



# News Release

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## **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EARN COLLEGE CREDIT THROUGH WESTERN'S PROGRAM**

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —Nov. 10, 2005—High school students throughout the region have an opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school through a Western Institute program at Missouri Western State University. This fall, more than 550 students from 33 area high schools are enrolled in 56 courses through the High School College Credit program.

Stacy Turner, who coordinates the program, said High School College Credit, also known as Dual Credit, offers great benefits to high school students. The cost is \$80 per credit hour, less than half the tuition for the on-campus equivalent; and Western provides the textbooks and supplementary materials for the course. At the beginning of each semester, Western Institute staff visit the high schools to register the students, collect tuition and deliver the textbooks. Tuition may be divided into installment payments.

Turner noted that high school students do not need to apply for admission to Western in order to take the high school college credit courses, but they pay a one-time \$15 application fee. If they later apply for admission to Western, they do not have to pay another application fee.

Also, the high schoolers are eligible for all the privileges enrolled Western students enjoy – recreational facilities usage, library borrowing privileges and free admission to home athletic events. In order to be eligible for high school college credit courses, the students must have a 3.0 grade point average, be a junior or senior unless specifically approved, and must have met course prerequisites.

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## Page 2 of 2 – High School College Credit

“The more college credit students can earn in high school, the better off they are,” said Turner. “Western’s academic departments work to ensure that students complete a course that leaves them prepared for the next level of college courses.”

She said there are three options in the program: students are taught by an instructor in their high school, distance education, or a combination of video and face-to-face.

High school instructors who teach the courses must be approved by the course’s academic department at Western. Instructors must have a minimum master’s degree that includes substantial study appropriate to the academic field in which they are teaching. Before teaching the course, the high school instructor works with Western faculty to develop the course and set up testing procedures.

Distance education includes viewing videos of lectures, viewing lectures via cable TV, or online courses. The distance education courses are taught by Western professors, and high schools must have a certified teacher present during class times. Assignments, testing and other communication with the university instructor are conducted online. Turner noted that this is a very popular option for area high schools.

In the third option, a combination of video and face-to-face, courses are also taught by Western professors. For example, in a five-credit chemistry course taught by assistant professor of chemistry Dr. Michael Ducey, high school students visit campus for two of the labs, and the high school instructor attends a workshop on campus in order to conduct the balance of the labs at the high school.

Turner noted that if the Western course is transferable to other institutions, then the high school college credit course is also transferable.

For more information about high school college credit, contact Turner at 816-271-4109.

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*Missouri Western State University is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The university offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.*

