



Choosing Your Pathway: Dual Enrollment or Advanced Placement

Why Should You Consider Enrolling?

Dual Enrollment

- You can experience full-time college coursework. By trying out a few classes while still in high school, you get used to the academic environment before leaving the comfort and support of home.
- You may be able to take classes that are not offered at your high school.
- College courses can give you a closer look at your area of academic interest.
- According to the CollegeBoard, most students change their majors at least once. Taking a college class can help you find your area of interest before the pressure is on to declare a major.
- Perhaps the biggest benefit of dual enrollment is that you may start to accumulate college credits prior to graduation.

Advanced Placement

- You will be more prepared for college and life if you take more rigorous courses.
- Taking AP classes lets colleges and universities know that you have what it takes to succeed in an undergraduate environment.
- By taking AP classes and scoring successfully on the related AP Exams, you can save on college expenses: most colleges and universities nationwide offer college credit, advanced placement, or both, for qualifying AP Exam scores. These credits can allow you to save college tuition.

Comparing DE and AP

Dual Enrollment

Research comparing dual enrollment students to non-dual enrollment students is generally positive, finding that dual enrollment students have:

- a higher likelihood of enrolling in a 4-year school;
- a smaller decline in grades from high school to college
- a higher likelihood of persisting

Both Programs:

- Expose students to college level work.
- Allow students to earn college credits while in high school

Advanced Placement (AP)

AP Exam scores are positively related to college grades.

AP Students:

- may be able to exempt introductory courses;
- perform as well or better in the subsequent courses;
- have higher retention rates;
- have a higher first year GPA
- have higher graduation rates

When are DE or AP not a good fit?

Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment Sounds Great!

Are There Any Reasons Why You Should Not Participate?

- If a course is already available at your school, it might be best to take it there. Colleges may wonder why a student has chosen to take an Intro class as a community college if there is an AP class in the same subject available at the high school level. If the college course will not give you something above and beyond what is available at your high school, take a pass!
- A college course in music appreciation is a great resume booster--as long as you plan to go into music. If you are planning a career in chemistry, the music class will not help, and could raise questions about the academic rigor of your coursework. You should carefully consider the academic value of any class that you are considering.
- Dual Enrollment courses are real college courses for real college credit; the grades will go on your permanent record. Before enrolling, make sure that you are ready for the demanding work a college class will require, or it could hurt your chances at college acceptance down the line. Furthermore, if you fail a dual enrollment course, it could mean you will not graduate high school on time.

AP

Advanced Placement Sounds Great!

Are There Any Reasons Why You Should Not Participate?

- AP classes are college level courses that require students to work hard. If you are not willing to invest the time and energy to be successful, AP classes may not be a good fit.
- If you need to be reminded to complete homework, then you may not do well in AP. College instructors rarely remind students to do their work or when deadlines are coming.
- AP students should be organized and capable of keeping up with assignments. If you have trouble with organization and lack motivation, AP classes may not be a good fit.