

## Comparing College Credit Programs

Note: The Texas Education Agency is in the process of retiring the Advanced Technical Credit (ATC) program. If high school students participated in ATC-eligible courses during the 2018-19 school year, they may petition their colleges for articulated credit through September 2023.

Any requests for validation should be sent to [cte@tea.texas.gov](mailto:cte@tea.texas.gov).

	<b>AP</b>	<b>Dual Credit</b>	<b>CLEP</b>	<b>IB</b>
How to participate	In the fall, high schools indicate intent to participate by completing a College Board participation form and selecting an AP coordinator. Students enroll in AP courses offered by a participating high school.	High school students enroll as an early admission student in a participating institution of higher education to earn college credit. College-level courses may be taken on the college or university campus, or the course may be offered at the high school.	Students can take College Board CLEP examinations in high school or college. If their college uses a proprietary departmental examination, students should contact the appropriate college or university department or testing center after enrolling at the school.	Students enroll in IB high school courses offered by a school participating in the International Baccalaureate Program.
Tuition and fees	AP exam fees are \$92, and fee reduction credits are available. The State of Texas funds a fee subsidy for low-income students. Although colleges may charge a fee to record the credit on a student's transcript, no college tuition is required.	Student is subject to all applicable college tuition and fees. The student's school may pay tuition, or institutions of higher education may waive tuition.	CLEP exam fees are \$80, and local colleges may charge an additional service fee. Colleges and universities may charge for local examinations and may charge a fee to post the student's credit to their transcript.	IB exams are more expensive. There is a \$160 registration fee each year plus a \$110 fee per exam.
Student enrollment status	Enrolled in high school only.	Enrolled in high school and college concurrently.	Usually enrolled in college. May be enrolled in high school and bank CLEP credit for future credit award.	Enrolled in high school only.

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Student selection	<p>Schools may allow open enrollment in AP courses or may be restrictive in admitting students to AP courses. According to the College Board, the program is not designed only for elite or gifted and talented students.</p> <p>Schools are encouraged by The College Board to develop written guidelines for admitting students into AP courses, and participation by minority and economically disadvantaged students is encouraged.</p>	<p>Students are selected based on their interest in early admission to college and their ability to do college-level work. Students must pass all sections of the STAAR EOC and obtain approval from their designated school official. They may be subject to terms of the Texas Success Initiative (see below).</p>	<p>Any student desiring to document attainment of college-level knowledge in academic or technical areas.</p>	<p>Schools may have a GPA or testing requirement for students to enroll in IB courses.</p>
Student GPA and graduation recognition	<p>The school may establish a weighted GPA for AP courses. Scores of 3 or above on AP examinations count as a performance acknowledgment displaying their outstanding achievement on their diploma.</p>	<p>The school may establish a weighted GPA for these courses. Completion of college courses with a grade of 3.0 or higher counts as performance acknowledgment displaying their outstanding achievement on their diploma.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>Although not factored into a student's weighted GPA, usually scoring a 4 or above on IB examinations counts as a performance acknowledgment displaying their outstanding achievement on their diploma.</p>

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Terms for award of college credit	Qualifying exams are offered by participating schools in May. Students must meet minimum or qualifying scores on College Board AP exams that are determined by the college or university awarding credit. Credit is awarded after enrollment in a college or university.	High school credit, as well as college credit, posts to the student's transcript immediately upon successful completion of the course.  Grading criteria should be devised to allow faculty the opportunity to award high school only or high school and college credit depending on student performance.	Depends on college policies for award of credit or advanced placement for CLEP exams and policies for departmental award of credit-by-examination or for experience.	Starting in grades 11 and 12, students interested in IB typically have two options when it comes to earning IB-based college credit: going for an IB diploma, or pursuing an IB certificate in individual subjects.
Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA)	A student is not required to be assessed for basic skills using one of the four approved Texas higher education instruments before enrolling in AP courses.	A student is required to be assessed for basic skills using one of the four approved Texas higher education instruments before enrolling in dual credit courses, unless exempt because of STAAR EOC, ACT, or SAT scores, or intent to enroll in a college certificate program of less than 42 semester credit hours.	Not required for CLEP exams taken in high school. Departmental exams or credit for experience may be subject to a postsecondary institution's basic skills assessment policy.	A student is not required to take the TSIA before enrolling in IB courses.

	AP	Dual Credit	CLEP	IB
Benefit to students	<p>High school students may receive weighted points toward their GPA.</p> <p>Students who qualify can receive college credit for general academic core requirements for two- and four-year college degrees.</p>	<p>High school students may receive weighted points toward their GPA.</p> <p>Students who qualify can receive immediate credit for general academic core requirements and/or technical requirements for two- or four-year college degrees.</p>	<p>No specific courses need to be taken, and there is no specific timeline for examinations.</p>	<p>Students who qualify can receive college credit for general elective and academic core requirements for two- and four-year college degrees.</p>

## References

Advanced Technical Credit (ATC) Program. (n.d.). Guide to the advanced technical credit program: A resource for college registrars and student advisors. Retrieved from [Guide to Advanced Technical Credit Program](#)

GreatSchools.org. (2016, Mar 9). What is International Baccalaureate? Retrieved from National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships. (2017). What is concurrent enrollment. Retrieved from [What is Current Enrolment](#)

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