

AP, Dual, Concurrent Courses FAQ's

What is an AP course? AP stands for Advanced Placement, which is a course based on rigorous curriculum designed by educators from secondary schools and higher education. Students take the course and have the option of sitting for the AP exams. Exam cost is \$95 per course, and students can receive college credit. Each college determines how the credits will be awarded. College Board has a great tool to research college credit policies:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies>.

Why should I take an AP course? Colleges know that students who have taken AP courses are taking the most rigorous course load. It lets colleges know that you're serious about your education. Having AP on your transcript shows you're prepared to challenge yourself with rigorous course work. g Earn college credit and potentially skip introductory courses if you do well on the AP Exam. This can save tuition costs and help you graduate on time. g Learn what's expected of you in college and develop the skills to get the most out of your college experience.

Which AP courses does ACHS offer? AP Language, AP US History, AP Literature, AP Chemistry, AP Physics 1 and 2, AP Biology, AP Government, AP Environmental Science, AP Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus and AP Computer Science. AP Physics C Mechanics and Electricity and Magnetism will both be offered at Andover High School.

What do I do if I want to take an AP course? Students may choose the AP course during enrollment. It is always recommended that you discuss AP placement with your parents and teachers.

What is a concurrent credit course? Courses are taught by the high school teacher at the high school during the day. Students pay for the class up front, take the course, and can earn both credit on their high school transcript as well as credit on a college transcript. We only work with Butler Community College for the concurrent courses. (Exception: CATIA is the only course in which the district has a contract with WSU. Students enroll in CATIA and attend CAPS to take it.) Since it is a college course, entrance requirements must be met. Students can take the ACT or the Accuplacer, a placement test provided by Butler CC. Accuplacer results are on a different scale than the ACT. Butler will provide guidance when a student takes the Accuplacer. Here is the page with more information: <https://www.butlercc.edu/info/200985/testing-center/22/placement-testing>. The ACT sign up information is at <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act.html>, and an 18 in English is required for English and speech classes, and a 21 is required for college algebra. college algebra is required for applied statistics.

Which concurrent credit courses does ACHS offer? English Composition 1 and 2, Speech, College Algebra, US Government and Applied Statistics.

What do I do if I want to take a concurrent credit course? Students may choose the concurrent course during enrollment. It is always recommended that the student discuss placement with parents and teachers. Students MUST complete entrance exam requirements (see **What is a concurrent credit course?** Or **What is a dual credit course?**). See Counselor's Corner for step-by-step directions regarding concurrent credit courses.

What is a dual credit course? Courses are taught by a college teacher on the college's site or online. Students generally attend either Butler Community College or WSU Tech, depending upon the students' needs. Students pay for the class up front, take the course, and can earn both credit on their high school transcript as well as credit on a college transcript. Since it is a college course, entrance requirements must be met. Students can take the ACT, Asset, or Accuplacer Test. The Asset and Accuplacer are placement tests provided by Butler CC. Asset and Accuplacer scores are different than ACT and vary by the test and courses. Butler will provide guidance when a student takes the Asset test. Here is the page with more information: <http://www.butlercc.edu/info/200985/testing-center/22/placement-testing>. The ACT sign up information is at www.actstudent.org, and an 18 in English is required for English and speech classes and a 21 is required for College Algebra. College Algebra is required for Applied Statistics.

What do I do if I want to take a dual credit course? Students MUST receive permission from the high school prior to enrolling in dual credit courses and MUST complete entrance exam requirements (see **What is a concurrent credit course?** Or **What is a dual credit course?**). Since students are taking these classes on their own, they need to

communicate to the ACHS counseling office their plans in order for us to keep track of credits, etc. We have the permission forms and requirements. See Counselor's Corner for step-by-step directions regarding dual credit courses.

What is the Accuplacer Test? This exam is designed to determine a student's readiness for college courses. The Accuplacer is untimed and on the computer. Students must pass the benchmarks in order to take classes from either Butler or WSU Tech.

Do colleges prefer AP or dual credit courses? Colleges with low acceptance rates prefer AP courses. They want to know that the students have taken the most rigorous classes available whether or not they pass the test. Of course, they want students to pass the class, too. State schools are generally very accepting of dual credit courses. Out of state varies with dual credit. AP is more nationally accepted.

How do I determine whether to take AP or dual credit courses?

First, why are you taking the course?

Do you want to accrue as many credits as possible before college and why?

Do you want to take courses such as English and College Algebra while you are at ACHS in order to get more help?

Do you want to be challenged?

What potential schools are you looking at?

What are the requirements for the schools?

What are the college's expectations for a student's high school rigor?

Can I take both AP and dual credit courses? Yes, students can definitely choose courses that fit their strengths and interests!

What is college release? College release is an hour scheduled in the student's day in which the student attends a college course instead of an ACHS class. The college course is generally not at the time provided, but it does give a little more flexibility for the student to study and attend a college class. Students MUST be currently enrolled in a college class in order to have a college release hour. All college release courses for 1st semester must be taken for dual credit. Students must enroll in a 3 credit hour class to get 1 hour release time and two 3 hour classes or one 5 hour class for 2 hours of release time. Students must provide a copy of the bill in order for us to keep track of the class to include it on the transcript.

What are the Early College Academies?

Butler County College now offers a variety of programs for high school students. Students attend ACHS half the day and Butler for the other half and earn college credits or certifications. Students must meet specific admission requirements, complete an academy specific application, and be selected for participation in each Academy. Learn more about the Early College Academies: <http://www.butlercc.edu/info/201085/high-school-students>.

Does USD 385 weight grades? Yes, we weight grades. AP classes are on a 5 point weighted scale. Dual/concurrent courses are not weighted.

Some thoughts to consider:

- Take a course because it is at your level or because it challenges you.
- Keep in mind your GPA but also how will this impact your ACT score? Schools look at ACT scores as well as GPA. If a student takes easier classes, he or she may have a higher GPA but may not score as high on the ACT. The ACT is directly correlated with course preparation.