

RANGER COLLEGE

As a part of House Bill 8, Ranger College has opted to take part in the FAST (Financial Aid for Swift Transfer) program beginning in the Spring of 2024. House Bill 8 was enacted September 1, 2023. The FAST program provides funding to participating public institutions of higher education so they can offer dual credit courses to educationally disadvantaged students at no cost to these students.

The Texas Education Code (TEC) defines “educationally disadvantaged” as those students eligible for the national free/reduced-price lunch program. A student who meets this requirement in any of the four school years prior to the academic year in which the student is enrolled in the eligible dual credit course may be eligible for the FAST program. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) adopted a maximum tuition rate of \$55 per hour for credit courses (academic and workforce).

Students are FAST-eligible if they:

1. are enrolled in an eligible dual credit course at a public school district or charter school (i.e., eligible for Foundation School Program funding);
2. and are taking a course offered through an institutional agreement, from an institution of higher education that has opted to participate in FAST;
3. and were qualified for free/reduced-price lunch in any of the four school years prior to the academic year in which they enroll in the dual credit course.

By statute, the FAST program requires that eligible students at participating institutions incur no cost for their dual credit coursework. A FAST-eligible student will not pay tuition and fees for an eligible dual credit course. Books, supplies, and other course materials must also be provided at no cost to an eligible student.

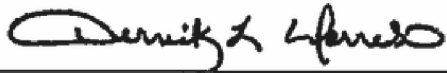
Ranger College will cover course materials for FAST-eligible students- through the Summer of 2024 who complete the FAFSA. The FAFSA is required for data collection purposes. Districts will be responsible for covering course materials for students who do not complete the FAFSA. Ranger College strongly encourages districts to start planning their 2024-2025 budget to cover FAST-eligible course materials.

Due to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and THECB verification, FAST eligibility may not be determined until a few weeks into the semester. All Dual Credit students will receive a bill, however, bills are not required to be paid until FAST eligibility is determined. For students that have been identified as free/reduced by TEA, we ask that the district cover the cost for non-Lumen and OER (please reference the Dual Credit textbook list) course materials until verification has been received and the FAFSA has been completed, at which time Ranger College will reimburse the district.

In conjunction with House Bill 8, the THECB adopted a maximum tuition rate of \$55 per hour for credit courses (academic and workforce). All non-FAST-eligible dual credit students will be charged \$55 per credit hour and will be responsible for the cost of their course materials.

We appreciate your support as we navigate these changes and look forward to working for you for many years to come. If you have any questions please contact lr Ramirez@rangercollege.edu.

Thank you,



Ranger College President, Derrick Worrels