

Advanced Placement vs. Dual Credit vs. International Baccalaureate vs. Dual Enrollment

Knowing and understanding the differences between Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, International Baccalaureate, and Dual Enrollment courses will assist you and your student in planning for high school and college courses.

| | Advanced Placement (AP) | Dual Credit (DC) | International Baccalaureate (IB) | Dual Enrollment (DE) |
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| Description | The AP program allows students to take college-level courses and exams to potentially earn college credit while still in high school. | Dual Credit allows high school students to simultaneously earn high school and college credit by completing courses at their high school. | The International Baccalaureate program allows high school student to take college-level courses and exams to potentially earn an international diploma and college credit while still in high school. | Dual Enrollment allows high school students to simultaneously earn high school and college credit by completing courses at their high school in conjunction with an online platform provided by the University of Texas at Austin. |
| Credit | College credit is awarded based on the score the student receives on the AP exam. Public schools in Texas must award credit for a score of 3 or better, and no school will award credit for a score lower than 3. | Credit is awarded when the student passes the course with a 70% or better. The student will receive high school credit (usually 1.0) and college hours (usually 3 per semester). | College credit is awarded based on the score the students receives on IB coursework and exams. Public schools in Texas must award any student making a 4 or higher rating in all six subject areas a minimum of 24 hours. | The SCUC teacher awards high school credit if the student passes the course with a 70% or better. The faculty of UT Austin awards college credit (usually 3 per semester or year dependent upon discipline) if the student earns a D- or better in the college portion of the course. |
| Teachers/Instructors | AP courses are taught by high school teachers trained by The College Board. | Dual Credit courses are taught by college instructors and/or high school teachers qualified to serve as adjunct professors. | IB courses are taught by high school teachers trained by the International Baccalaureate Organization. | Dual Enrollment courses are taught by highly qualified SCUC teachers in conjunction with faculty from the University of Texas at Austin. |
| 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 hours, but students should check with each school's policy. | IB scores are accepted internationally as well as throughout the nation. However, students should note individual college and university requirements may vary. 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 hours, but students should check with each school's policy. |

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| Location | AP courses are taught at the high school. | Dual credit courses are taught at the high school with the exception of the Alamo Academies program which is taught at one of the Alamo Colleges. See the Alamo Academies Program description for more details. | IB courses are taught at the high school. | Dual Enrollment courses are taught at the student's high school. |
| Rigor | College Level Rigor - AP courses are standardized and controlled by The College Board. | College Level Rigor - Dual Credit course syllabi are submitted and approved by individual departments at Alamo Colleges. | College Level Rigor – IB courses are standardized internationally and controlled by the International Baccalaureate Organization. | College Level Rigor - Dual Enrollment provides SCUC students the opportunity to experience courses exactly as they would receive instruction at the UT Austin campus. UT Austin provides all curriculum and resources for these courses. |
| Cost | \$90 per exam. Scholarships may be available. | Free of charge. | \$90 per exam. Scholarships may be available. | Free of charge. |
| Textbooks | Textbooks are provided by the school district. | Textbooks are provided by the school district. | Textbooks are provided by the school district. | Curriculum and instructional resources are provided by UT Austin. |
| Impact on High School GPA | AP courses are weighted 12 points per semester on the GPA, not the individual course grade. | DC courses are weighted 10 points per semester on the GPA, not the individual course grade. | IB courses are weighted 12 points per semester on the GPA, not the individual course grade. | DE courses are weighted 10 points per semester on the GPA, not the individual course grade. |

| | Advanced Placement (AP) | Dual Credit (DC) | International Baccalaureate (IB) | Dual Enrollment (DE) |
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| Eligibility | AP courses have open enrollment. | Dual Credit enrollment requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be in 9-12 grade • Must have parent/guardian permission • Must qualify through college-readiness testing: • TSI – English 363-390 w/essay of 4 OR an essay of 5+, AND Reading 351-390, Math 350-390 • SAT – Beginning w/the March 2016 test – English 480+ and Math 530+ • ACT – English 19+, Math 19+, and Composite 23+ | IB enrollment requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must submit an application for the program • Must start program in 11th grade and continue in 12th grade. However, Pre-IB classes are highly recommended in 9th and 10th grades for preparation • Must have passed required classes in previous grades and be on track for graduation • Must have passed previous EOC or other state-mandated exams | Dual Enrollment requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be in 9-12 grade • Must have parent/guardian permission • Does not require TSI testing to enroll initially. • Must meet course prerequisites as determined by UT Austin. • Must be passing with a D- or higher on the college grade at the end of semester 1 to continue attempting to earn college credit in semester 2. If student does not have a D- and wishes to continue in the college portion of the course, they can then prove college readiness by taking the TSI. (See DC column for score information.) |
| <p>Research shows that students who participate and are successful in AP, IB, and/or DC courses increase the likelihood of success in college (I.E. maintain a passing average and earn a degree). Advanced academics also earn students additional points in their GPA at the end of each successful semester. Students and parents should note, however, that AP, IB, DE, and DC courses may require an additional time commitment because of the college-level rigor.</p> | | | | |