

# NACRAO

## NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGIATE REGISTRARS & ADMISSIONS OFFICE

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### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: ENROLLING IN COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL

#### What is the difference between AP and Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment?

- AP is Advanced Placement, a national program of standardized courses taught in high schools by teachers certified by the AP program. AP is part of College Board which also administers the SAT. A passing grade earns high school credit. The national AP Exam is required for college credit. Individual colleges decide which exams are accepted and the score required to award credit.
- Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment is a partnership between the high school and a local college. Courses are taught, usually in the high school, by teachers deemed qualified by the partner college. Some dual credit courses are taught online or by another distance format.

	Advanced Placement or AP	Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment
Instructors are approved by	AP Program	Partner College awarding credit
Course content is based on	Standardized AP Course	College course
College Credit is based on	Score on National AP Exam	Final grade in course
Document required for credit	Score report from college board	Official college transcript
Costs	Cost of exam, score report	Possible tuition, official transcript

- What is Concurrent Enrollment?
- Concurrent Enrollment - a high school student may enroll in college courses which do not award high school credit. Courses may be on the college campus, online or in another distance format. Student generally pays tuition, fees, books, etc. Student must request official college transcript.
- What if I have both AP and Dual Credit for the same course?
- Duplicate credit occurs when a student has credit for the same course more than once. Only one may be counted.
- Does my grade matter?
- High schools may award weighted grades for AP and/or Dual Credit courses. The weighted grade affects the high school GPA but not the college GPA.
- Colleges may award credit but will not assign a grade for AP Exams. They do not affect GPA.
- Grades for Dual Credit are part of your college Grade Point Average (GPA).
- For students at the University of Nebraska, any grades from the NU system (UNK, UNL, UNMC & UNO) remain part of the student's GPA.

## How do I get this credit when I graduate from high school and attend college?

- Take the AP exam and request an official copy of AP Scores sent to the college. Colleges usually post which exams they accept and the score required for college credit.
- Request an official college transcript of any dual credit courses. All college courses attempted must be disclosed. Unless you attend the partner college dual credit becomes transfer credit.
- The college you attend for a degree determines how transfer credit (AP and Dual Credit) is applied to your degree.
- You may receive credit for a specific course (like American History I) or elective credit. This credit may fulfill a specific requirement or simply count in the total number of hours required for the degree. Some majors, like engineering, have very little room for electives because of required courses.

## What are other issues to consider?

- College admission decisions may be affected by rigor of courses you select in high school.
- Credits may count toward the total number of hours attempted for the purposes of scholarships and financial aid. Check specific scholarship requirements. College courses taken in high school may affect the student's college GPA and may require the recipients to maintain GPA standards. See "Does my grade matter?"
- Students who enter college with more than a semester of credit can find themselves adapting to college life while they are in demanding college courses with upper class students.
- Pre-professional students - check requirements of professional schools. Some do not accept college credits taken while in high school. Some require specific grades and will not accept AP credit.
- It is especially important in science and math that you not only complete the prerequisite course, but are prepared to succeed in upper level courses. Content is only one aspect of college courses.

## **IMPORTANT:** Read all available information and ask questions like these before enrolling in a college credit course while in high school.

- What is the deadline to enroll? Withdraw? Pay fees?
- Will the credit apply to programs and majors I am considering?
- How is credit earned? A passing grade? Qualifying score on AP Exam?
- What documents will I need to provide the college I attend?
- What happens if I am not successful?
- How will this affect my high school GPA? My college GPA?
- Is there a fee to add credit by exam to my college transcript?
- What will be the final cost including tuition, exam, college transcripts and/or score reports?

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*It is more important for students to arrive at college prepared to succeed than to arrive with credit for multiple college courses.*

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