

Pathways to Earn College Credit in High School

Advanced Placement (AP) Program	Early College Start (ECS)	Credit in Escrow (CTE) Articulation	College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
	Dual Credit		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 30 courses and exams from which to choose. • Study a subject in greater depth. • Develop skills and study habits vital to college. • Become eligible for Scholar Awards. • 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student’s AP experience favorably impacts admissions decisions. (2007) • AP students are more likely to graduate from college in four years. (2008) • AP helps students qualify for scholarships—31% of colleges and universities look at AP experience when determining scholarships. (2008) • Allows for time to move into upper-level courses in a field of interest, pursue a double major, or study abroad. • More than 3,600 colleges and universities annually recognize AP Exam scores. • Over 90% of 4-year colleges in the U.S. provide credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying scores after being accepted as a student. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Source: College Board</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to experience college-level coursework at the high school, college campus, or via distance learning • Receive high school credit and establish college transcript with college credit • Academic courses that count toward an associate or bachelor’s degree • Workforce programs that provide job skills • Only includes Austin Community College courses that have been pre-approved for dual credit (Appendix B of SSIG list all dual credit courses) • Earn up to 42 college hours • ECS students retain from fall to spring by a rate that is 4.1% higher than traditional students. (SY07-08, SY 08-09) • Dual credit is a local program and college credit is granted on a college transcript for the semester in which it is earned. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Source: Austin Community College</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College credit awarded to students who have successfully completed specific high school career and technical courses. • Completion of college-level courses provides a way to start a college technical major in high school and continue in a community or technical college. • Career-oriented program integrates applied academics and career education. • Specific sequence of courses is articulated with Austin Community College, Texas State University, and Texas State Technical College (Appendix E of SSIG) • Students are eligible to receive the college credit after acceptance, and completion of one or more credit hour to one of the schools listed above. • Students must receive a grade of “B” or above to be eligible for the credit. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Source: Austin ISD’s Focus on Your Future</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to receive college credit for what student already knows by earning qualifying scores on any of 34 exams. • Independently accumulate credit toward a degree. • Earn credit for knowledge you've acquired through independent study, prior course work, on-the-job training, professional development, cultural pursuits, or internships. • Depending on the college's CLEP policy, a satisfactory score on a CLEP exam can earn from 3 to 12 college credits. • Earn exemption from taking introductory courses, especially in languages. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Source: College Board</i></p>
	Concurrent Enrollment		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to complete college level courses in which a student receives college credit, but not high school credit. • Allows for pursuit of coursework not included in dual credit. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Source: Austin ISD’s SSIG</i></p>		

Pick the Pathways that Meet Your Goals

Advanced Placement (AP) Program

- Do you want to explore a subject area with more depth and a more critical lens than is typical in a traditional high school class?
- Do you want a competitive edge in the college admissions process?

Early College Start (ECS)

- Are you curious about attending class on a college campus to help you solidify your future educational goals?
- Are you interested in establishing a permanent college transcript while still in high school?

Credit in Escrow (CTE)

- Are you involved in a specific sequence of courses in the field of Career and Technical Education?
- Are you wondering how to complete an concentration in applied academics that can be used in the workplace?

College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

- Do you have a solid foundation or expertise in a specific academic area that you can demonstrate on a standardized test?
- Are you willing to study to prepare for the format and content of the test?