

Advanced Placement, College in High School, and Dual Enrollment Courses

Many high school students seek experiences that will challenge them personally and academically in order to prepare themselves for the future. These students may have a strong sense of curiosity, creativity, and commitment. They may have excellent organizational and study skills, or they may be seeking to acquire new academic skills. Students can seek advanced learning opportunities such as Advanced Placement (AP) courses, College in High School, and dual enrollment. The purpose of this document is to explain each advanced learning opportunity, provide a description, and describe the benefits of each program in order to help students make an educated decision about which program will be most beneficial for them.

What are AP courses?

Advanced Placement (AP) consists of 33 AP courses and exams developed by the College Board. By taking one or more of these classes, you can earn college credit while in high school. At the end of the course, you can take the AP test for that course and earn a score of 1 to 5. Colleges and universities look at these scores when making admissions decisions, including acceptance and earning college credit. Taking an AP course can aid in being accepted to college and saving money on college courses.

What are the benefits of AP Classes?

An AP course is a way for a student to challenge themselves academically and take courses that are rigorous in nature. AP courses can raise your GPA in high school; a higher GPA and a rigorous course schedule can make you more attractive to competitive colleges than students who do not take AP courses.

Which colleges accept AP course credits?

A great place to find a college/university's transfer/evaluation credit policy is this website:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement>

Why should I take AP Courses?

All AP classes are held to the same academic standards and college admissions counselors can be relatively confident of the quality of instruction for any particular AP course. College in high school courses are much less predictable when it comes to academic rigor; college admissions counselors make educated guesses about the rigor of the class with limited knowledge of the course material and no standardized exam. AP courses provide a standardized score that every college/university knows how to interpret.

What is College in High School?

College classes are taught by a high school teacher who has been certified and/or has a syllabus approved by the college/university that the course is offered through. Students can earn high school credit and college credit simultaneously. Grades for the course are determined by the high school teacher based on the student's performance on college/university exams and assignments. The college grade that appears on the college transcript will be determined by the standards of the academic department at the college.

What are the benefits of College in High School?

Students can earn transferable college credit in high school for a price that is significantly lower than the cost of on-campus tuition. Students will also experience what college classes are like in order to prepare them for the future. Students will be able to do this without travelling to the college; they will be able to take the college courses in the familiar environment of their own high school.

Which colleges accept College in High School credits?

Each college has different transfer/evaluation credit policies. In order to discover which colleges/universities accept college in high school credits, you will need to contact the school's admissions department.

Why should I participate in College in High School?

Students can take rigorous courses to challenge themselves academically and earn college credit at the same time. College in High School allows students to do this without traveling to another institution; it also provides the opportunity to complete classes in their own high school, an environment they are familiar with.

What are Dual Enrollment classes?

Dual enrollment allows high school students the opportunity to take courses offered at a local college/university and earn college credit. Dual enrollment courses are taken on a college campus or are taken online through a college.

What are the benefits of Dual Enrollment?

Data about dual enrollment suggests that dually enrolled students are more likely to meet college readiness benchmarks, more likely to enter college, and have a lower likelihood of being placed into a remedial English or Math Class. Students who are dually enrolled in high school and college have the benefit of exploring college level classes and being exposed to a college atmosphere. By being introduced to college early, students may feel more comfortable when applying to and attending higher education institutions. Data also shows that dually enrolled students have a higher first-year grade point average in college and higher second-year retention rates.

Which colleges accept credits earned from dual enrollment?

Each college has its own transfer/evaluation credit policy. In order to find out which colleges will accept dual enrollment credits, you will have to contact each school of interest individually.

Why should I be dually enrolled in college and high school?

A class taken through a college, university, or community college can help to educate students about what being in college is like and to prepare them for college success. Dual Enrollment can be used as a college readiness strategy. By taking a course at a college/university, high school students are gaining a more accurate view of the college experience. Students will have the opportunity to engage with a college professor and learn about the expectations that higher education professionals have for students.

Bibliography and other resources for information:

<http://in.princetonreview.com/in/2011/02/an-intro-to-getting-college-credit-in-high-school.html>

<http://www.studypoint.com/ed/dual-enrollment/>

http://www.stltoday.com/new/local/metro/ap-courses-vs-dual-credit-what-s-best-for-high/article_32de45f2-37e8-572c-a01a-aa7726797e62.html

<http://www.ajc.com/weblogs/get-schooled/2013/may/23/ap-classes-vs-dual-enrollment-which-tougher-course/>

<http://www.theadmissioncentre.com/should-i-take-ap-or-dual-enrollment-courses/>

<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2012/03/09/some-teens-start-college-work-early-via-dual-enrollment>

<http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/Dual-Enrollment-and-College-Credit-Programs.html>