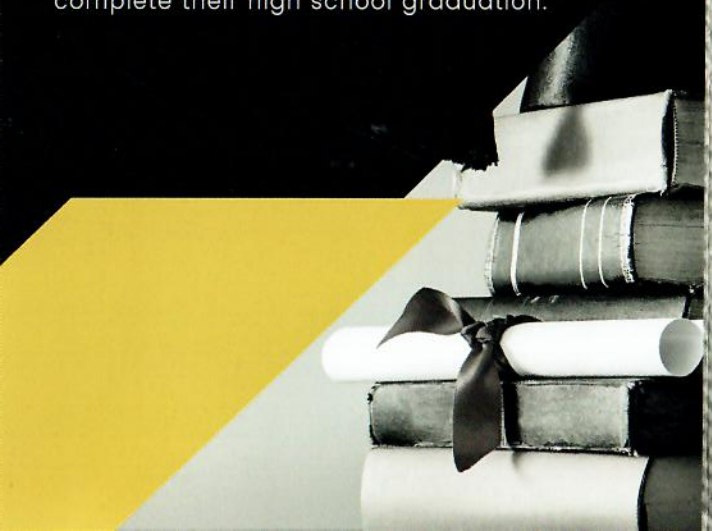
Advanced Placement vs Dual Credit Classes

What is Advanced Placement (AP)?

The roots of the College Board administered AP courses were established in the early '50s. The goal was to afford academically advanced students a leg up as they transitioned from high school to college. A major benefit for students successfully completing AP courses arises when they get college credits that may allow them to not repeat foundational classes.

What is Dual Credit?

Dual Credit programs, also called Co-Enrolled, are exactly what they sound like – they offer high school students the opportunity to take actual college level classes while they complete their high school graduation.



Advanced Placement (AP) Pros & Cons

PROS:

- Standardized curriculum creates uniformity from a college acceptance standpoint.
- Many colleges/universities will accept AP test results to either let college freshmen have college credit or attend higher level classes.
- Costs are typically $98 per AP exam.
- Duration of an AP course may vary, but since the result is dependent on the AP exam in many cases, the amount of time needed can be flexible.
- AP test results can boost students' high school GPAs by a maximum of 1 point.
- Since AP courses are more defined, and even the best colleges typically do not require more than 12 AP courses, a high school student who starts taking AP courses as a freshman can plan better.

CONS:

- Could be dependent on a final test
- Cannot get the "real" college experience since AP classes are not offered in a college setting
- Some AP classes last for a full school year, which is good for rigor but does take up a lot of time.

Dual Credit Pros & Cons

PROS:

- A full college course – not dependent on one final exam
- Dual Credit classes always last a college semester, so they could be shorter than an AP class that lasts a full school year.
- Due to the lack of rigid standardization, it may be easier to find a Dual Credit class that better suits a student's abilities and future plans. AP classes are defined by the College Board guidelines.
- Dual Credit classes offer more flexibility to students – especially beneficial to those who may be working or engaged in other extracurricular activities.
- Dual Credit courses can boost students' high school GPAs by up to 1 point.

CONS:

- Programs vary by state and school district – creating less uniformity and standardization. Therefore, Dual Credit results are typically accepted by in-state, public colleges only.
- Offering Dual Credit depends on state regulations and school district decisions, so there may be no opportunities within certain areas.
- Costs are commensurate with college tuition – typically around $150-$400 per course.
- Many states restrict Dual Credit class registration to high school juniors and seniors.