

Advanced Placement vs. Dual Credit

Knowing the difference between Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit (DC) courses will assist students in planning their high school curriculum. There are pros and cons to both, and it is essential that students check with the college of their choice for post high school education to determine rules for accepting credit.

Description	AP program allows students to take college-level courses and exams to earn possible college credit/placement while still in high school.	Dual Credit allows high school students to enroll in college classes and simultaneously earn high school and college credit.
Credits	Students pay to take AP exams. Colleges determine what score will receive college credit. Most colleges require at least a 3, but many only give credit for a 4 or 5.	High school and college credit is awarded when the student receives a grade of at least a C. Most Texas public schools honor credits in core classes.
Teachers/Instructors	Taught by high school teachers.	Taught by either college instructors or approved high school teachers.
Location	Taught at the high school.	Taught at high school, NCTC, or online.
Eligibility	Any student may enroll.	Students must pass the TSI entrance test in math, reading, or writing, depending on the course.
Cost	Course is free. Exam is \$92. Colleges decide what score qualifies for college credit.	TSI is \$10/test or \$25 for all three. Course fee is waived for students on free/reduced lunch. Others may pay \$306-\$356 per course tuition. Scholarships are available.
Textbooks	Provided by district.	Possible fee for book.
College Hours	Students do not earn automatic college credit, but have opportunity to request credit based on AP exam scores.	Automatic college credit awarded for a passing grade in course. Earning 30 hours or more may qualify a student for “transfer scholarships” to a university.