

Discover College in High School



Fresno Unified School District DUAL ENROLLMENT GUIDE

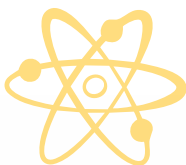
A guide to help you and your family discover how to
earn college credit while you're still in high school.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Dual enrollment helps students like you take real college courses, get ahead in their education, and prepare for the future. Whether you're just learning about dual enrollment or you're ready to sign up, this guide provides the information you need to get started, make informed decisions, and plan a path that works best for you.

This guide explains:

What Is Dual Enrollment?	3
Benefits of Dual Enrollment	4
Dual Enrollment vs. High School Enrichment	5
How Dual Enrollment Courses Count	6
Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and International Baccalaureate	7
How to Sign Up for Dual Enrollment	8
FUSD College Programs and Resources	9
What You Need to Know Before Starting Dual Enrollment	10
What Can Students Do to Advocate for Themselves?	11
How Can Families Support Their Students?	11
Common Myths About Dual Enrollment	12
Special Education	13
Acknowledgements	14



Did You Know?

OVER 92% of FUSD students pass their dual enrollment courses.

81% of dual enrollment students enrolled in college within one year of graduating high school, compared to 70% of students nationally.



WHAT IS DUAL ENROLLMENT?

Dual enrollment is an opportunity for high school students to take college courses at their high schools.

These courses can count toward both high school graduation requirements and college credit. This gives students the opportunity to prepare for a successful college experience, explore career options, and gain the tools needed to be career-ready.

Who Can Take Dual Enrollment Courses?



Dual enrollment is open to **current Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) high school students** who are ready to take a college course. Talk to your high school counselor about your options.



Regardless of your background, academic experience, or immigration status, every high school student can explore dual enrollment as an option. **All FUSD high schools offer dual enrollment courses.**



All dual enrollment courses offered during the school day are **FREE for current FUSD high school students.**



Students who participate in dual enrollment are more likely to:



Graduate High School



Enroll in College



Complete a College Degree Faster

What to Expect in a College Course



Dual enrollment courses often come with higher expectations than most high school courses. While you'll have support, you'll also be expected to **take full responsibility for your learning**, meet strict deadlines, and spend more time completing assignments outside of class.



Many dual enrollment students **build confidence, improve time management, and feel more prepared for college.**



BENEFITS OF DUAL ENROLLMENT

-  **Save money! Tuition is FREE!** As a high school student, your tuition for dual enrollment courses offered during the day is free. (If you take high school enrichment courses, you may need to pay for student fees, textbooks, materials, and/or transportation.)
-  **Save time.** Dual enrollment can help you finish college faster, transfer to a four-year school sooner, or even jump-start your career and allow you to start earning money earlier.
-  **Preview college.** You experience how college classes work and use tools like Canvas, helping you feel more confident and prepared for life after high school.
-  **Access college resources and services.** You get access to all of the services and resources a college offers, like tutoring, a food pantry, career services, and more.
-  **Stand out on college applications.** Dual enrollment courses look great on college applications. They show colleges that you're ready for the challenge of college-level work.
-  **Boost your GPA.** Dual enrollment courses can boost your high school GPA and greatly improve your chances of getting accepted into a four-year university.
-  **Explore career interests.** Interested in engineering? A future in the health field? Perhaps you've always wanted a career where you travel the world.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT MEET ADRIAN

Adrian has taken multiple dual enrollment courses through Fresno City College, including Introduction to Kinesiology, English 1A, Medical Terminology, and others. He is currently pursuing the Engineering Pathway and plans to study bioengineering at UC Merced.

How Dual Enrollment Helped Him:
“I feel more prepared for college.”

Advice for Students Considering Dual Enrollment:
“People think college is really hard, but it's more about the workload you have. Once you get the hang of it and stay on top of your work, it goes by quickly.”



Dual Enrollment



VS.

High School Enrichment



College courses that count for both high school and college credit and are exclusively for FUSD students.

College courses that count for college credit and may count for high school credit. Open to the public.

Dual enrollment and high school enrichment are college-level courses open to FUSD students, but there are some key differences.

Where Classes Take Place

Courses are taken at FUSD high schools during the regular school year and on a college campus during the summer.

Where Classes Take Place

Courses are taken at the college or online, depending on the course.

Who Your Classmates Are

You take the course with your high school classmates.

Who Your Classmates Are

You take the course with college students.

Cost

There is no cost. Tuition, fees, and books are covered.

Cost

Tuition is free, but you may need to pay for fees, transportation, and books.

How Grades Are Recorded?

Your grades are recorded on both your high school transcript and your college transcript.

How Grades Are Recorded?

Your grades are recorded on your college transcript only. You must submit your official college transcript to your high school to receive credit.

Will You Get High School Credit?

Yes. All courses count for high school credit.

Will You Get High School Credit?

Not all courses will count for high school credit. Talk to your high school counselor BEFORE signing up.

Support for Students with IEPs or 504 Plans

FUSD is responsible for providing services and accommodations as identified in the IEP or 504 and facilitates the connection with the college's Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS).

Support for Students with IEPs or 504 Plans

You are responsible for requesting and accessing services and accommodations through the college's DSPS.



HOW DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES COUNT



Dual enrollment courses can satisfy multiple requirements. Courses offered at FUSD high schools count toward high school graduation and may align with college transfer or career preparation pathways.

Requirements	What Are They?	Important to Know
A-G Requirements	Courses you must take to apply to the University of California (UC) or the California State University (CSU).	All dual enrollment courses require counselor permission to ensure your course fulfills A-G requirements. It is a goal that all FUSD graduates fulfill A-G requirements. LEARN MORE bit.ly/AGReqs
Cal-GETC (California General Education Transfer Curriculum)	Courses taken by college students to fulfill their general education requirements, usually during the first two years of college. These courses count toward an associate of arts degree (AA) and/or transfer to a CSU or UC.	Talk to your high school counselor to see if a dual enrollment course will transfer to a four-year college or university. Check out ASSIST.org . This is your go-to website for transfer info. LEARN MORE bit.ly/CAPDualEnrollment
CTE (Career Technical Education)	Some CTE Pathways allow you to take college courses that count toward industry-recognized credentials and future college and career goals. This includes courses at The Center for Advanced Research & Technology (CART).	Find CTE Pathways at your high school that offer dual enrollment. Here are just a few of the CTE Pathway options: Agriscience and Technology, Biomedicine, Construction, Health, Law and Social Justice, Teacher Academy, and Video Production. LEARN MORE bit.ly/Fresno_CTE



PRO TIP

Check out the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI). It's a website that lets you explore colleges, majors, and career options across California.

Link: cacollegeguidance.org

ADVANCED PLACEMENT, DUAL ENROLLMENT, AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE



Category	Advanced Placement (AP)	Dual Enrollment	International Baccalaureate (IB)
What They Are	College-level courses taken in high school.	College-level courses that count for both high school credit and college credit.	A globally recognized 11th- and 12th-grade program that focuses on college-level critical thinking, research, and writing.
Cost	FUSD covers the cost of the AP course and exam.	Tuition and textbooks are free.	FUSD covers the cost for IB exams and participation in the program.
Curriculum	Lessons are designed by the College Board and prepare students for the AP Exam.	The Course Outline of Record is approved through a multiple step process by the college.	The IB curriculum is standardized worldwide and includes core components like the theory of knowledge (TOK), the extended essay (EE), and creativity, activity, service (CAS).
How to Earn College Credit Earned at the institution where you take the course.	You need to take the AP Exam and score well (usually a 3, 4, or 5) to possibly earn college credit. Scores accepted by colleges and universities vary.	You earn college credit at that institution if you pass the course. No extra tests are required!	You need to take IB exams and score well (typically a 5, 6, or 7) to possibly earn college credit. Scores accepted by colleges and universities vary.
What Happens to College Credit After High School	AP courses are not directly transferable, but some colleges may let you skip intro courses if you score well on the exam.	Most courses are transferable to California Community Colleges, CSUs, and UCs, but not all of them. Check with your high school counselor and visit ASSIST.org to confirm.	Some IB courses may be accepted for credit at certain universities, especially international institutions. Policies vary by college and country.



Impact on College Applications

Taking AP courses, dual enrollment courses, or International Baccalaureate courses looks great on applications and can boost your chances of getting into a four-year university. Colleges value all equally when reviewing applications.

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT



Steps to Enroll in Dual Enrollment*

- 1 Complete the High School Elective Ranking Survey.** Every Spring, FUSD high schools give students a survey to collect elective ranking. Rank “dual enrollment” or “college class” as a top choice.
- 2 Meet with your counselor to discuss your goals and course options at your high school.**

Below Are Some Questions to Ask:

- ☐ What dual enrollment courses are offered at my high school?
- ☐ What steps do I need to take to enroll in dual enrollment courses?
- ☐ Which dual enrollment courses count for A-G requirements? Cal-GETC? CTE?
- ☐ What resources are available to me if I need support?
- ☐ If I have an IEP or a 504 plan, how can I get the support I need?

- 3 Complete a College Application.** Submit an application to one of the community colleges or universities that offer dual enrollment courses in partnership with FUSD. Each institution has a different application process.
- 4 Submit an AB 30 Consent Form.** In addition to applying to the college, you must complete and submit a separate form that requires a parent- or guardian-consent signature to finalize your enrollment.

*Students with an IEP or 504 plan may have extra steps to ensure accommodations. Check with your counselor.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

MEET VICTORIA

Victoria participated in dual enrollment during her junior and senior years, taking college-level courses in math, English, and History of Rock through Fresno City College. She hopes to become a labor and delivery nurse one day.

How Dual Enrollment Helped Her:

“Dual enrollment gave me a taste of what college is like while I was still in high school. It helped me learn how to manage my time, break up assignments, and balance my schoolwork.”

FUSD COLLEGE PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES



FUSD offers various opportunities to help you explore college options, expand your understanding of higher education, and thoughtfully plan your future beyond high school. Students have the opportunity to pursue **dual enrollment courses** and receive support getting into college through **automatic admission programs** and other college partnerships. FUSD continues to explore partnerships to expand offerings.

State Center Community College District (SCCCD)

Includes: Fresno City College, Reedley College, Clovis Community College, Madera Community College, and Madera Community College at Oakhurst

- Complete your application as a dual enrollment student on [CCApply.org](https://ccapply.org)
- Please note: SCCCDC will soon introduce a new registration step through dualenroll.com. **Check the FUSD Dual Enrollment website for up-to-date information.**

LEARN MORE



California State University (CSU)

Includes: Fresno State

- Fresno State partners with FUSD to offer dual enrollment** programs that allow high school students to earn transferable college credit.
- Bulldog Bound** is a Fresno State program that offers **automatic admission** to eligible FUSD students.

BULLDOG BOUND:
bit.ly/BulldogBound

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

- HBCU Step-Up** is a dual enrollment program that increases college enrollment by providing opportunities for all students to explore options at HBCUs while building college readiness. The program welcomes and values students from historically underrepresented backgrounds. Check the website for eligibility criteria.

LEARN MORE
bit.ly/HBCUStepUP

University of California, Merced

- Merced Automatic Admission Program (MAAP)** offers eligible FUSD students automatic admission to UC Merced.

LEARN MORE
bit.ly/UC_MAAP

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE STARTING DUAL ENROLLMENT



Dual enrollment can be a great opportunity, but there are important things to consider before enrolling, such as:

Your Grades Will Follow You

- The grades you earn in dual enrollment courses will go on your official college transcript.
- A grade of D or lower is considered a fail and will be posted on your transcript, which could make it harder to get into some colleges and/or qualify for certain scholarships.
- If you fail a dual enrollment course, you are not allowed to take a dual enrollment course the next semester unless you choose to make up that failing grade. If you plan to retake the course, you must meet with a counselor beforehand.

Dual Enrollment Could Impact Your College Financial Aid and College Eligibility

- Just like AP courses, passing dual enrollment courses can boost your GPA, which helps strengthen your college and scholarship applications.
- To keep financial aid, most colleges/universities require you to maintain a minimum GPA (usually a 2.0 or above) to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress. If you fall below the minimum GPA, you risk losing your financial aid. Check with your desired college for specific rules on GPA requirements.

Some Credits May Not Transfer (It Depends On the College or University)

- Some private colleges don't accept dual enrollment credits. However, taking these courses still strengthens your college application, increases your chances of acceptance, and builds your college readiness.
- Before you sign up for a college course on your own, talk to your high school counselor. Some credits may not transfer, depending on the course.

There Are Unit Limits

- A unit refers to how much credit you receive for taking a course. Each course is worth a certain number of units, which reflects the amount of work or time required.
- There are restrictions on how many units you can take each semester.

There Are Important Deadlines and Attendance Policies

- Colleges and universities have strict deadlines for adding, dropping, or withdrawing from classes. Missing these deadlines can affect your grades, financial aid, and course credits. If you want to make any changes to your schedule, always speak with your high school counselor before the deadline.
- Colleges and universities have attendance policies that are different from your high school. Please review your college course syllabus to make sure you understand the policies.

Did You Know?

As a dual enrollment student, you will learn how to use a **digital learning platform called Canvas**. Many colleges and universities use it to post assignments, share course materials, track grades, and more.



WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO TO ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES?

- ☐ **Share your interests.** Fill out the High School Elective Ranking Survey in the spring.
- ☐ **Talk to your counselor** about how your classes fit your graduation, college, or career goals.
- ☐ **Ask for help early** from your teacher, counselor, or college instructor if you need support.
- ☐ **Use available resources** like tutoring, basic needs, and academic support services offered by high schools and postsecondary institutions. Visit the Student Services office at your postsecondary institution to learn more.

HOW CAN FAMILIES SUPPORT THEIR STUDENTS?

Talk to your student about their interests and future goals and if dual enrollment will get them closer to what they want out of life.

- ☐ **Schedule a meeting with your student's high school counselor** to discuss opportunities and your student's progress. Bring these questions to your meeting: bit.ly/DE_Questions
- ☐ **Assist your student when they need to complete the dual enrollment form online.** Parents/guardians will need to provide their signature.
- ☐ **Support and encourage your student to take on challenges.** It may not be easy, but it will be worth it.
- ☐ **Check in on your student** to see how they are managing the college workload and following college attendance policies. Be aware that your student's grades will not show up on their ATLAS portal.

Important Note for Parents/Guardians

Through dual enrollment, your student is a college student. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a law that protects the privacy of student school records. As a parent or guardian, you have access to and control over these records while your child is in K–12. Once they turn 18 or start college (including dual enrollment), those rights transfer to the student, even if they are under 18. However, students can choose to give you permission to access their records.

Learn more about privacy of student educational records:



Common Myths About Dual Enrollment

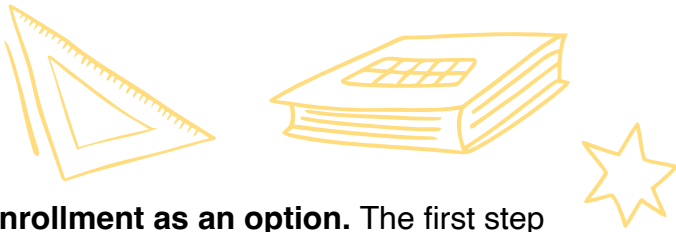
MYTH

FACT



✗ Dual enrollment courses do not boost your GPA.	✓ Most dual enrollment courses will grant GPA augmentation just like an AP course!
✗ Dual enrollment courses are too hard.	✓ These are college-level courses, but you'll have plenty of support from both your high school and the college to help you succeed. FUSD students have strong pass rates across dual enrollment courses.
✗ Colleges look at AP courses more favorably than dual enrollment courses.	✓ Colleges value dual enrollment and AP courses equally when reviewing applications.
✗ I won't be considered a first-time freshman if I take dual enrollment.	✓ Even if you earn college credits in high school or complete the Cal-GETC requirements, you're still considered a first-time freshman and get the same benefits as your peers. The difference is that you will be more prepared for college-level courses.
✗ If some private colleges don't accept dual enrollment credit, it's not worth it.	✓ Even if some private colleges don't accept dual enrollment credits, taking dual enrollment courses still strengthens your college applications. They can boost your GPA, and they show colleges that you are challenging yourself with college-level coursework.
✗ I have an IEP, a 504 plan, or I'm an English-language Learner, so I can't take dual enrollment courses.	✓ Dual enrollment courses are offered at every FUSD high school. If you have an IEP, a 504 plan, or are an English-language Learner, talk to your high school counselor about your academic options.
✗ I don't need to take dual enrollment because I'm not going to college or I'm entering the military.	✓ Earning college credits still benefits you. You may qualify for higher rank on enlistment, stand out for promotions, earn more pay sooner, and have a head start if you pursue college later.

SPECIAL EDUCATION



Students with IEPs or 504 plans can explore dual enrollment as an option. The first step is to meet with the high school counselor to understand all options and discuss how to access appropriate accommodations and support services.

There are two different systems to access accommodations:

At the High School

K-12 schools operate under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). FUSD provides a wide range of special education services and programs to meet the needs of eligible students with disabilities.

Most of these services can be provided at local schools in collaboration with general education programs, including dual enrollment.

- High school accommodations are included in a student's 504 plan or IEP.
- Multiple FUSD high schools offer dual enrollment Developmental Student Service courses.

Talk to your counselor to ask for support in initiating accommodations.

At the College or University

Colleges operate under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which requires that students self advocate and request accommodations.

Some examples of accommodations include:

- Note-taking assistance
- Adaptive computer equipment and software
- Alternative testing

In order to receive services from the college or university, the student must:

- **Request accommodations directly through the college.** Most colleges and universities offer support through Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS).
- **Submit documentation** (such as your IEP or 504 plan).

Did You Know?

FUSD partners with Fresno City College to offer Developmental Services dual enrollment courses for students with disabilities. These courses focus on career awareness, communication skills, job search, horticulture and computer literacy to support personal and vocational goals.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



FUSD’s College and Career Readiness Department thanks our Student and Parent Focus Group participants. Your perspectives provided valuable insights into what students and families should know about dual enrollment. Thank you also to FUSD’s Parent University for your support in bringing families together to share their perspectives.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank FUSD counselors who took the time to meet with us and share their perspectives through focus groups.

Thank you to our Dual Enrollment partners for their ongoing collaboration and commitment to expanding student access to higher education:

- State Center Community College District
- California State University, Fresno
- University of California, Merced
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Finally, we would like to thank **FUSD’s College Acceleration Programs Department** for spearheading the creation of this guide.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

MEET RASHEL

Rashel has taken multiple dual enrollment courses, including counseling and theater. She plans to pursue a career in music.

Advice for Students Considering Dual Enrollment:

“Take dual enrollment because you really learn a lot while you’re in it. I feel like I’ve grown as a person. It teaches you important lessons about work, like don’t procrastinate. Take your time, and if you have questions, ask [your teachers]. There’s no such thing as a stupid question.”



MESSAGES FROM COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS



“Dual enrollment is more than an early start. It’s an onramp. Every high school in our district is offering dual enrollment as an educational opportunity. Our students continue to excel, demonstrating that they are indeed college ready. Course enrollment across our district reflects our student demographics and our ongoing commitment to ensure equitable access. Our students are learning how to navigate college and, more importantly, how incredibly capable they are in pursuing their postsecondary dreams. Our entire department is grateful for the opportunity to serve the students and families of Fresno Unified.

—Tressa Overstreet, Executive Director
College Acceleration Programs, Fresno Unified School District

“The Fresno Unified School District is proud to continue expanding access to dual enrollment opportunities for our students and families. Through the leadership of our College Acceleration Programs Department, strong college partnerships, and the dedication of school site teams across the district, more students than ever are earning college credit while still in high school.

We hope this guidebook serves as a valuable resource for students and families as they learn about dual enrollment opportunities, plan for future academic goals, and navigate the steps toward college and career success.

—Jeremy Ward, Assistant Superintendent
College and Career Readiness, Fresno Unified School District



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DUAL ENROLLMENT GUIDE



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This guide builds upon the foundation of the Dual Enrollment Toolkit, spearheaded by United Way of Greater Los Angeles (UWGLA) as part of their Community College Success Initiative. It also builds upon the LAUSD + LACCD Dual Enrollment Guide co-sponsored by UWGLA and UNITE-LA, Convener of the L.A. Region K-16 Collaborative. If you are interested in replicating or customizing this guide for your institution, please reach out to United Way of Greater Los Angeles at info@unitedwayla.org.

