

ADVANCED PLACEMENT & DUAL CREDIT Decision Guide 2019-2020



Elgin
Community
College



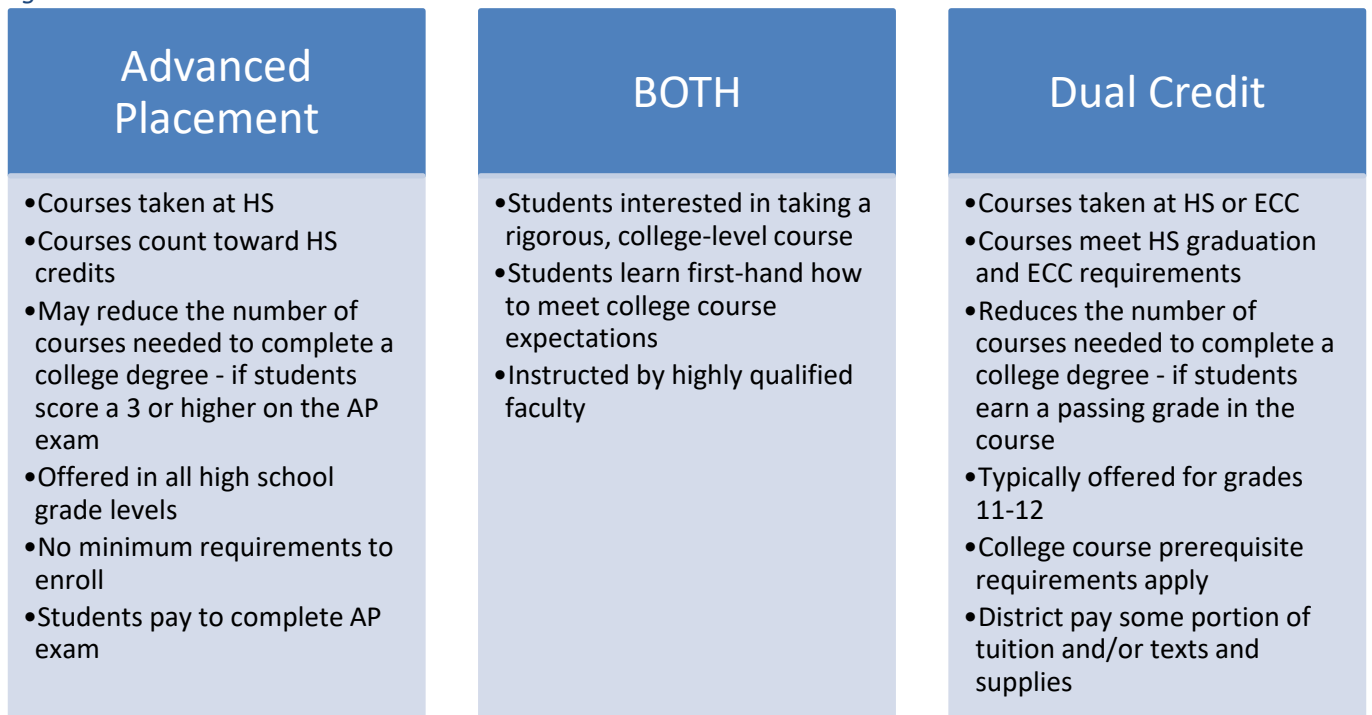
Contents

ABOUT THIS GUIDE	1
ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM	2
How it Works.....	2
Why Take Advanced Placement?.....	2
DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM	6

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

D300 students have several options that will help them prepare, and potentially earn, college credit. Our district offers options for Advanced Placement and Dual Credit. Both of these options can prepare students for success at a postsecondary institution (College or University) and beyond. Both options have benefits and drawbacks. It is important that students and families are informed so they can make the best decision that meets the student’s needs.

Figure 1: Which to Choose?



ADVANCED PLACEMENT & DUAL CREDIT

Decision Guide 2019-2020



Elgin
Community
College



ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) program in District 300 provides students with exposure to college-level coursework, with the opportunity to earn college credit through an end-of-course exam.

How it Works

Instruction: As with all Advanced Placement courses, students in our district enroll in yearlong classes with their high school teacher. At the end of the year, students may decide to take the Advanced Placement Exam in the given course.

Course and Instructor Development: Advanced Placement course curriculum and exams are developed by teams of experts, including higher education faculty. Advanced Placement teachers have access to strong professional development opportunities throughout the year, including workshops to enhance instruction.

Student Eligibility: All students are eligible to enroll in Advanced Placement courses. Students who are willing to take challenging coursework and are academically prepared to pursue college-level studies are best suited for these course.

College Credit – Advanced Placement tests assigned a score using a 1-5 scale. Illinois colleges and universities will award credit for scores of 3 or above. Out-of-state colleges and universities may only award credit for scores of 4 or 5. In addition, all colleges and universities (in Illinois and out of state) determine what type of credit is awarded. For example, a student earning credit for AP Psychology may have the credit considered as meeting the equivalent course requirements while another institution may count the credit as an elective. Since scores and the type of credit awarded is specific to each institution, students are encouraged to research this information. To receive credit, students must request AP score reports be sent from the College Board to their college or university.

Why Take Advanced Placement?

Students opt to take Advanced Placement courses for a variety of reasons. Why might a student decide to take an Advanced Placement course?

- Experience more rigorous coursework – think critically, construct solid arguments, and develop a broader understanding of the specific academic discipline
- Earn college credits to advance studies in college
- Stand out in the college admissions process
- Skip introductory courses in college
- Develop college work habits

What are colleges looking for?

- Colleges and universities want to see that students are making the most of the opportunities by challenging themselves with rigorous coursework.
- Core Advanced Placement courses are generally more desired, but Advanced Placement credits in courses aligned to a desired major are attractive too.
- Highly selective universities (such as Ivy League schools) typically seek students with a range

ADVANCED PLACEMENT & DUAL CREDIT

Decision Guide 2019-2020



Elgin
Community
College



of 5 -12 Advanced Placement courses.

- Keep in mind, colleges and universities are looking for students with a well-rounded resume, so Advanced Placement courses alone do not guarantee entrance into any college or university.

How does an Advanced Placement course compare to a regular high school course?

- Advanced Placement courses are generally about 30% more work than traditional courses.
- Advanced Placement courses require more research, critical thinking and practical application.
- Courses typically dive deeper into topics that interest students.
- Demands a higher-level of time management from the student, as there are daily assignments and long-term assignments in each class. Students need to breakdown the major assignments into reasonable portions to successfully and faithfully complete the task.

Check your School District's website to see what Advanced Placement courses are available to you!

DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM

Through our district's partnership with Elgin Community College, there are several ways for high school students to get a jumpstart on college. Whichever program best fits a student's need, students save time and money, get a taste of college life, and experience a positive transition to college.

Students enrolled in Dual Credit courses earn both high school and college credit by taking college courses. The District and ECC Dual Credit partnership offers three programs, which give students a variety of options!

How it Works

Elgin Community College's Dual Credit programs allow high school students to enroll in college courses. Program options are structured to help students achieve their academic goals:

- **Earn an Associate's degree and high school diploma (full-time two year program):** Students enroll in the Full-Time Dual Credit program starting as a high school junior. Students take all classes during their junior and senior years at the Elgin Community College campus with other college students. Classes include general education subjects that count for both high school and college degree requirements.
- **Earn 30+ college credits (full-time one year program):** Students enroll in the Full-Time Dual Credit program starting as a high school senior. Students take all classes during their senior year at the Elgin Community College campus with other college students. Classes include general education subjects that count for both high school and college degree requirements. Course selection is limited.
- **Complete a few college courses (part-time program):** Students enroll in the Part-Time Dual Credit program during their junior and/or senior year. College course options are available for students at the Elgin Community College campus OR at our district high school locations. Courses

ADVANCED PLACEMENT & DUAL CREDIT

Decision Guide 2019-2020



Elgin
Community
College



include general education or career-technical education options that count for both high school and college degree requirements.

To learn more about the Dual Credit program options, see the following pages in this Guide or visit www.elgin.edu/dualcredit.

Instruction: Dual Credit courses are one-semester in length. Students may enroll in courses at the Elgin Community College campus taught by college faculty. Students also have the option to enroll in Dual Credit courses offered at their high school taught by qualified high school faculty. Typically, students will choose between these options depending on the courses available in the different programs. At the end of the semester, students earn a grade for the course that is documented on their high school and college transcript.

Course and Instructor Development: Dual Credit course curriculum and assessments are developed by Elgin Community College faculty. Qualified high school faculty complete initial training to teach these courses at their buildings. High school faculty also have access to professional development throughout the year to ensure Dual Credit courses are equivalent in rigor and quality as college courses taught at ECC.

Student Eligibility: To eligible for participation in a Dual Credit program, students must be enrolled at a District high school, and:

- Be on track to graduate and classified with their high school class (cohort);
- Meet the established Dual Credit program entrance requirements;
 - Meet the minimum high school grade point average for each course and/or program (see www.elgin.edu/dualcredit);
 - Meet the minimum competencies for each course and/or program (see www.elgin.edu/dualcredit), and
- Meet all deadlines established by ECC and the District as part of the enrollment process.
Deadlines may include, but are not limited to:
 - ECC enrollment application, ECC entrance testing requirements, etc.

Enrollment in the Full-Time Dual Credit program shall not exceed 90 slots overall, each high school has 30 slots. Knowing that schools may have fluctuations in enrollment, no campus shall exceed 35 Full-Time Dual Credit students. The District has not established a total number of slots for the part-time program (courses at ECC or the high school) participation.

College Credit – Dual Credit courses are recorded on an Elgin Community College transcript. When applying to college, students will need to request their official ECC transcript be sent to that institution.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT & DUAL CREDIT

Decision Guide 2019-2020



Elgin
Community
College



Why Take Dual Credit?

Students opt to take Dual Credit courses for a variety of reasons. Why might a student decide to enroll in a Dual Credit program:

- Experience more rigorous coursework
- Earn credits to help get ahead in college
- Save money – the District pays all tuition costs
- Stand out in college admissions
- Skip introductory courses in college
- Develop college work habits
- Different learning environment than high school

What are colleges looking for?

- Colleges and universities want to see that students are making the most of the opportunities presented to them, and they are challenging themselves with rigorous coursework.
- Highly selective universities (such as Ivy League schools) typically will have limits on how many Dual Credit courses/credit hours they will allow students to use for satisfying degree requirements.
- Keep in mind, colleges and universities are also looking for students with a well-rounded resume, so Dual Credit courses alone do not guarantee entrance into any college or university.

How does Dual Credit courses compare to a regular high school course?

- Enrollment in most Dual Credit courses requires students demonstrate college reading and writing skills, and possibly college-level math skills depending on the course prerequisites.
- Dual Credit courses do not require an end-of-the-year exam to earn credit.
- Students who successfully complete Dual Credit courses (grade of C or better) will earn college credit. Therefore, the curriculum and assessment requirements for Dual Credit courses matches the ECC college courses.
- Dual Credit courses require more critical thinking and practical application.
- Courses typically will include a broader range of topics than a high school class, which can include in-depth discussion on specific topics.
- Requires student to be able to self-manage as they must stay on top of daily assignments while also planning for longer-term assignments in each class. Students must be able to independently breakdown major assignments into reasonable parts to successfully complete tasks.