

Advanced Placement vs. Dual Credit

	Advanced Placement (AP)	Dual Credit (DC)
Description	Allows students to take college-level courses and exams, with the possibility of earning college credit while still in high school.	Allows high school students to simultaneously earn high school and college credit by completing courses at their high school.
Credit	Students seeking credit through AP exam scores should note that individual colleges and universities (not College Board, the AP Program, or the high school) grant course credit.	High school and college credit is awarded when the student passes the course. Students will have an official college transcript with the affiliated college/university.
Teachers/Instructors	Taught by high school teachers trained by the College Board	Taught by high school teachers with a Master's Degree who serve as adjunct professors
College/University Acceptance	Accepted at most universities throughout the nation based on qualifying scores. Check with individual college/university sites for their AP exam score acceptance policy.	College credits transferable to public Texas universities and many private universities. Check with individual college/university sites for your intended major's academic requirements.
Location	Taught on high school campus	Taught on high school campus
Eligibility	Any student in the appropriate grade may take AP courses	Must meet standards as set on the dual credit early admissions application
Cost	The course itself is free, but the exam has a fee. Sometimes this fee is paid by LISD.	Tuition is paid to the contracted university. (Current cost at SPC ranges from \$210-\$268 per course)
Impact on High School GPA	AP courses carry the highest weight on your GPA	Many of our DC courses are also AP courses. The courses that are not AP are weighted.
Testing	Students take the AP exam at the end of the course to try to earn credit.	Credit is not based on testing, but rather on a passing grade in the course itself.
Potential Number of College Credits	Students do not earn college hours but instead have the opportunity to request evaluated credit based on their AP exam score.	Students have the opportunity to earn 30+ college credit hours in high school.

