



Located: 2650 E. End Blvd. S.  
P.O. Box 1269 | Marshall, Texas 75671  
[www.tstc.edu](http://www.tstc.edu)

**Michelle Ates**  
Director of Collaborative Projects  
Office: 903.923.3394  
Fax: 903.935.5656

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Thank you for your interest in dual credit with TSTC Marshall for your high school student. Dual credit for your student has many benefits, which I will address in this letter.

TSTC Marshall's mission is more than just allowing your student to receive college credit while attending high school. Our focus is on helping the student to start on a career path that will lead to enjoyable, gainful employment as soon after high school graduation as possible. Taking industry-related dual credit college courses allows students to decide early what they are truly interested in and enjoy doing so that when they do make the decision to attend a college or university they can finish and begin their careers in the shortest time possible.

Ideally we would like for your student to choose TSTC Marshall for their first stop after high school and use their credits toward an award in their chosen field. TSTC Marshall's fees for dual credit classes are \$33.00 per semester hour. A 3 hour credit course will cost \$99.00 and a 4 hour credit course is \$132.00. As a comparison, traditional TSTC students pay \$354.00 for a 3 hour class and \$472.00 for a 4 hour class. I believe that you will agree that in light of this, the dual credit rates are an excellent value.

The true value of these classes are great when you use them for transfer to TSTC Marshall, not only for the college credit, but the value of the student deciding if the course of study is interesting enough for them to pursue completion.

Completion comes in many forms. The student can complete in the traditional manner, through class time and credits, allowing them to graduate from TSTC Marshall in 1.5-2 years. Also available are Skills Awards in which the student's abilities are assessed by the TSTC instructor. If the student adequately completes the testing, they are given a certificate which lists all of the skills that they have mastered.



These certificates are an assurance that the student has the skills necessary for entry level in their chosen fields. We have been very successful at placing students that have earned these awards.

With a well structured career path using dual credit with TSTC Marshall in the high school, some students may complete enough skills to receive a Marketable Skills Awards upon graduation from high school. For students who are wanting to bypass college and go straight into the workforce after high school this is a huge jump on their careers. Students going into industry at this level on average make more money in a shorter period of time than even four year completers.

Beyond the Associate Degree programs at TSTC Marshall, we have relationships with the University of Texas in Tyler and Texas A&M in Commerce that allow 1 for 1 transfer of credit toward a Bachelor of Applied Science degree that is obtainable in 2 years or less.

For more information on this you may contact Dr. Mark Miller, the advisor for UT Tyler ([mmiller@uttyer.edu](mailto:mmiller@uttyer.edu)) at (903) 566-7186, or Misty Lair at Texas A&M Commerce ([Misty\\_Lair@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:Misty_Lair@tamu-commerce.edu)) at (903) 886-5155.

I hope that I have answered questions concerning dual credit and the advantages and opportunities that it may give your student. If you have more questions, please contact me at (903) 923-3394 or email at [michelle.ates@tstc.edu](mailto:michelle.ates@tstc.edu).

Thank you for your interest,  
Michelle Ates  
Director of Collaborative Projects  
TSTC Marshall

