than 1 million undergraduate, and professional scholarship awards worth in excess of \$3 billion from greater than 4,000 sources. Like the other search engines, they are committed to providing their service free of charge.
- www.studentscholarships.org – Great scholarship search engine.
- www.finaid.org/scholarships/unusual.phtml - Find some of the most interesting scholarships available on this website
- www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams - Watch for phony scholarship search offers by checking out this site first
- www.scholarshipamerica.org – Great scholarship and college resource
- www.scholarships4students.com – Great resource for scholarships available to high school students and college students
- www.findtuition.com – Great scholarship search engine
- www.scholarshipexperts.com – Great website for scholarships and college info
- www.zinch.com – Great website for scholarships and college info
- www.cappex.com – Great website for college and financial aid planning, and scholarship connector.
- www.bigfuture.org –Great website for college and financial aid planning, and scholarship connector.
- www.iHELPLoan.com – Billions of dollars in scholarship awards
- www.tuitionfundingsources.com – Great resource for college scholarship and career info.
- www.unigo.com- Great resource for college planning, scholarship search, student loans, etc.

**Encourage you to also check out the Scholarship List that we have posted on the Student Services webpage. This provides you with many scholarship opportunities, some that are geared specifically for HHS seniors. If there is a scholarship you are not eligible for now, is there something more that you can do that would make you eligible when the time comes?

What is Dual Credit?

Dual credit is an excellent opportunity for eligible high school juniors and seniors to enroll in public postsecondary institutions in South Dakota and simultaneously earn credits for both their high school diploma and postsecondary degree or certificate.

Dual credit courses are offered by the postsecondary institution's faculty members, are governed by the postsecondary institution's policies, and follow the postsecondary institution's established processes for admissions, registration, billing and grad reporting. Courses include college-level content and subject matter; students choosing to participate will be held to the same expectations and standards as college students.

Through a program approved by the South Dakota Legislature, dual credit coursework is available to high school juniors and seniors at the incredible discounted rate of \$48.33 per credit. Typically, students enrolled at these institutions pay about \$200 per credit at the state's four technical institutes and \$300 per credit at the state's public universities.

Students are able to choose from a number of on-campus and online classes, including general education and career and technical education courses.

Who pays for Dual Credit?

You are responsible for the \$48.33 per-credit cost and any required textbooks or related course materials.

Now the question is, are you eligible to take Dual Credit courses and are they right for you?

If you are interested in taking Dual Credit courses, you need to visit with your assigned School Counselor to determine if you are eligible to take Dual courses prior to filling out the application.

- High School **Seniors** wanting to take a Dual Credit course must meet ONE of the following:
 - Earn an ACT composite score of 21 or higher, reflective of the 50th percentile OR
 - Rank in the upper one-half of their graduating class OR
 - Have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- High School **Juniors** wanting to take a Dual Credit course must meet ONE of the following:
 - Earn and ACT composite score of 24 reflective of the 70th percentile OR
 - Rank in upper one-third of their graduating class OR
 - Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.50 on a 4.0 scale

If you are eligible for Dual Credit courses, you can pick up a Dual Credit packet in Student Services that will outline the instructions to apply. Applications have to be completed each semester you take a Dual Credit course.