

The Case for the Yellow Jacket Connection Program

Concurrent Enrollment (CE) (covering the nomenclature for both Dual Credit and Early Enrollment) is a fast growing segment in the education fields. The cost and competitiveness of higher education has permitted the necessity that programs like WVSU's Yellow Jacket Connection step in and fill a much-needed role.

Our program's \$25 per credit hour tuition speaks for itself in an environment where the average cost is \$594.00 per credit hour. So, let us look at how our program can help students be more competitive in higher education:

Below you will find a summary of studies demonstrating the effectiveness of Concurrent Enrollment compiled by the U.S. Dept. of Education found [here](#)¹

Table 1. Summary of findings

Outcome domain	Rating of effectiveness	Improvement index (percentile points)		Number of studies	Number of students	Extent of evidence
		Average	Range			
Degree attainment (college)	Positive effects	+25	+6 to +42	5	77,249	Medium to large
College access and enrollment	Positive effects	+15	+12 to +19	4	67,474	Medium to large
Credit accumulation	Positive effects	+14	+13 to +16	2	56,370	Medium to large
Completing high school	Positive effects	+7	+5 to +9	2	4,052	Medium to large
General academic achievement (high school)	Positive effects	+7	+3 to +13	2	2,817	Medium to large
Staying in high school	Potentially positive effects	+16	na	1	676	Small
College readiness	Potentially positive effects	+14	na	1	1,355	Small
Attendance (high school)	Potentially positive effects	+8	na	1	1,554	Small
General academic achievement (college)	No discernible effects	-1	na	1	455	Small

na = not applicable

¹ https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/InterventionReports/wwc_dual_enrollment_022817.pdf

In addition, [numerous other studies](#) identify key indicators and explicate the effectiveness of Concurrent Enrollment in the highly competitive environment of higher education.

Concurrent Enrollment vs. Placement Testing

- Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Project Lead the Way are advanced high school courses where standardized tests are used to assess students' knowledge at the end of a course. Some colleges and universities will place students out of entry-level courses and/or provide credit-by-exam based on students' performance on these exams.
- Concurrent and dual enrollment courses are actual credit-bearing college courses.
- Concurrent and dual enrollment students earn a college grade based on multiple and varied assessments throughout a course, not just from one high-stakes test.
- Concurrent and dual enrollment students earn transcribed college credit at the time they successfully pass the course, not retroactively for prior learning.



2

Placement testing carries with it the inherent risk of success determinant on one single exam. This is particularly troublesome for students that score below average on tests compared to a dynamic and varied assessment process.

In addition, by design [WVSU's YJC Program](#) offers students the opportunity to experience university level lectures, curriculum, and grading structures because they are in fact accredited university courses.

² <http://www.nacep.org/about-nacep/what-is-concurrent-enrollment/>

Accreditation and Quality

We are proud to announce that as of May 1st, 2018, the **WVSU YJC Program** is the first and only post-secondary institution in the state of West Virginia to have earned [National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnership \(NACEP\)](#) accreditation.

Additionally, in coordination with NACEP, the [Higher Learning Commission](#), the largest accreditation body in the nation, accredits WVSU and in turn the YJC Program.

Finally, like all public institutions in the state, the [West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission](#) (HEPC) serves as the final accrediting and policy shaping body.

The rigorous process for earning and maintaining accreditation enhances the worth and value of credits earned through our program. The **WVSU YJC Program** is proud to have the most rigorous and multi-layered accreditation of any Concurrent Enrollment program in the state of West Virginia.

Credit Transfers

The bulk of the **WVSU YJC Program's** course offerings are general education that fall within the realm of the [HEPC's Core Coursework Transfer Agreement](#). These types of credits automatically transfer to any public post-secondary institution within the state of West Virginia.

Students should check with out-of-state and private institutions about the transfer of credits. However, experience has shown that due to our rigorous accreditation process, **YJC** credits easily transfer.