

CO-MATRICULATION PROGRAM FAQs



1. WHAT IS CO-MATRICULATION UNDER THIS AGREEMENT?

Co-matriculation allows students to begin their academic program at Williston State College (WSC) and then, once eligible, continue toward a bachelor's degree at Dickinson State University (DSU) under a coordinated enrollment plan without having to leave the WSC campus. The MOU sets terms for tuition, fees, course credit transfer, face-to-face course options, and student support to a smooth process between the two institutions.

2. WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CO-MATRICULATION AGREEMENT?

Students must be enrolled at WSC in a program covered under the MOU.

- Students must meet required academic standards (e.g. minimum GPA, prerequisite courses) as specified in the MOU.
- Students must agree to the terms of the co-matriculation arrangement (e.g. fee schedules, course registration, etc.).

3. HOW DOES THE TUITION RATE WORK UNDER THIS AGREEMENT?

DSU will honor the tuition rate for WSC students using waivers or scholarships, matching the WSC tuition rate while enrolled under the co-matriculation plan.

- Students will still be charged all mandatory fees for every course they take (i.e., general institutional or system fees).
- Campus-specific fees follow a schedule:
 - During the first two years, students will be assessed WSC's campus fees.
 - In the third year and beyond, students will be charged DSU's campus-specific fees, per DSU's fee schedule.

4. ARE FINANCIAL AID, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND WAIVERS COMPATIBLE WITH THIS PROGRAM?

Yes. The MOU ensures that any WSC and/or DSU waivers or scholarships that reduce tuition will also apply under the co-matriculation agreement. However, students must maintain eligibility (e.g. GPA, enrollment status) as required by the aid or scholarship programs.

5. HOW ARE COURSES AND CREDITS HANDLED BETWEEN WSC AND DSU?

Courses taken at WSC that are part of the co-matriculation or articulation plan transfer to DSU under agreed equivalencies.

- Students should follow an approved plan or pathway developed by their academic advisors to ensure that their WSC credits satisfy DSU general education and major requirements as well as satisfy the requirements for an associate degree at WSC.
- Any changes to a student's major or course plan may affect access to aid and eligibility and must be approved by both institutions' academic advisors.

6. WHEN DO STUDENTS TRANSITION FROM WSC COURSES/FEEES TO DSU COURSES/FEEES?

For the first two years, students remain under WSC fee and tuition structures (aside from mandatory fees).

- From the third year onward (or when primary enrollment moves to DSU), students shift to DSU's campus fee schedule while still benefiting from the co-matriculation agreement's tuition protections (i.e. honoring WSC rate).

7. WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT'S PROGRAM AT DSU REQUIRES MORE THAN TWO YEARS?

With approval, the campus fee schedule provision continues: campus-specific fees will switch to DSU's rates once the student is in years three and beyond. The matching of WSC rates using waivers or scholarships remains in force per the terms of the MOU.

8. DOES CO-MATRICULATION AFFECT ADMISSION TO DSU?

- Students accepted into the co-matriculation program are guaranteed admission into DSU pending they meet the academic standards and requirements set forth by both institutions in the MOU.
- Admission is contingent on meeting GPA, prerequisites, and completion of required coursework as stipulated in the agreement.

9. WHO HANDLES REGISTRATION, ADVISING, AND STUDENT SERVICES?

- During the WSC years, students will receive advising and registration through WSC in coordination with DSU to ensure they stay on the co-matriculation path.
- Once transitioning to pursuing a majority of courses through Dickinson State (third year onward), students' primary advising, registration, and student services shift to DSU, but coordination between institutions continues to ensure alignment.

10. WHAT IF A STUDENT WANTS TO CHANGE MAJORS OR DEVIATES FROM THE INITIAL PLAN?

- Any deviation from the originally approved co-matriculation plan (such as changing the major or skipping courses) must be reviewed and approved by both institutions' academic advisors.
- Depending on the change, some previously transferred credits may no longer apply toward the new DSU degree requirements.

11. WHAT IF A STUDENT DROPS BELOW ACADEMIC STANDARDS OR LOSES SCHOLARSHIPS?

- Students must maintain the minimum GPA, credit load, and other terms required by the MOU and by any waivers/scholarships.
- If eligibility is lost, the student may revert to standard DSU rates (or lose the benefit of matched waivers) and will be subject to DSU's standard policies.
- The student may work with advisors to regain eligibility, appeal, or adjust their plan.

12. ARE ALL WSC PROGRAMS INCLUDED IN THE CO-MATRICULATION AGREEMENT?

No. Only certain fields or programs agreed upon in the MOU are covered under the co-matriculation arrangement. Students should check with WSC or DSU to confirm whether their intended program is included.

13. CAN STUDENTS TAKE COURSES AT DSU BEFORE OFFICIALLY TRANSITIONING?

Yes. From the first year, students will complete courses from both institutions that apply toward the co-matriculation pathway. This is why scheduling is coordinated with both institutions' registrars and advisors.

14. WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF WSC AND DSU UNDER THE MOU?

- **WSC:** help students get started, deliver the first two years of coursework under co-matriculation plan; ensure eligibility conditions are met; coordinate advising and support; communicate and assist in scheduling the face-to-face options at the WSC campus offered by DSU.
- **DSU:** accept the co-matriculated students; honor matched tuition/waiver rates; provide select upper-division coursework face-to-face; provide transition student services; uphold the fee and course transfer provisions in the MOU.

15. WHERE CAN I FIND THE OFFICIAL MOU DOCUMENT AND DETAILED TERMS?

The full Memorandum of Understanding (co-matriculation partnership agreement) is available through the institutions' articulation agreements repository (e.g., WSC's or DSU's web pages or internal document systems). Students and staff should refer to that document for the definitive terms, timelines, and appendices.

DSU-WILLISTON SITE COORDINATOR & ADVISOR

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