

WWPS Dual Credit : 2026-2027 Family Brief

Aug. 2026

Summary of WWPS Dual Credit

Walla Walla Public Schools (WWPS) offers an accelerated educational model designed to maximize early access to college credit starting as early as freshman year. The dual credit landscape is divided into two primary mechanisms: **Concurrent Enrollment** (College in the High School, Career and Technical Education, and Running Start) and **Credit by Exam** (Advanced Placement). Key takeaways for the 2026-2027 academic year include:

- **Strategic Financial Advantage:** All dual credit significantly reduces the Total Cost of Attendance (COA) at colleges and universities. There is current **Federal Loan Reform:** under the **One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)** effective July 1, 2026 that make participation in dual credit advantageous.
- **Transfer Integrity:** Washington state maintains robust transfer frameworks like the **Washington 45** and **Direct Transfer Agreements (DTA)**. However, a critical distinction exists between "Transfer Credit" (numeric volume of courses) and "Course Equivalency" (academic placement). College credit may count as elective credit if transferred to another college or university.
- **Financial Aid Risks:** Participation in dual credit initiates a permanent college transcript. Poor performance can jeopardize future financial aid eligibility through **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)** violations, specifically regarding GPA, Pace of Progression, and the 150% Maximum Timeframe rule.

I. Dual Credit Program Framework

Walla Walla Public Schools provides four primary pathways for students to earn simultaneous high school and college credit.

1. Advanced Placement (AP)

AP is a "credit by exam" program. College credit is primarily granted based on standardized exam scores (typically a 3 or higher) rather than classroom grades.

- **Eligibility:** Grades 9-12
- **Credit by Exam:** Colleges determine credit transfer & course equivalency; AP score minimums vary from institution to institution and sometimes by subject area. At a minimum, students must score a 3+ to earn credit.
- **Credit Evaluation:** Each college or university determines how credit is awarded for transfer credit and course equivalency and sets the minimum score to earn credit: score of 3, 4, or 5.
- **Offerings:** WaHi offers 23 AP courses. In May 2026, WaHi AP students passed 84% of all AP exams taken.
- **Capstone Diploma:** A specialized credential requiring scores of 3+ in AP Seminar, AP Research, and four additional AP exams.

2. College in the High School (CiHS)

Courses are taught at the high school by college-approved teachers using college curricula.

- **Eligibility:** Grades 9–12.
- **Sponsoring Institutions:** Eastern Washington University (EWU), and University of Washington (UW).
- **Transcript:** Students earn credit by passing the course (typically a 2.0 or higher). Enrollment creates an immediate, permanent college transcript.
- **Course Length & Format:** Some CiHS courses are offered in one WaHi semester and some are delivered over the course of the year. Refer to the WA 45 WaHi Equivalencies for course length. Some CiHS courses are codelivered in an AP class, but students may opt out of taking the AP exam to earn credit and earn credit from the college by completing the course by earning a grade of “C” or higher.

3. Career & Technical Education (CTE) Dual Credit

This pathway focuses on professional-technical skills.

- **Eligibility:** Grades 9–12; SEATech - grades 11 & 12
- **Requirement:** Students earn credit by passing a course, typically a “B” (3.0) or higher, and in some instances, a “C” (2.0) or higher. Students may need to submit additional components to meet CTE criteria.
- **Focus:** Direct entry into workforce credentials or Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees.
- **Location:** CTE courses are available at WaHi or at SEATech Skills Center.

4. Running Start (RS)

Available to rising 11th and 12th graders, this program allows students to take courses directly on a college campus (typically Walla Walla Community College).

- **Cost & participation:** Students can enroll in tuition-free credits up to a combined 1.30 annual average full-time equivalence (AAFTE) between the high school and college.
- **Eligibility:** Grades 11-12 (includes rising juniors); summer term opportunities are available for eligible students within the available AAFTE (see OSPI Bulletin 027-24)
- **Location:** Students may attend in person or online
- **Admission:** Students are responsible for applying for admission to the Running Start institution (RCW 28A.600.320).

II. Degree Pathways and Transfer Mechanisms

Students navigating dual credit must align their coursework with specific degree outcomes to ensure credits facilitate graduation.

1. Associate Degree Pathways (Mostly not-transferable: Workforce & Industry)

- **Associate in Applied Science & Associate in Applied Arts and Sciences (AAS/AAS):** Offered by Washington’s 34 community and technical colleges to explicitly encompass both technical/scientific fields and creative, business, or human service trades under a single degree umbrella.

Neither the AAS nor the AAAS degree is designed to transfer directly into traditional Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) programs at four-year universities but can be transferred in some programs/career pathways to a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) or Associate in Applied Science-Transfer (AAS-T). An AAS-T takes a standard AAS/AAAS curriculum and replaces basic "contextual/technical" math and English with college-level transferable general education courses.

2. Associate Degree Pathways (Transferable)

- **Associate in Arts-Direct Transfer Agreement (AA-DTA):** The most flexible pathway; guarantees fulfillment of all lower-division general education requirements at any public four-year university in Washington.
- **Associate in Science-Transfer (AS-T):** Designed for STEM majors (Biology, Chemistry, Engineering). It prioritizes math and science, deferring some general education until after transfer.
- **Major Related Programs (MRPs):** Tightly prescribed tracks for highly sequenced majors like Nursing, Business, and Engineering.

3. Baccalaureate Degrees

- **Bachelor of Arts (BA):** Broad, interdisciplinary focus with high elective flexibility.
- **Bachelor of Science (BS):** Technical and quantitative focus with specialized depth.
- **Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS):** A "2+2" model allowing students with technical associate degrees (AAS/AAAS) to complete a four-year degree with industry-specific leadership training.

4. State Transfer Protections

- **Washington 45:** A list of general education courses (e.g., ENGL& 101, MATH& 141) guaranteed to transfer as a one-year block (45 quarter credits) to any public institution in Washington.
- **Reverse Transfer:** Allows students who transfer to a university *before* finishing an associate degree to combine university credits with their previous college work to retroactively earn the associate degree.

IV. Critical Credit Evaluation Rules

The transition of dual credit to a university transcript is governed by strict institutional policies.

The 90/73 Rule (Credit Caps)

Universities cap the amount of lower-division (100-200 level) credit they will accept toward a 180-quarter-credit degree:

- **Quarter System (UW, WWU, EWU, CWU):** Max 90 lower-division credits.
- **Semester System (WSU):** Max 73 lower-division credits.
- **Absolute Maximum:** Most institutions will not accept more than 135 total transfer credits from all sources.

Transfer Credit vs. Course Equivalency

- **Transfer Credit (Quantity):** Determines if the university accepts the work. It adds to the numeric volume but may only transfer as a "General Elective" (e.g., HIST 1XX).
- **Course Equivalency (Quality):** Confirms the course is a "digital clone" of a university course, satisfying specific major prerequisites (e.g., CiHS MATH 161 mapping directly to UW MATH 124).

Non-Transferable Coursework and Restrictions

- **Remedial Courses:** Pre-college math and English receive zero credit.
- **Physical Education Cap:** Most universities, such as the University of Washington, strictly limit PE activity credits to a maximum of **3 quarter credits**.
- **Vocational Limits:** Under a standard DTA, only 15 quarter credits of vocational/technical coursework (e.g., welding, automotive) are permitted to transfer.

V. Risks to Future Financial Aid: Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Concurrent enrollment creates a permanent academic record (transcript) that federal and state financial aid offices use to determine eligibility via three SAP rules:

- **The GPA Rule:** Students must typically maintain a cumulative **2.0 GPA**. Since dual credit grades are permanent, poor performance in high school can result in a student entering college already on "Financial Aid Warning."
- **The Pace of Progression Rule:** Students must successfully complete at least **67%** of all attempted credits. Withdrawals ("W") or incompletes count as attempted but not earned, dragging down this percentage.
- **The Maximum Timeframe Rule (The 150% Rule):** Aid is suspended once a student attempts more than 150% of the credits required for their degree (e.g., 180 credits for a 120-credit degree).
- **The Major Change:** Students who earn many dual credits that do not align with their final major may "max out" their aid before they can finish their 2-year or 4-year degree requirements.

VII. Institutional Nuances (AP & CiHS)

- **University of Washington (UW):** Grants credit for AP Precalculus (Natural Science) but does not award Reasoning (RSN) credit for it, as it is viewed as foundational rather than advanced symbolic logic.
- **Western Washington University (WWU):** Requires a score of **4 or higher** for AP US History to earn credit, whereas other schools may accept a 3. WWU also award AP US History credit toward the Humanities category unlike UW and WSU who award Social Science credit.
- **Washington State University (WSU):** Operates on a semester system. Quarter credits are converted using a **0.67 multiplier**.
- **Private/Liberal Arts Colleges:** These institutions often operate outside state mandates and may require additional mission-specific credits (theology, ethics) regardless of a student's DTA status. They are also less likely to accept technical or vocational credits.

Final Note: Every college/university determines how prior learning, including all forms of dual credit, transfers and meets course equivalencies.

Each college also determines how prior learning impacts financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress and Maximum Timeframe 150% rules for degree completion. Students in danger of reaching federal financial aid Maximum Timeframe status may need to request a financial aid appeal to explain their circumstances.

Check with your intended college or university to receive information in regard to your dual credit transfer and future financial aid impacts.

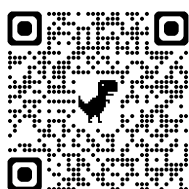
Parent Square

<https://www.parentsquare.com/signin>



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WaHi Dual Credit Website

<https://www.wahibluedevils.org/programs/dual-credit>



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Home of the Blue Devils

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Dual Credit Programs



Walla Walla High School

Provides the opportunity to earn both high school and college credit by completing qualifying courses and/or corresponding

courses, which can help reduce future tuition costs, and prepare for

WALLA WALLA STATE

Ways to Earn Dual Credits

Advanced Placement (AP)

Career and Technical Education Credit (CTE)

College in the High School

Running Start

Credits & Course Equivalencies in Washington

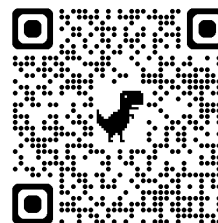
<https://www.uwhs.uw.edu/students-families/credits>

UW IN THE HIGH SCHOOL

Credits & Course Equivalencies in Washington

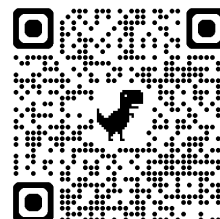
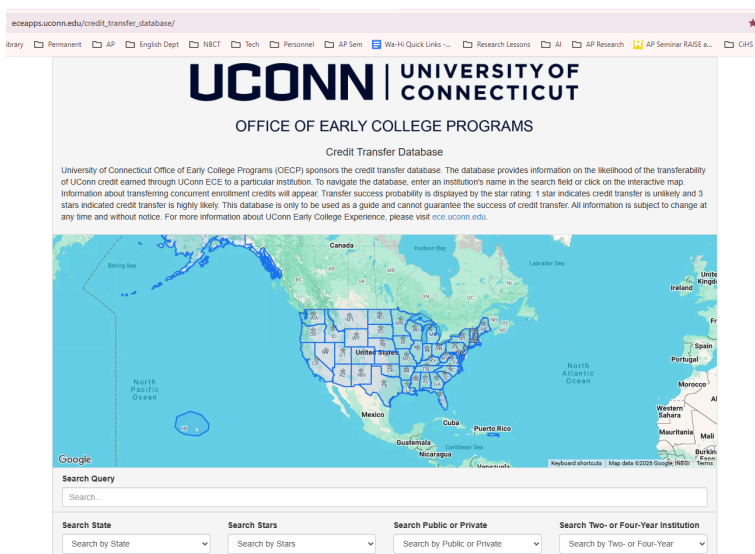
If you're considering public four-year colleges and universities in Washington state, you can use the following course equivalency reference tool to see how UW credits earned through UWHS courses would transfer. Here's how to find equivalencies for UWHS courses:

1. Open this [College in the High School Course Equivalencies](#) spreadsheet.
2. Scroll down until you see "UWS" in column B, find your specific UWHS course(s) in column A, and follow the line across to the institution(s) you are interested in attending.
3. Visit the "Institutional Legends" tab to learn more about the different abbreviations.



National Transfer Database

https://eceapps.uconn.edu/credit_transfer_database/



WaHi Dual Credit Contacts

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For more information about Washington Dual Credit Programs, visit:

<https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/support-programs/dual-credit-programs>



Course-based Dual Credit

<https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/support-programs/dual-credit-programs/course-based-dual-credit>

