



AP vs. Dual Enrollment (DE)

Both options offer rigorous coursework and the potential to earn college credit — but they work differently.

	DUAL ENROLLMENT (DE)	ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)
What is it?	An actual college course taken while the student is in high school.	A high school course taught at a college-level pace.
How is college credit earned?	By successfully completing the college course.	Typically by earning a qualifying score on the AP exam.
High school transcript?	YES. The course and grade appear on the student's high school transcript.	YES. The AP course and grade appear on the high school transcript.
College transcript?	YES. The course and grade become part of the student's college transcript.	NO. Taking an AP course does not create a college transcript.
Will every college accept the credit?	Transferability varies depending on the college and course.	Each college determines which AP exams and scores it will accept for credit.
Important consideration	Students are beginning an official college academic record.	College credit generally depends on the student's AP exam score and the college's AP credit policy.

DE =

The student is actually taking a college course and earning college credit while in high school.

AP =

An opportunity to earn college credit based primarily on an AP exam.

Neither option is automatically “better.” The right choice depends on the student's strengths, goals, workload, and future college plans.