

## UW-Parkside College Credit in High School Proposal

### **Challenge: Concurrent enrollment in the UW System disproportionately benefits White, middle, and higher income families**

Concurrent enrollment refers to programs that enable high school students to enroll in courses that earn both high school and college credit, taught by university-authorized high school teachers at the high school during the regular school day. These programs increase access to higher education, shorten time to degree, lower the cost of college for students, and improve high school-college relationships. Within the UW System, retention to the second fall and graduation rates are higher for students who took college courses in high school.<sup>i</sup> Participation in concurrent enrollment also correlates positively with college-going and degree attainment for low-income students yet have largely been an acceleration opportunity for White, middle, and higher income families.<sup>ii</sup>

UW System Administrative Policy 185, College Credit in High School,<sup>iii</sup> sets forth the academic and financial expectations for offering college credit courses in high schools by university-authorized high school teachers. The policy indicates the following regarding tuition:

*“UW System institutions will assess the full per credit, resident, undergraduate tuition rate for college credits in high schools less a reimbursement to the school districts for costs incurred by the districts in providing instruction for these courses. **After this reimbursement, at UW System four-year institutions students will pay no less than 50% of the full per credit resident undergraduate tuition rate of the lowest UW System institution and no more than 50% of the full per credit resident undergraduate tuition rate of the UW System four-year institution offering the course.... This policy does not pertain to dual enrollment programs taught by UW faculty or staff members in high schools.**”*

### **Proposal 1: Grant UW-Parkside a three-year waiver to existing UWSA 185 policy to offer concurrent enrollment courses at no charge to students in Kenosha and Racine Counties**

UW-Parkside seeks a three-year waiver to existing UWSA 185 policy to eliminate tuition for students who wish to take concurrent enrollment courses. We anticipate the following outcomes from this policy change:

- Significantly increased enrollments in UW-Parkside’s concurrent enrollment courses

In 2016, UW-Parkside launched a concurrent enrollment program called Parkside Access to College Credit (PACC) which served 420 students in 2020-2021. At prevailing tuition rates, a three-credit PACC course costs high school students in Racine or Kenosha \$296.91. Gateway Technical College, serving the same general populations, offers a long-standing dual enrollment (referred to as Transcribed Credit) program with courses at no charge to students. In Fall 2021, Gateway enrolled about 7,000 students in their dual enrollment offerings indicating that cost inhibits more students from taking advantage of UW-Parkside’s costlier offerings. We should expect our PACC program enrollments to grow considerably with the proposed policy waiver. It may also suggest a similar pricing strategy across other campuses could increase college-going statewide helping the UW rebuild market share among high school graduates, especially those less likely to attend college and hardest hit by COVID.

- Increased college-going in Kenosha, Racine, and at UW-Parkside

We need more students to go to college in Racine and Kenosha, the counties from which UW-Parkside draws two-thirds of its students. Statewide, bachelor’s degree attainment is 30 percent, yet only 26 percent in Kenosha County and 25 percent in Racine County.<sup>iv</sup> The proportion of high school graduates in our region that go directly to college is also lower than elsewhere in Wisconsin and has fallen further during the pandemic. The Department of Public Instruction reports<sup>v</sup> almost 60 percent of high school graduates

statewide typically go directly to college. This fell to almost 50 percent in fall 2020 during the pandemic. In Kenosha and Racine where college-going rates are already lower, they fell precipitously to under 30 percent in fall 2020. Data from UW-Parkside indicates startling two-year fall-offs in first-time, full-time freshman enrollments since the pre-COVID fall 2019 term among African American (-66 percent), Hispanic (-31 percent), and Pell students (-43 percent).

The PACC program’s admission requirements encourage equitable participation for high school juniors and seniors in good academic standing. In 2020-2021, 43 percent of students enrolled in the PACC program were underrepresented minorities compared to 26 percent across the UW System.<sup>vi</sup> Expanding concurrent enrollment in our region will give high school students less likely to attend college the chance to discover they can succeed in university-level courses. All concurrent enrollment students will not matriculate at UW-Parkside, but more will attend college. Thirteen percent of students who took a concurrent enrollment course offered through UW-Parkside enrolled on our campus within two years. Statewide, 49 percent of students who took at least one UW concurrent enrollment course enrolled in any UW campus within two years. Therefore, expanding concurrent enrollment should increase the number of students that choose post-secondary education at UW-Parkside and in our region. It may also suggest changes in how concurrent enrollment is offered across the UW that could help the university reverse market-share declines and expand the talent pipeline statewide.

**Proposal 2: Matching funding request**

UW-Parkside views expanding concurrent enrollment as a strategy to increase college-going, student success, and post-secondary attainment in our region. As such, with or without additional funding support from the UW System, we are committed to moving forward if the three-year UWSA 185 policy waiver is granted.

Expenses for the PACC include staff, professional development, course development and assessment, and a grow-your-own teacher credentialing initiative to prepare more teachers to meet HLC requirements. Without tuition offsets, UW-Parkside will absorb expenses (indicated below) without a supporting revenue stream. We do expect expanded concurrent enrollment will, over time, lead to increases in the undergraduate population at UW-Parkside. Assuming a conservative average attendance yield of 10 percent (it’s currently 13 percent), 1,000 additional PACC students will yield 100 students per year or \$744,300 in annual tuition and fees making it sustainable on an on-going basis after the 3-year pilot.

PACC Expenses (assuming growth of 1,000 additional students):

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Program operations                | \$161,750        |
| New course development            | \$ 27,700        |
| Course supervision and assessment | \$ 55,775        |
| Teacher credentialing             | \$ 18,000        |
| Annual total                      | <u>\$263,225</u> |
| 3-year total                      | \$789,675        |

The expenses listed above do not include projected fringe costs in the amount of \$223,190. It is anticipated that fringe costs will be covered by UW-Parkside.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.wisconsin.edu/education-reports-statistics/high-school-students-taking-uw-courses/?storypoint=8>  
<sup>ii</sup> Kayla Patrick, 6 Ways to Make Dual Enrollment Programs Equitable, The Education Trust, May 23, 2019, <https://edtrust.org/the-equity-line/6-ways-to-make-dual-enrollment-programs-equitable/>  
<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.wisconsin.edu/uw-policies/uw-system-administrative-policies/college-credit-in-high-school/>  
<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.towncharts.com/Wisconsin/Wisconsin-state-Education-data.html>  
<sup>v</sup> <https://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/Dashboard/dashboard/16840>  
<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.wisconsin.edu/education-reports-statistics/high-school-students-taking-uw-courses/>