

ADVANCED PLACEMENT vs. DUAL CREDIT

FACTORS	Advanced Credit (AP)	Dual Credit
Description	AP Coursework is a College Board Program that allows students to take college-level courses and exams in hope that the student may potentially earn college credit or placement while still in high school. AP Coursework also demonstrates rigor. See AP Course Selections	Dual credit allows high school students to enroll in community college classes to simultaneously earn high school and college credit.
Credit	Students seeking credit for AP exam scores should note that individual colleges and universities (not the College Board, the AP program, nor the high school) grant course credit and placement according to their standards.	High school and college credit is awarded when the student passes the course. Students request a community college transcript reflecting their completed courses. Students must maintain a passing cumulative college GPA to remain in the dual credit program.
Instructors	High School Teachers	College Adjunct Professors or trained High School Teachers
College / University Acceptance	Most colleges / universities- AP Credit Policy AP is more widely recognized and accepted than Dual Credit. AP coursework is often considered more rigorous coursework than Dual Credit.	In-state Public Universities, some private and out-of-state publics; Dual Credit coursework demonstrates rigor, but each course is evaluated differently from college to college, and from state to state. Dual Credit coursework is not as easily accepted as AP credit for particular degree requirements.
Location	College Board sanctioned providers (high schools and online schools)	Dual Credit is completed at the high school, community college campus and for some courses, through distance learning online classes.
Eligibility	Open to all students	Must meet state benchmarks to start Dual Credit coursework
Cost	Exam Cost set by College Board	Cost will vary per State. Many states offer free or reduced Dual Coursework to high school students, as well as discounted fees for concurrent community college coursework.
Textbooks	Possible text book fees	Possible text book fees
Impact on GPA	Most high schools add an additional point to the student's grade (weighted)	Dual credit is usually not weighted, but with some state high school graduation programs, it is considered as meeting an 'optional higher measure' for certain state diploma designations.
Impact on College Transcript	Students may choose to take or not take an AP Exam; students may cancel their AP Exam Score if they believe they will not score well. AP Credit does not impact College GPA.	Dual Credit, regardless of student's performance, is permanently recorded on the student's college transcript. All college transcripts must be reported when applying to any college or university. Failing grades cannot be expunged.

A [study released by the College Board](#) in January 2014 found that AP exam-takers were more likely than their demographically and academically matched peers to graduate on time in four years.