



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
HIGH SCHOOL

AHS Advanced Academics

Presented by the AHS Counselors & CCRA



What are Advanced Academics?

Advanced academic courses are any courses above on-level.

- AAC: Advanced Academics Course (formerly pre-AP)
- AP: Advanced Placement
- DC: Dual Credit through Houston Community College
- OnRamps: Through the University of Texas



AAC: Advanced Academics Course

What is it?

AAC courses are meant to help students prepare to take Advanced Placement courses in the future. AAC courses cover content at a greater depth and difficulty level than the on-level course. Students in AAC courses can expect to have more homework and more assigned reading outside of class. AAC courses carry extra weight when GPA is calculated (5pts.).

Courses currently offered:

English I AAC, English II AAC

Algebra I AAC, Geometry AAC, Algebra II AAC

Biology AAC, Chemistry AAC, Forensic Science, Anatomy and Physiology

World Geography AAC, Psychology AAC (paired with AP Psychology)

Spanish III AAC, French III AAC, Chinese III AAC

Computer Science I AAC

Advanced Placement

What is it?

Advanced Placement Courses are college level courses that follow standards created by College Board.

These courses carry extra weight when calculated into your student's GPA (10 pts.). These courses move at a faster pace with a greater difficulty level than the on-level course. Students enrolled in these classes should expect to dedicate more time outside of class to study for the course.

When a student passes the course with a 70 or above, they will receive high school credit. To earn college credit, students must pay for and take the AP exam at the end of the course (May). Most colleges will accept a score of 3-5 for college credit. Students and parents can check the College Board website to see which colleges accept which scores and credits. AP courses are ideal for our students hoping to earn college credit while in high school, that plan to attend a college or university outside of Texas.

Advanced Placement

AP Courses currently offered

English III AP, English IV AP

AP Pre-Calculus, AP Statistics, AP Calc AB, AP Calc BC

AP Physics I, AP Chem, AP Bio, AP Physics C, AP Environ Science, AP Physics II

AP Human Geography, AP World History, AP U.S. History, AP Government, AP Economics, AP European History, AP Psychology (paired with AAC Psych)

AP Seminar, AP Research

AP Spanish Lang, AP Spanish Lit, AP French Lang, AP Chinese Lang

AP Computer Science A, AP Cyber Security (*new), AP Drawing Portfolio, AP 2D Design Portfolio, AP 3D Design Portfolio,



Dual Credit



- College course taken in high school therefore earning both college and high school credit
- Can be taken online or at HCC with **CCRA approval**
- Student must successfully complete and pass the course to earn credit.
- Taught by an FBISD teacher who is also employed by HCC or by an HCC professor who comes to the high school campus
- Carry extra weight (10pts.) on the GPA calculation

Courses currently offered at AHS:

- English IV
- College Algebra
- College Transitions/Learning Frameworks
- Speech (new for 2025-2026)

Most Common Dual Credit Courses Offered in FBISD

Grade Level: Senior

- ENGL-1301 (English Composition I)
- ENGL-1302 (English Composition II)
- MATH-1314 (College Algebra)
- GOVT-2305 (Federal Government)
- ECON-2301 (Principles of Macroeconomics)
- PSYC-2301 (General Psychology)

Grade Level: Junior

- HIST-1301 (U.S. History to 1877)
- HIST-1302 (U.S. History after 1877)

Grade Level: Junior & Senior

- SPCH-1315 (Public Speaking)
- PSYC-2301 (Introduction to Psychology)
- SOCI-1301 (Introduction to Sociology)

Not **all** campuses offer **all** courses
due to availability of FBISD and/or HCC staff.

Who Can Take Dual Credit Courses?

- The State of Texas states that for a student to take college credit bearing courses, the student must meet the TSI Readiness Standards.
- Students can either be TSI Exempt or must take the TSI Assessment (TSIA) and make a minimum score to take a college credit course.

Students can be TSI Exempt for dual credit by:

- A qualifying SAT or ACT test score
- A qualifying TSIA score

Important Information About Dual Credit

- Tuition is free of charge; students are responsible for textbook fees though if required for the course
- All HCC policies, i.e., attendance, grading, academic honesty apply
- If a student fails a dual credit course, an F is listed on his/her high school transcript **and** college transcript.
- Grades will not be seen in Skyward until the end of the semester; however, students can see their grade in the HC platform Canvas.
- ***Students who do not meet campus deadlines or who do not have a qualifying score will be removed from the DC course and placed in an FBISD on-level course.***

HCC DC Registration Process

- Must meet HCC and campus deadlines for the following:
 - Attending a dual credit information session
 - Registering for DC classes during course selection time
 - Taking the TSIA test if needed to qualify for DC
 - Applying to HCC through the Apply Texas website
 - Submitting all HCC/FBISD paperwork
- *Only courses on the approved HCC/FBISD agreed upon course list will count as dual credit.
- More information about this process will be sent out in January/February.

AP or DC?

- Some courses, such as English IV, have both an AP and DC option.
- When choosing between AP and DC consider the following:
 - If you took an AP exam in that content area and scored a 3-5, which course will it count as in college? Is it the same course the DC class will count as? If so, you should consider taking AP so that you can earn a new college credit instead of a duplicate.
 - If you plan to attend college outside of Texas, it is likely your credits from HCC (DC class) will not be accepted outside of the state.
 - College credits earned via the AP exam are more widely accepted across the U.S.

OnRamps- Dual Enrollment

What is it?

OnRamps is a program through the University of Texas. Students will be eligible to earn high school credit and college credit at the same time. The high school teacher will teach and grade for the high school credit and the college professor will teach and grade for college credit. At the end of the course students can choose to accept the college credit or to not accept it. The college credit piece will be taught remotely by a professor from the University of Texas, during the student's class period at AHS on assigned days.

OnRamps- Dual Enrollment

Courses potentially offered:

- Rhetoric (Eng IV): EL142T
 - Economics: SS452T
 - Earth Space Science: SC391T
 - **US History: SS432T**
 - College Algebra
 - **Algebra II: MA232T**
 - Pre-Calculus: Ma242T
 - Statistics: MA450T
 - **Biology: SC351T**
 - Chemistry I: SC332T
 - Chemistry II: SC361T
 - Physics I (Mechanics): SC342T
 - Physics II (Electro): SC431T
 - Computer Science
- *courses in bold are currently offered at AHS

How do students sign up?



Students can select On Ramps during course selection in the spring. It is imperative that students and parents make sure they meet any prerequisites for the courses (these can be found in the FBISD course selection guide).

It is important to remember: If your student signs up for an AAC or AP class, there is a level down window at the end of the first grading period where they can request to move to the on-level course if they meet the designated criteria. After that point they must remain in the AAC or AP course until the end of the semester. There are a few AP classes that do not have a level down equivalent, in which case the student must remain in the class all year.



Pictorial Comparison

OnRamps

DUAL ENROLLMENT



Teachers



Classes



Grades



Credits
(Accept/Decline)



DUAL CREDIT



Teacher



Class



Grade



Credit

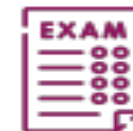
ADVANCED PLACEMENT



Teacher



Class



Exam Score



Credit
(Exam score of 3+)

Comparison Chart

AHS Advanced Academics Course Offering Chart

AP/Dual Credit/OnRamps Dual Enrollment: What's the Difference?

Topic	Advanced Placement (AP)	Dual Credit (DC)	Dual Enrollment (UT OnRamps)
Description	The AP program allows high school students to take college-level courses and exams to potentially earn college credit.	A Dual Credit course allows a high school student to earn college credit and high school credit concurrently.	Dual Enrollment allows high school students to simultaneously earn a high school credit as well as a separate college credit.
Credit	High school credit is awarded if the student passes the course with a 70% or better. College credit is granted when students pass the AP examination. Students seeking credit through AP exam grades should note that individual colleges and universities, not the College Board or the AP Program, grant course credit and placement.	Credit, both high school and college, is awarded when the student passes the course with a 70% or better. The number of college credit hours is determined by the college. Academic Dual Credit is awarded through Houston Community College.	High school credit is awarded if the student passes the course with a 70% or better. The faculty of UT Austin awards college credit if the student earns a D- or better in the college portion of the course. Students may choose to accept the college credit.
Teachers/Instructors	AP courses are taught by high school teachers trained by the College Board.	Dual Credit courses are taught by high school teachers qualified to serve as adjunct professors at the college or an HCC Professor.	Dual Enrollment courses are taught by qualified high school teachers in conjunction with faculty from the University of Texas at Austin. The high school course is taught in person in conjunction with the distance learning provided by the university.
College/University Acceptance	AP scores are accepted throughout the nation. However, students should note individual college and university requirements for credit may vary. Students should check with each school's policy.	Dual Credit hours are accepted at public colleges and universities in Texas. Other colleges and universities may accept the credit hours, but students should check with each school's policy.	Dual Enrollment hours are accepted at public colleges and universities in Texas. Other colleges and universities may accept the credit hours, but students should check with each school's policy.
Location/textbooks	AP courses are taught at the high school. Curriculum and instructional resources are provided by the school district.	Dual credit courses are taught at the high school. Curriculum and instructional resources are provided in conjunction by the school district and the college.	Dual Enrollment courses are taught at the high school and on a distance learning platform. Curriculum and instructional resources are provided by UT Austin and/or the school district.
Rigor	College Level Rigor - AP courses are standardized and controlled by The College Board. Course syllabi are submitted and approved by College Board.	College Course - Dual Credit course syllabi are submitted and approved by individual departments at Houston Community College.	College Course & Experience - Through a distance learning platform, students experience courses exactly as they would receive instruction at the UT Austin campus.
Cost	Course is free of charge. The cost of the exam is set by the College Board. Subsidies for the exam may be available. Students are responsible for any fees associated with taking the exam and to send scores to colleges and universities.	Course is free of charge. Students are responsible for any transcript fee assessed by the college.	Course is free of charge. Students are responsible for any transcript fee assessed by UT Austin.
Impact on High School GPA	Course is considered advanced and is weighted in accordance with local policy.	Course is considered advanced and is weighted in accordance with local policy.	Course is considered advanced and is weighted in accordance with local policy.
Impact on College Transcript	Each college or university evaluates transfer credit based on its own policies, which vary by school, college, and institution. AP scores are sent by the student. AP scores could earn students college credit or advanced placement.	Each college or university evaluates transfer credit based on its own policies, which vary by school, college, and institution. Dual Credit performance is permanently recorded on the student's college transcript. All college transcripts must be reported when applying to any college or university. Failing grades cannot be expunged.	Each college or university evaluates transfer credit based on its own policies, which vary by school, college, and institution. Students who earn and accept college credit in an OnRamps course may request a transcript from UT Austin. Once on the transcript, OnRamps course grades are factored into a student's cumulative GPA at UT Austin.
Eligibility	Open to any student. Students will want to be prepared for the AP course selected. Some AP classes have recommended courses students will need to take prior.	Students must qualify by taking the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) test and complete the college application.	Open to any student. Students do not have to meet testing requirements or complete an application to enroll. Some courses will require completion of high school course prerequisites. Participating students should be prepared to experience a college distance learning course.

AP/Dual Credit/OnRamps Dual Enrollment: What's the Difference?

Topic	Advanced Placement (AP)	Dual Credit (DC)	Dual Enrollment (UT OnRamps)														
Grading	Grades will be awarded based on district standards and grading policy.	<p>Final grades will be calculated according to the following scale and a letter grade given (HCC Grading Policy for reference):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90-100 percent is a grade of A 80-89 percent is a B 70-79 percent is a C 60-69 percent is a D Less than 60 percent is an F I = Incomplete W = Withdrawn by withdrawal deadline FX = F for student missing more than allowed absences after the Withdrawal deadline. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>HCC Letter Grade</th> <th>FBISD Grade for Course</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FX</td> <td>59</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Grades are not viewable in Skyward during the semester. Final semester grades will be added to the student's transcript. For seniors, semester two, T3 DC grades will not be included when the registrar runs honor rank since the grade is not in Skyward.</p>	HCC Letter Grade	FBISD Grade for Course	A	96	B	86	C	76	D	70	F	59	FX	59	<p>High School grade will be awarded based on district standards and grading policy.</p> <p>College grade: The grade on the college transcript will follow the grading policy of UT. Students can choose to accept the credit or not. If they accept the credit they will have a UT transcript that they will need to send to colleges when completing college applications.</p>
HCC Letter Grade	FBISD Grade for Course																
A	96																
B	86																
C	76																
D	70																
F	59																
FX	59																
Additional Considerations	Some AP courses do not have on-level equivalent classes, so if a student does not do well, they will not have the option to level down in that course. This is very important if the student is a senior and the AP course is their last credit in that content area needed for graduation.	<p>Attendance policies: Students will be expected to follow the attendance policy set by HCC.</p> <p>Accommodations: Accommodations will have to be approved through the university.</p>	<p>Attendance Policies: Students will be expected to follow the attendance policy set by UT for the UT portion of the course.</p> <p>Accommodations: Accommodations will have to be approved through the university. The campus teacher is not able to apply for accommodations in the portion of the course led by the college professor.</p>														

**For more information please
contact your student's counselor
or the College and Career
Readiness Advisor.**



<https://www.fortbendis.com/domain/2505>

<https://www.fortbendis.com/domain/4941>