



Dual Enrollment and Concurrent Enrollment FAQ

What is Dual Enrollment (DE)?

A Dual Enrollment (DE) course is a college course taken in high school during the high school day that will earn a student credit towards high school graduation *and* college units. The courses are offered during the regular school day. Typically, this model has district high school teachers, who meet minimum qualifications, teaching for the community college as instructors on the high school campus. However, there are some courses that are being taught by Sierra College instructors on our campus.

What is Concurrent Enrollment (CE)?

In addition to courses taught on WPUSD campuses, students have the option to independently enroll in specific college courses through the Sierra College Academic Enrichment program. These specific courses will allow students to earn both high school credits and college units. Here is the list of approved courses to meet WPUSD graduation requirements. [2024-2025 WPUSD DE/CE Courses](#)

Course Content

Please be advised that all content and curriculum of dual enrollment courses 2024-2025 WPUSD DE/CE Courses are established by the college or university. As a college level course, some of the content may include controversial topics that may not ordinarily be a part of a high school class.

Who should take a DE/CE course, and why?

As equity is a priority in the WPUSD, we'll be actively recruiting and encouraging students from underrepresented backgrounds to enroll; however, any student could benefit from a DE/CE course since there is no cost, and the credits transfer to community colleges and most four-year universities as well. Additional students who might consider taking DE/CE are:

- students planning on attending a community college or a four-year university
- students who take AP and want to experience DE/CE as well
- students who don't feel like AP is a good fit and/or don't want to take the AP tests
- students unsure about post secondary plans (opportunity to experience a college course)

What is the difference between an AP course, and a DE/CE course?

AP (Advanced Placement) courses are designed to offer students the most rigorous “college like” experience while still in high school. At the end of an AP course, students are expected to take the AP test (there’s a cost for the test; waivers are available for eligible students). Colleges determine the scores accepted from these exams for college credit. DE/CE courses, on the other hand, are *actual* community college courses. Depending on the subject matter and level, DE/CE *might not* cover as much material as an AP course however, they are still college level courses. There is no external test to take at the end, and the grade that the student earns in the course will be the grade that goes on their college transcript. CSUs, UCs, and any other higher institution that accepts community college units will provide college credit when a DE/CE course is successfully passed with a grade of C or better. If a student receives a D grade, they will still receive the college units; an F grade, however; will not.

There’s no “better” course between DE/CE and AP. Students are encouraged to take courses that fit into their sequence of study based on interests, strengths, intentions, post secondary goals, and their overall academic plan for their high school experience. Students should focus on a pathway that best prepares them for success at the next level, rather than just looking at course choice through the lens of college credit and weighted GPAs. Just like AP, the purpose of DE/CE is to give students a college experience while still in high school. This may be in a core academic area used for completion of the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or in a CTE area. Students should be counseled into DE/CE courses as they fit in their course of study.

It is important to note that DE/CE course grades will be a part of the student’s college transcript, while AP courses will not.

Can I see my child’s grades in DE/CE courses?

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects the privacy of students and prevents instructors from providing information to parents and others unless a student signs a FERPA Waiver. If a student wishes to have their parents and or others have access to their grades and progress in the course please fill out a [waiver form](#).

- If the student is enrolling in a class through Sierra College Please fill out a waiver form and submit it in person with a photo ID.
- If you are enrolled in a dual enrollment course on a high school campus, please fill out the FERPA Waiver and send the waiver to both Nigel Haikins-Appiah (nhaikinsappiah@sierracollege.edu) and Mariella Crandall (mcrandall4@sierracollege.edu).

What kind of credits will be earned for a DE/CE course?

High school graduation credits are earned in the designated course/subject, as well as Sierra College credits associated with the course taken. For example,

ENGL 0001A grants students high school credits in Economics towards graduation and 4.0 college units for ELA transcribed by Sierra College as well.

How do colleges view DE/CE?

Colleges view DE/CE as a weighted honors level course for high school students applying for admission. Both CSUs and UCs look favorably on DE/CE as a sign that students are pushing themselves academically by enrolling in courses of high rigor. Students who are applying to four-year universities should consider taking DE/CE courses as they fit into a course of study of interest for each student. When students apply to most four-year colleges, they are able to receive an honors "bump" during the application process. At this time, DE/CE will not be considered for honors credit (weighted GPA) on the high school transcript, but many colleges (including the UC system) will consider these honors levels classes when applying to college.

Will these credits be valid at any college?

The credits earned through DE/CE courses will be assigned to the permanent college transcript by the partner college. The credits through DE/CE will be exactly the same as credits earned at Sierra College. Therefore, any college that accepts Sierra College credits, also accepts DE/CE credit. There is no difference on student transcripts. That being said, students should still research the colleges/universities they are applying for to see if the Dual Enrollment class from Sierra College is accepted as transferable credit.

What grade levels can enroll in DE/CE courses? Are there any prerequisites?

DE/CE courses are limited to students who have completed 8th grade. However, some DE/CE courses will be offered to specific grade levels based on the high school graduation credit to be received. Depending on the type and level of the course, some may have prerequisites.

What support is available for students who may struggle with DE/CE?

For students enrolled in DE classes (classes taught on WPUSD campuses), the same supports that currently exist for students who are struggling in high school will be available to students who are taking DE: after school tutoring, availability of teachers for help, and the like. Teachers/sites will continue to monitor grades and provide additional academic support as needed. For students enrolled in CE classes (classes taught through the college), academic support through the community college is available to the student.

Can a student take a CE and have an unscheduled period?

Only 11th and 12th grade students have the option to take an unscheduled period. Please refer to your school's student handbook for information regarding unscheduled periods.

How many DE/CE courses can a student take per term?

Per WPUSD Board Policy and Education Code: If students are taking classes on their high school campus they can take up to 15 units a semester. District students enrolled in a community college as special part-time students may enroll in up to 11 units per semester, or the equivalent.

What does a student need to do in order to take a DE/CE course? Is there a placement test?

Students do not need to take a placement test in order to enroll in a DE/CE course. However, depending on the course, there may be some other requirements. Students interested in DE/CE courses are encouraged to contact their counselor for more information. (There is an enrollment procedure that students must complete with Sierra College - students will be given this information when they enroll with their site for the Dual Enrollment Course). These courses are open access; nonetheless, students should also understand the responsibilities (and ramifications) that come with taking a college level course, including that if they receive a failing grade, it will remain on their community college transcript. There is an enrollment procedure that students must complete with the college and will be given this information when they enroll with their site for the Dual Enrollment Course.

How can I find out more about what courses are being offered?

To find out more about which DE/CE courses are being offered at your site, talk with your counselor, refer to the 2024-2025 WPUSD DE/CE course list, or talk with teachers at your school from that subject area.

[2024-2025 WPUSD DE/CE Courses](#)

Who will be teaching the class?

Most of the dual enrollment classes are taught by WPUSD teachers who meet the minimum qualifications established by the Community College System are hired by Sierra College to teach the courses. A master's degree in the content area is required for most subjects (with the exception of *some* CTE courses). However, there may be some courses offered by WPUSD that are taught by Sierra faculty.

Are there any online courses available?

Sierra college does offer online CE classes. Please refer to the [Sierra College Course Catalog](#).

Will a DE/CE grade receive an extra grade point, like an AP course does?

At this point in time, the DE/CE grades will not receive an extra GPA point for a high school GPA; however DE/CE grades can receive an "honors bump" when applying to most four-year colleges.

Is there any cost for DE/CE courses? Do we have to buy the book or pay any fees?

There is no tuition cost to families for DE/CE courses. The district will purchase textbooks for the students enrolled in DE classes to borrow during the semester. However, students enrolled in any CE course may have associated book and/or supply fees. Sierra College does have low/no cost book options. Requesting transcripts follows the policies of the partner college and may have fees associated with these requests. Other than that, there is no cost for DE/CE.

Will DE/CE have any negative impact after high school?

The negative impact would only occur if the student did not pass the course. These courses will be included on the permanent college transcript for each student.

What happens to a student's high school transcript if they fail a DE/CE course?

College courses taken to fulfill high school graduate requirements, will be posted on the high school transcript. It is the students responsibility to provide the college transcript to the high school registrar.

What are the application steps and paperwork required from students and parents to enroll in a DE class?

Sierra College: For students taking classes on the high school campus, each dual enrollment teacher will support students with the online application process. Students will need to apply and both students and parents will need to fill out the required electronic forms.

What are the application steps and paperwork required from students and parents to enroll in a CE class?

Sierra College: For students taking classes directly through Sierra College please follow the directions at this link: [Academic Enrichment at Sierra College](#). Students will need to apply and both students and parents will need to fill out the required electronic forms.

Students will provide proof of concurrent enrollment (academic enrichment) by June 1st for the Fall Semester and December 1st for the Spring Semester.

Are students with IEPs able to enroll in a DE/CE course?

Any student with an IEP or 504 Plan is welcome to enroll in a DE/CE course. However, students/families should be mindful that support for students in a DE/CE course may look different than support in a high school course. While the student's IEP or 504 Plan is followed for the high school curriculum, they would need to enroll in [Sierra College Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) to be eligible for accommodations to any of the curriculum on the community

college side. Contact Sierra College SAS at 916-660-7460. Enrollment with SAS needs to be completed before the class begins.

Can I take ASL at my community college?

Yes, DFST 1/American Sign Language I at Sierra College corresponds to two years of high school study.

Is extra grade weighting (grade bump) applied to any dual enrollment grade?

No, WPUSD does not offer extra grade weighting with any college course grades, including dual enrollment grades.

