After School Within a College

Dual credit programs have been in existence in Ontario for over 10 years. It's worth highlighting that there are two goals for this program: supporting students in completing their OSSD and assisting with a smooth transition to postsecondary education (apprenticeship, college, university).

Our most recent data indicates that

- the success rate in dual credits in 2015-16 was 91%,
- 76% of participants who were in Grade 12 earned their OSSD the year they took their dual credit,
- 31% of those who took a dual credit in 2012-13 had registered in a full-time college program two years later.

While these results are impressive, we are concerned that there may be many students who successfully complete a dual credit but who either do not apply for postsecondary education (apprenticeship, college and university) or who do apply but do not register. We have received funding for a unique program that we hope will provide insight into the decisions dual credit students make about continuing their education and at the same time, provide additional supports in an effort to remove some of the barriers that prevent students from doing so.

Ontario's Vision is that "Ontarians of all ages will receive the supports they need to pursue postsecondary education (apprenticeship, college and university), have a fair chance to fulfill their dreams, achieve their potential and thrive in the global knowledge economy."

As part of the efforts to support the achievement of this goal, the Ministry of Education is providing additional funding to enhance existing School within a College (SWAC) Dual Credit programs, with a focus on promoting the value of postsecondary education and providing information to students and parents regarding PSE pathways, possibilities and supports, including information on the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) transformation.

Main Components of the After SWAC Pilot Program

A. College advisors:
- Knowledgeable about PSE programs, admissions processes, selection processes, OSAP
- Introduced by/supported by SWAC teachers
- Able to provide access to computers for online research, and PSE and OSAP applications

B. Three one-hour small group conversations led by a college advisor focusing on:
- Finding and exploring PSE programs of interest
- Applying to PSE (through OCAS or OUAC, with the fee paid by this initiative)
- Financing college (including the completion of an OSAP application)

C. Up to four hours per student of individual discussion and follow up with advisor

D. PD for college advisors. Report back on participants and results

Notes on Proposals:

Include "Access Pilot" in the title of each new proposal. This will allow for ease of tracking of these newly funded pilot activities.

Regional Planning Teams are invited to submit proposals on or before July 14, 2017 which will be reviewed the week of July 18th and decisions will be communicated at that time. Proposals will continue to be accepted until all available funding has been allocated. These Activities and Forums can start as early as Semester 1 2017-18.

Funding

Please apply for funding for this activity through Miscellaneous rather than using the Activities and Forums Benchmarks. RPTs are welcome to request this as one Activity or multiple Activities.

Please request the funding using the formulas below, making sure to indicate the number of approved students and projected number of classes per semester (including Summer SWAC programs):

Include Under Miscellaneous Requests	Sample Based on 1 class of 20 SWAC students	Formulas (include in Miscellaneous Notes Box in EDCS)
OCAS Application Fee	$1,900	# of SWAC students x $95.00
Small Group Conversations	$135	3 x $45/hr
One-on-one follow-up conversations	$3,600	4 sessions x # of SWAC students x $45/hr
PD and Report back for college advisor	$2,160	6 eight hour days x $45/hour x # of SWAC classes
Workshop Materials	$500	$25 x # of SWAC students
Total of Sample	**$8,295**	

Please contact David Armstrong (davidarmstrong@hurontel.on.ca), if you have questions.