

What Options and Courses Are Available?

Each school district determines the options made available to its students to earn college credit.

Students should visit their school counselors to discuss their choices. Remember, these decisions are far too important to leave to chance.

This brochure is provided by the Texas Education Agency, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701-1494, www.tea.state.tx.us and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, P.O. Box 12788, Austin, TX 78711, www.thecb.state.tx.us

Which Choice is Best?

Advanced placement, articulated, and concurrent/dual credit courses can allow students to take challenging college-level courses and shorten the time needed to complete a college degree.

Advantages of **Advanced Placement**:

- ✿ participate in the only collegiate-level program recognized nationally.
- ✿ earn credit in over 12,000 colleges and universities.

Advantages of **Articulated Credit**:

- ✿ earn college credit for courses leading to a specific career.
- ✿ earn credit requiring no additional testing.

Advantages of **Concurrent/Dual Credit**:

- ✿ earn college credit based on performance over an entire semester.
- ✿ earn college credit immediately after successful course completion.

Getting a Head Start on College



Opportunities to Earn College Credit While Still in High School:

- ✿ Advanced Placement Courses
- ✿ Articulated Courses
- ✿ Concurrent/Dual Credit Courses

Questions About Advanced Placement (AP), Articulated, And Concurrent/Dual Credit Courses

	ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)	ARTICULATED CREDIT	CONCURRENT/DUAL CREDIT
Description	1. AP courses enable high school students to participate in college-level courses while still in high school. The 35 AP courses offered currently were created by teams of leading educators nationally.	1. Articulated courses can be either statewide or locally developed and lead to college credit in technical courses. Courses are taught by local high school teachers who have received specialized training.	1. Concurrent or dual credit courses are college-level courses taken by high school students in which they receive college and high school credit <u>at the same time</u> . Courses are taught by college-approved instructors.
Eligibility	2. Each high school develops its own criteria for student participation. Typically, courses are open to students in grades 10-12 who are in good academic standing.	2. Typically, courses are open to students in grades 10-12 who are in good academic standing. Students may have to pass a prerequisite course.	2. Typically, courses are open to students in grades 11-12 who are in good academic standing. Specific eligibility requirements will be provided by the high school counselor.
Grades	3. Grades for AP courses are given by the teacher. Because students are working on a college level, AP courses often are “weighted,” and students may receive additional points toward their GPA.	3. Grades for articulated courses are awarded by the teacher, and students must make a “B” or better in the course to receive college credit.	3. Students are taught and graded in the same way as college students who take the same course. Each high school determines how the grade is weighted toward the students’ GPA.
College Credit	4. In all cases, students must take an AP exam to receive college credit. The credit received is based on scores earned. Over 90% of U.S. colleges and universities as well as colleges in 20 other countries give credit for AP exams.	4. Articulated course credit is awarded by the college after the student has enrolled at the college.	4. The college or university offering the class awards credit immediately after students successfully complete the course. Most courses will transfer to any public Texas college or university when a student earns a “C” or better.
Cost	5. AP courses are free. The cost of the exam is \$80 in 2003. The Texas Education Agency pays \$30 for each examination taken by eligible students and all but \$5 of the cost when taken by eligible students with financial need.	5. Articulated courses are free, but students must enroll in a participating college before the credit will be awarded.	5. Students may have to pay the regular tuition and fees to enroll in the course. However, some community colleges waive tuition and fees for high school students.