



Concurrent Enrollment vs Dual Enrollment vs AP/IB

Concurrent Enrollment, Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB) are four popular options in high schools.

Concurrent Enrollment (CE) allows high school students in grades 9-12 the opportunity to take college level courses, either by taking a class offered at the high school or going to a college campus. Concurrent Enrollment classes go on students' college transcripts and credit often transfers if students get a C or higher. Concurrent Enrollment is defined by the State of Colorado as tuition-free college credit for students. Students receive in-class support by district staff for application and registration. Concurrent enrollment requires students to authorize the use of their [COE](#).

Dual Enrollment (DE) also allows high school students in grades 9-12 the opportunity to take college level courses, either by taking a class offered at the high school or going to a college campus on their own. Dual Enrollment classes go on students' college transcripts and credit often transfers if students get a C or higher. Dual Enrollment differs in that the student pays tuition, oftentimes reduced, for the credit. Students independently apply to the partnering college and register themselves.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are offered at the high school, then students take an AP test at the end of the course. Students may get college credit from AP exams if they get a certain score (often 3, 4, or 5) and the college they attend accepts the credits.

International Baccalaureate (IB) courses are offered at the high school, then students take an IB test at the end of the course. Students may get college credit from IB exams if they get a certain score (4, 5, 6, or 7) and the college they attend accepts the credits.

Either way, it's important to consider what's best for you based on how you learn and what your high school supports.

Concurrent Enrollment

- **Students save money in college after high school.** The school district will pay your tuition, less your [COE](#) allocation, for Concurrent Enrollment classes in high school. This means you are saving money toward a college degree after high school.



- **Students save time in college after high school.** Many classes are guaranteed to transfer to public Colorado universities and beyond. Students could graduate from college and start a career earlier.
- **Students can set themselves apart** on resumes and scholarships. Show that it pays to be a committed worker and a good investment for employers and scholarships.
- **Demonstrate your knowledge** over the course of the semester. If you pass with a C or higher, classes can count toward a degree, or often transfer.

Things to keep in mind:

- Some Concurrent Enrollment courses may require you purchase textbooks or other required materials. You should talk to your teacher or high school counselor if this is a barrier for you.
- These courses are transcribed on both your high school and college transcript, which are permanent records.

Dual Enrollment

- **Students may save money in college after high school.** Dual Enrollment courses offered at your high school typically charge a reduced tuition. This means you are saving money toward a college degree after high school.
- **Students save time in college after high school.** Many classes are guaranteed to transfer to public Colorado universities and beyond. Students could graduate from college and start a career earlier.
- **Students can set themselves apart** on resumes and scholarships. Show that it pays to be a committed worker and a good investment for employers and scholarships.
- **Demonstrate your knowledge** over the course of the semester. If you pass with a C or higher, classes can count toward a degree, or often transfer.

Things to keep in mind:

- Some Dual Enrollment courses may require you purchase textbooks or other required materials. You should talk to your teacher or high school counselor if this is a barrier for you.
- These courses are transcribed on both your high school and college transcript, which are permanent records.



AP and IB

- **Save money in college after high school.** AP and IB classes are offered at high school sites. You need to pay for your own test (ranges from \$100-150 per test) but should talk with your high school counselor if the testing fee is a barrier for you.
- **Students save time in college after high school.**
 - Students can often transfer AP credit after high school upon receiving a 3, 4, or 5 on the test at the end of the year.
 - Students can often transfer IB credit after high school upon receiving a 4, 5, 6, or 7 on the test at the end of the year.
- **Demonstrate your knowledge** AP and IB both offer in-depth, year-long experiences to learn the material prior to taking a test at the end of the year.
- **Students can set themselves apart.** Students can set themselves apart on scholarships and resumes by taking classes from a nationally recognized program.

Things to keep in mind:

- Some AP/IB courses may require you to purchase textbooks or other required materials. You should talk to your teacher or high school counselor if this is a barrier for you.
- It's best to check with the college you plan to attend to see what AP or IB exams they accept (if any) and what score has to be achieved to get credit. One school might accept a 3, but other schools may require a 4 or 5.
- Not everyone feels comfortable with a one time test at the end of the class to get college credit.
- Check [here](#) to find out which Colorado colleges accept AP and IB tests and scores.