Stark State College
Dual Enrollment Honors Program
Concept Brief

Background

The mission at Stark State College is to provide quality, high-value associate degrees, certificates and professional development in a diverse, student-centered learning environment. The College is dedicated to lifelong learning, affordability, transferable higher education and career success. We advance Quality of life through access, inclusion, stewardship and business and community partnerships. The College’s vision is to be a leader in higher education and a catalyst for economic growth and community prosperity.

Stark State College’s efforts to promote postsecondary education opportunities start well before students graduate from high school. Working collaboratively with area secondary school districts, the College operates a variety of outreach programs to prepare students for college-level educational programs, create pathways to postsecondary education, and promote academic success. Programs like Early College High School, Dual Enrollment, Upwards Bound Math-Science and College Tech Prep are a key component of the College’s plan to ensure secondary students widespread access to a world-class education.

The success of the College’s dynamic strategy is evident in the level of student population growth, facility development, and local workforce impacts. Since 2006, the College has experienced double-digit growth each year and outpaced student population growth trends in Ohio. In 2010, the U.S. Department of Education named Stark State College the fastest-growing public two-year college in the nation with enrollment of 10,000 students or higher. To support the educational needs of our growing student population and educational programs, Stark State has added approximately 183,000 square feet of state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories and office space on our main campus. Additionally, because of the collaborative way we work with area businesses to develop our 230 associate degrees, options, and one-year and career enhancement certificate programs, 90% of our graduates live and work in the community and contribute to the economic development of Stark and surrounding counties.

Project Design

The College’s access and outreach efforts have traditionally focused on “first generation to college,” underserved and at-risk populations. However, there are a number of students who excel academically and require more advanced educational opportunities to engage and challenge them. Stark State is working with school districts to offer a program that will challenge these students and transition them into higher levels of education.

The Dual Enrollment Honors Program (DEHP) will offer students the opportunity to investigate emerging technologies and take college-level courses to meet their high school science, math and business studies requirements. These courses will enable students to earn college credit while still in their secondary education program. The program will offer four tracks from which students can choose: Biotechnology, Computational Science, Business Logistics, and Advanced Computer Science.
Participant Selection

Students must meet the following criteria to be considered for the program and the number of participants will be based on classroom and/or lab capacity in each of the four tracks:

- Have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher;
- Be referred by high school guidance counselors and Advanced Placement (AP) teachers;
- Complete the COMPASS college placement test and meet course placement requirements;
- Attend a parent/student program information session;
- Submit a DE application to their guidance counselor; and
- Hold a valid driver’s license and/or have transportation to and from Stark State College’s main campus and their high school.
- Preference will be given to seniors but juniors will be considered if space is available.

Plan of Operation

Courses will be taught at Stark State College’s Main Campus by college faculty and will be scheduled in the early morning to allow the students time to return to the high schools for their remaining secondary classes. Students will participate in one of four tracks of study: Biotechnology, Computational Science, Business Logistics, or Advanced Computer Science. A detailed information sheet for each track is attached to this document. Each track will begin in the fall semester and be completed at the end of the spring semester each year. During this time, students will earn high school credit toward their science/math requirement as well as college credits for the courses completed (for the Business Logistics track, logistics will be embedded within several of the Career Tech curriculums such as Business and E-Commerce with students earning articulation credits). The program will take advantage of the College’s state-of-the-art educational facilities (classrooms/labs) which are not currently available at the secondary schools.

Funding

This program will follow the traditional Dual Enrollment Model and established funding mechanisms. This model describes the responsibilities for the application fees, tuition, lab fees and textbook costs for students accepted to the program.

Information

For referrals, questions, or general information requests about the program, please contact Dennis Trenger at Stark State College 330-494-6170 x4343 or via email at dtrenger@starkstate.edu; Mike Bayer at Stark County ESC, 330-492-8136 or via email at mike.bayer@email.sparcc.org.