

Serving More Through Dual Credit

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in or despair of a new administration, is it just our own comfort that we want back? To get back to dinner parties, basketball games, and church as it used to be—to jostle past hundreds of people in a crowd? Because of the sanctions of the Coronavirus, we can now more clearly see those things as good gifts. But if we just want to get back to a bustling economy and the freedom to do as we like—if that “old normal” is what we hope for, the Apostle Paul tells us, that is “no hope at all.”

In essence, Paul asks us to renew our imaginations, to hope beyond known horizons. This is the value of a new year:

we can use the rupture in normalcy to look at the cracks of our culture—to see,

as Leonard Cohen says, where the light might be getting in. Due to Covid-19 lockdowns, reduced traffic and smog left city skylines transformed across the world. Oil crises around the world became non-crises.

“But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?”

— Romans 8:24b

Are the horizons of hope earthly or heavenly? Yes.

As Christians, it seems to me we err with both horizons: either we become focused on the beyond and can't see the creation rejoicing before us here and now, in vaccines and restored wetlands and less straws up the nostrils of sea turtles; or we become focused on earthly, known horizons and fail to imagine something that doesn't yet exist.

In 2020, Covid-19 broke things we thought were unbreakable. In that sense we are living through a type of apocalypse: the Coronavirus has enabled us to see certain seams of our civilization in a way that might help us imagine better ways of re-stitching them together.

May the year 2021 *not* be a return to an “old normal”; may it be the time to use our unique ability as Christians to see how creation is groaning and yearning for the children of God to be revealed.

In 2021, may we have eyes to see the horizons of hope—those that make the headlines, those that don't, and those that are beyond what we can ask or imagine.



HOWARD SCHAAP,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

SERVING MORE THROUGH DUAL CREDIT

Dordt University's online dual credit program started in the fall of 2018 with just three students taking an English composition class. Much has changed in the program in those three years. This spring, 104 students are enrolled in Dordt online courses, getting a jumpstart on their college education.

Today, most high school students expect to earn college credit while in high school.

Families look for options to pursue and consider how dual credit can play into their educational goals. Dual credit course options are so plentiful that many students find it overwhelming to make decisions. Dordt offers dual credit opportunities that further a student's content-area interest while their understanding of the truth revealed in God's Word.



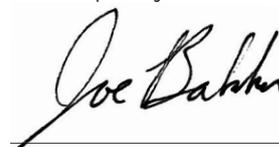
Earning college credit in high school is a great way to jump-start a college education, but such courses do not replace the importance of a strong high school education. As students search for dual credit courses, they should seek options that work well with their high school graduation requirements, giving them an opportunity to further explore a subject or allowing them to begin fulfilling common college requirements. Checking in with your high school counselor and your prospective college before committing to a dual credit course will help ensure that there are no surprises. Dordt staff are happy to help you navigate that process.

Dordt's dual credit program continues to develop as it tries to better serve students. This year marked the beginning of a partnership program with Christian high schools that allows them to receive a group discount on dual credit courses, giving even more savings for students and their parents. It's one more way we are reaching beyond our physical campus to “equip students, alumni, and the broader community to work effectively toward Christ-centered renewal in all aspects of contemporary life.”



DUAL CREDIT AT DORDT

To learn more about Dordt's dual credit program, visit dordt.edu/dual-credit.



JOE BAKKER ('07), DIRECTOR OF ONLINE EDUCATION