

AP CAPSTONE VS. DUAL ENROLLMENT

A B R I E F C O M P A R I S O N

AP Capstone

- ◆ Increased rigor with the support systems that high school students are familiar with
- ◆ More hands-on learning
- ◆ In order to get college credit, you must pass an exam at the end of the course¹
- ◆ Grading follows district policies.
- ◆ Grades affect only high school GPA
- ◆ Quality of AP courses is consistent throughout the country. The College Board reviews and approves each teacher's syllabus.
- ◆ AP courses are designed for high-achieving students.
- ◆ AP credits are generally more impressive to college admissions boards than dual enrollment courses.

Dual Enrollment

- ◆ Sink or swim mentality
- ◆ More lecture-based
- ◆ If you pass the course, you get the credit²
- ◆ Grading is up to each professor; often, grades are determined by as few as three high-stakes assignments or tests.
- ◆ Grades impact college GPA
- ◆ Quality of courses varies from college to college, and sometimes even from department to department within a college.
- ◆ Anyone can enroll in a dual enrollment course.
- ◆ Because of the lack of consistency from school to school and the fact that anyone can enroll, college admissions boards are generally less impressed by dual enrollment courses.

Additional Facts:

- ◆ Students with Advanced Placement credits average higher GPAs during their first and second years of college than students with dual enrollment credits.³
- ◆ Students with Advanced Placement credits that score twos or better on exams are more likely to graduate college in under four years than students with dual enrollment credits regardless of whether they received college credit for the AP class or not.³



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1. A score of 3 out of 5 is considered passing; however, some schools require a 4 or 5 in order to grant credit. Please visit the website of the university that you plan to apply to in order to determine if AP credit will be accepted.

2. Many universities will not accept dual enrollment credit for courses within students' major or minor area of study.

3. Statistics taken from www.collegeboard.org