

Comparison of Dual Credit and Advanced Placement (AP) Opportunities for High School Students



	Dual Credit Courses	Advanced Placement (AP) Courses
Description	Dual credit courses allow students to earn both high school and college credits by meeting the course content requirements for both the standards associated with the high school and college course.	Advanced placement (AP) courses allow students to earn high school credit for the course content requirements. To earn college credit, the student must take and earn a passing score on the associated AP Exam. The number of credit hours earned, and the corresponding college course aligned to the AP course are determined by the college or university the student plans to attend.
Availability	Dual Credit courses are available to all high school students through agreements between individual counties and local colleges or universities.	Policy 2510 requires each high school offer a minimum of four AP courses each year. If a school does not have a qualified AP teacher, virtual courses are available with a qualified AP Teacher.
Modes to provide instruction to students	In-person or online with instruction delivered by college staff, blended with access to a college instructor while in a high school classroom, taught by a qualified high school teacher approved by the college are available options.	AP courses are taught by teachers who have completed an AP summer institute to teach the course(s). AP teachers are required to submit a syllabus and complete AP summer training every 3 years unless more than 80% of their students score a 3 or greater on the AP test for the course.
Cost	Approximately \$75 per 3 credit hour course if offered in a dual credit arrangement.	\$96 for a regular exam; \$144 for a capstone exam. Fee waivers are available for low income families. The cost is reduced to \$5 per exam. Some districts cover the cost of the AP exams for students.
Participation	In 2020-21, 7,873 WV high school students in grades 9 – 12.	In 2020-21, 6,324 WV high school students in grades 9 – 12.
Scheduling and Contracting	Classes are scheduled by the school. Contracts are between the college or university and the school or district.	Classes are scheduled by the school. Contracts are between College Board and the school or district.
Benefits	Students earn college credit in high school from a local college or university. It is possible for students to earn an associates degree prior to graduating from high school. Students are guaranteed college credit upon successful completion of the course.	Students earn college credit in high school with a passing score. These credits may potential to transfer to any college/university in the US. Each college/university sets the score requirements, course substitution, and credit hours awarded.
Limitations	Not all coursework will transfer to some in state or out of state colleges and universities.	Students only receive college credit if they pass the AP Exam with a score of 3 or higher for most in-state institutions and majors. Out of state colleges and universities may require a higher score or offer less than 3 credit hours for passing the AP Exam.