



Dual Credit Programs

A comparison of dual credit programs in Washington State

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OVERVIEW OF DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

This table covers basic information about dual credit programs in Washington State. For complete information about costs, as well as how and when students receive credit, reference the program sections or visit the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) website (links available in sources).

Legend

IHE Institute of Higher Education (college or university)
CTC Community and Technical College
FRPL Free and reduced price lunch
BEA Basic Education Allowance

	Standardized exam		Articulation		Course Completion	
	Advanced Placement (AP)	International Baccalaureate (IB)	Cambridge International (CI)	Tech Prep	Running Start	College in the High School (CiHS)
High schools*	302	19	3	373	440	112
Students*	62,627	8,223	1,070	114,842	23,304	22,534
Credits*	196,249	47,521	3,787	219,500	158,534	46,981
Instruction site	High school	High school	High school	High school	IHE or home (online)	High school
Teacher	High school	High school	High school	High school	IHE faculty	High school**
Curriculum creator	College Board	International Baccalaureate	University of Cambridge	High school and IHE	IHE	IHE
Potential for earning college credit	College evaluation of AP exam results	College evaluation of IB exam results	College evaluation of CI exam results	Varies by high school and IHE	Course completion with passing grade	Course completion with passing grade
Eligible grades	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12	11-12	10-12
Potential cost to students	Each exam: \$93	Registration: \$168 Each exam: \$116	Exam fees vary by level	No or minimal registration, transcription fees Varies by consortium, and IHE	Up to 10% of tuition Transportation, books, fees	Varies up to \$65/credit
FRPL subsidy	\$15		\$15		Fees waived for FRPL	Prioritized by location, size, FRPL rate
Cost to school	No or minimal cost to high school	Annual high school fee	Annual program fee	Fee to participate in consortium	Based on BEA 93% to IHE 7% to school district	Possible book costs

*The Number of Students, 9th-12th, who completed at least one course in that specific program. Data pulled on 03-02-17. **Must meet specific credential requirements.

DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM DETAILS

STANDARDIZED EXAM PROGRAMS

Students in Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Cambridge International (CI) classes take standardized exams to receive college credit. Colleges and universities determine the amount of credit awarded and how it will apply toward degree requirements.

Advanced Placement (AP)^a

Instruction site. High school students take courses at their high school.

Curriculum. The College Board approves AP curricula.

College credit. At a minimum, Washington's public baccalaureate and community and technical colleges will grant elective credit to students who score a three or higher on AP exams. Contact colleges and universities for more information.

Eligibility. Students in grades 9-12 can take AP courses. High schools determine student placement.

Potential cost to students. Students pay a \$93 exam fee (school districts may discount fees for eligible FRPL).

Cost to high school. High schools may have to pay for teacher training.

Considerations

For the 2016-17 school year, there was no federal funding for AP test fee waivers for low-income students. See [OSPI memo #M067-16](#)^b for more information.

^a <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/home>

^b <http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/memoranda2016.aspx>

International Baccalaureate (IB)^c

Instruction site. High school students take courses at their high school.

Curriculum. IB establishes the syllabi for higher level and standard level courses.

College credit

IB Exams. There are some exceptions, but—at a minimum—the public baccalaureate and community and technical colleges will grant elective credit to students who score at least a five on higher-level IB exams. Colleges and universities may have maximum credit limits that apply to IB students. Central Washington University and The Evergreen State College grant limited credit for some standard-level IB exams. Contact colleges and universities for more information.

IB Diploma. The public baccalaureate sector recognizes the IB Diploma and awards up to 45 quarter credits (30 semester credits). Students who have an IB Diploma receive credit for three courses, or 15 quarter credits. The public baccalaureates distribute these credits evenly among three general education areas.

- Natural sciences
- Social sciences
- Arts and humanities

Students can receive an additional 30 quarter credits (20 semester credits) by scoring a five or better on higher-level subject exams. IB students are subject to the college's or university's maximum credit limit. Contact colleges and universities for more information.

Eligibility. Students in 9th through 12th grades can take IB courses. High schools determine student placement.

Potential cost to students. Students pay a \$168 registration fee and a \$116 exam fee.

Cost to high school. High schools pay an annual fee to offer the diploma program and may have to pay for teacher training.

Cambridge International (CI)^d

Instruction site. High school students take courses at their high school.

Curriculum. Cambridge International Examinations sets curricula. It is part of Cambridge Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

^c <http://www.ibo.org/about-the-ib/>

^d <http://www.cie.org.uk/>

College credit. Colleges and universities evaluate CI exam scores and determine how much and what kind of credit students will receive.

Eligibility. Students in 9th through 12th can take CI courses. High schools determine student placement.

Potential cost to students. Exam fees vary by level.

Cost to high school. Annual fee

ARTICULATION PROGRAMS

Tech Prep

Instruction site. High school students take courses at their high school or a skills center.

Curriculum. The high school develops Tech Prep curricula for a specific college or university to approve for articulation. Identified as Career and Technical Education (CTE), these classes may integrate academics with technical skills.

College credit. Articulation agreements between the high school and college or university determine how much and what kind of credit students will receive. To receive credit, students must do all of the following:

- Receive a B or better in the course. Grading scales may vary based on locally determined practices.
- Register for Tech Prep credit in the statewide enrollment and reporting system (SERS).
- Complete the college or university's administrative process.

Eligibility. Students in grades 9-12 can take Tech Prep courses. High schools determine student placement.

Potential cost to students. Depending on the local consortium, students may pay a minimal registration fee and transcription fee. Some consortia do not require students to pay a registration or transcription fee.

Cost to high school. School districts may pay a fee to participate in a consortium.

Considerations

Carl D. Perkins Title II (Tech Prep) was eliminated in 2011. This caused Washington State to lose its portion of Tech Prep funding in the amount of \$2 million. Some students enroll in Tech Prep to fulfill a high school CTE requirement without intending to apply for college credit.

COURSE COMPLETION PROGRAMS

Running Start

Instruction site. High school students who are eligible can enroll at a college or university and take classes that usually include adult college students. Courses are taught by college or university faculty.

Curriculum. With the help of Running Start and school counselors or other advisors, high school students select their courses from the college or university's regular course catalog. Courses may simultaneously meet high school graduation requirements and provide college credit towards a degree.

College credit. Students receive credit when they complete the course with a passing grade. In 2015-16, approximately 2,706 students earned associate degrees.

Eligibility. Students in 11th or 12th grade who enroll in a Washington public high school can take Running Start courses. They must meet the same enrollment eligibility and course requirements or prerequisites as other college students.

Potential cost to students. Statute allows colleges and universities to charge up to 10 percent of tuition. Students do not pay tuition if their overall course load is at or below 1.2 full time equivalent (FTE) students. Students pay for their transportation, books, and some fees. For students who receive free and reduced price lunch, colleges must waive mandatory college or student-voted fees. Districts may also use academic acceleration or other grant funds to subsidize student costs.

Cost to high school. The cost to high schools is based on the per student basic education allowance (BEA). For each Running Start student, the college or university receives up to 93 percent of the BEA and at least 7 percent stays with the public school district.

Considerations

The grades students receive in their college courses go on their permanent college transcript record. High school students who participate in these courses should be prepared for rigorous coursework. They also need to understand the consequences of creating a permanent college transcript record. For more information see [RCW 28A.600.300-400](#) and [WAC 392-169](#).

College in the High School

Instruction site. High school students take classes at their high school, and the classes only include high school students.

Curriculum. The curriculum for a College in the High School class is the same as the curriculum for the course offered in the college or university's regular course catalog.

College credit. Students receive college and corresponding high school credit when they successfully complete the course.

Eligibility. Students in grades 10-12 can take College in the High School courses. The high school and college or university define any additional criteria for student eligibility.

Potential cost to students. Program costs vary and range from \$0 to a maximum of \$65 per college credit. State subsidies are available in some areas for grades 11-12. State subsidies are limited, and are allocated based on the following priority ranking system:

1. High schools that are, or students who live, 20 miles or more from a college that offers Running Start.
2. High schools that receive small high school funding.
3. Students who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch (FRPL), and who attend a high school with a higher population of FRPL students.

Qualifying schools can request state-funded subsidies through an OSPI iGrant application process (available in late spring). Some districts cover cost to students.

Cost to high school. The school district retains the full basic education allowance (BEA) for each student. Schools may have to purchase required books.

Considerations

The grades students receive in College in the High School courses go on their permanent college transcript record. High school students who participate in these courses should be prepared for rigorous coursework. They also need to understand the consequences of creating a permanent college transcript record. . For more information see [RCW 28A.600.290](#).

CONSIDERATIONS FOR DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

GPA. Dual credit coursework will be recorded on the high school transcript and counted as part of the student's high school GPA. In addition, Running Start and College in the High School courses will be recorded as a student's college GPA.

Financial aid. Generally, dual-credit students are not eligible for state or federal financial aid while they are still in high school. Colleges and universities include credits earned in dual-credit programs to evaluate satisfactory academic progress (SAP). The U.S. Department of Education and the Washington Student Achievement Council each require institutions of higher education to publish the SAP policies they use to determine eligibility for financial aid.

Student loans. Federal student loan programs allow higher aid awards for second and third year students than for first year students. Dual-credit students may qualify for a higher loan amount when they reach second or third year status after graduating from high school.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students who have not earned a high school diploma are not eligible for federal financial aid such as Pell grants or students loans. This is because financial aid recipients are expected to have completed high school. However, dual-credit coursework may affect students' eligibility for financial aid in the future.

Financial aid offices in every college in the country are required to keep track of every student's academic progress. To do this, they use a measure called Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). The federal SAP requires three types of monitoring for students to remain eligible for student financial aid: degree status, time-to-degree limits, and completion rate of attempted courses. All of these measures are cumulative—they consider all college-level classes a student has attempted, including high school or college dual credit classes.

Degree status. Students must have a G.P.A. of at least a "C" or its equivalent by the end of their second year of enrollment or have academic standing consistent with the institutions' requirements for graduation. The GPA calculation includes all classes. A student must maintain a minimum of a 2.0 or "C" average to remain eligible for financial aid.

Time-to-degree limits. For federal financial aid, students must complete their degree within a maximum period measured by attempted credits equal to 150 percent of the number of credits required for their primary degree program. For Washington state financial aid, the maximum period is 125 percent.

Colleges and universities may have different SAP policies for state and federal aid. Contact the school's financial aid office for more information.

Completion rate of attempted courses. Students should choose courses wisely, because withdrawing or failing may make them ineligible for financial aid. Federal regulations require students to complete (earn) a minimum of 67 percent of the credits they attempt to remain eligible for financial aid.

For example, consider a student who enrolls in six credit hours, and completes only three credit hours. That student has a 50 percent completion rate. The student would not meet SAP and may lose eligibility for financial aid.

SOURCES

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)—Dual-Credit Programs. Retrieved 7/15/2015 from <http://www.k12.wa.us/SecondaryEducation/CareerCollegeReadiness/DualCredit/default.aspx>

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)—Dual-Credit Program Briefs. Retrieved 7/15/2015 from <http://www.k12.wa.us/SecondaryEducation/CareerCollegeReadiness/DualCredit/StandardizedExams.aspx> and <http://www.k12.wa.us/SecondaryEducation/CareerCollegeReadiness/DualCredit/CollegeEnrollment.aspx>

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)—Washington State Report Card—Dual Credit Participation Summary. Retrieved 7/15/2015 from <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/DualCredit.aspx?domain=DualCredit&groupLevel=District&schoolId=1&reportLevel=State&year=2013-14>

Title I, Part G, the federal advanced placement test fee program. Source: Barbara Dittrich, OSPI.