

COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAMS WITH EXAMS (AP, IB AND CAMBRIDGE) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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TO: High School Administrators, Counselors, Teachers, College/University Staff and Faculty

FROM: Council of Presidents (COP)
Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW)
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)
Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)

SUBJECT: College Preparatory Programs with Exams- Questions and Answers

College preparatory programs with exams (CPPE) provide students an opportunity to earn college credit through standardized assessment exams. In Washington, the standardized assessment exams include Advanced Placement (AP), Cambridge International (Cambridge) and International Baccalaureate (IB).

Representatives from higher education and K-12 developed this document. The answers reflect how high schools and institutions of higher education in Washington implement and administer various elements of college preparatory programs with exams.

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GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What are College Preparatory Programs with Exams?

College preparatory programs with exams, in Washington, are defined as high school courses for which students may earn college credit through recognized standardized exams, such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Cambridge International exams.

2. Is CPPE considered dual credit?

Yes. Advanced Placement, Cambridge, and International Baccalaureate programs enable students to take high school courses, taught by high school teachers, at the high school. Upon completion of the course, students may take a standardized exam. Depending on the exam score, they may earn college credit. Colleges determine the type and amount of credit earned based on the exam and the exam score.

3. What is the difference between College Preparatory Programs with Exams and Concurrent Enrollment Programs?

College preparatory programs with exams, in Washington, include AP, Cambridge and IB. As noted in Question 1, these programs enable students to take high school courses, which upon completion of the course, a student may choose to take a standardized exam. Depending on the exam score, they may earn college credit.

Concurrent enrollment programs, in Washington, include Running Start, College in the High School and Career Technical Education (CTE) Dual Credit. Concurrent enrollment programs enable students to take college courses from an institution of higher education while enrolled in high school. Credit may be earned for college credit and recorded on a high school transcript as high school credit depending on the concurrent enrollment program. For CTE Dual Credit, earned college credit depends on articulation agreement between an institution of higher education or consortium of institutions of higher education and a district or school.

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) created a document that describes each dual credit program offered in Washington, which can be found on WSAC's dual credit website at <https://wsac.wa.gov/college-credit-high-school>.

4. Is more credit better?

In general no, the more important factors are fit and mindful credit accumulation. Student's high school curriculum choices should be determined by their personal, career, and educational goals and interests, with an emphasis on fit, including academic readiness and preparation. Intentional enrollment in all dual credit programs is encouraged within the context of fit, readiness and relevancy to long term educational and career goals so that students maximize their opportunities and avoid unintentionally eliminating college and career pathways.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY AND SUPPORT

5. Are their requirements for a student to participate in a CPPE program?

Yes. Students enrolled in grades 9-12 are eligible to participate in Advanced Placement. Students in grades 11-12 are eligible to participate in International Baccalaureate and Cambridge International. High schools determine student placement in AP, Cambridge and IB courses and programs.

6. Can students participate in more than one CPPE program during a high school trimester or semester?

Yes. Students can participate in more than one CPPE program if offered by a high school. High schools and districts determine what programs to offer and are responsible for student placement in courses and programs.

7. What is the responsibility of the public-school district, charter school or tribal compact school to inform potential CPPE students about these program?

Per RCW [28A.230.090](#), a public school district, charter school or tribal compact school must provide general information about dual credit opportunities to all students in grades 9 through 12 and to the parents and guardians of those students.

8. What determines the courses a student can take?

Each high school makes its own determination on what CPPE courses/programs to offer.

TRANSCRIPT AND TRANSFERABILITY

9. Are all courses taken as part of CPPE programs shown on the high school transcript?

Yes. College preparatory programs with exam courses need to be recorded on the public high school transcript. The standardized transcript must contain the appropriate course designation for each completed course within a program. See OSPI's Transcript

FAQ for additional guidance:

https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/transcripts/pubdocs/high_school_transcript_faq.pdf

10. What are the appropriate course designator codes to use for each type of dual credit course?

High School Transcript Course Designators are below:|

A=Advanced Placement	I= Intl. Baccalaureate	N= National Comp Test	T = CTE Dual Credit (Tech Prep)
B= CADR	K= Cambridge Intl	Q = Quantitative	Z = Non-Instructional
C= College in the HS	L= Local Comp Test	R= Running Start	
H= Honors Option		S = Science Lab	

11. How do students send CPPE exam scores to institutions of higher education?

When a student completes an assessment from a college preparatory program with exam the national or international organization offering the program creates an official transcript. The transcript is an official copy of a student's assessment results. The student then requests the organization to send the transcript directly to an institution of higher education. A fee may be charged by the organization for the transcript.

An institution of higher education cannot review and potentially award credit for an exam unless the institution receives an official transcript from the national or international organization.

For Advanced Placement the official transcript is referred to as the AP Score Reports and is issued by The College Board. The AP Score Report is sent directly to colleges and universities as identified by the student to The College Board.

For International Baccalaureate, the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) provides an official transcript of grades. The transcript is sent directly to colleges and universities as identified by the student to IBO.

For Cambridge, Cambridge International provides a results sheet. A student must request that Cambridge send the results sheet directly to a college or university identified by the student.

12. What does my score mean at an institution of higher education?

Credit awarded for exam scores differs by institution of higher education. The type and amount of credit awarded is based on the learning outcomes of the course or program and the exam score and is determined by faculty in the relevant discipline.

In Washington, law requires all public higher education institutions to award as much possible college credit as is appropriate for the following exam scores:

- 3 or higher on AP exams
- 4 or higher on standard-level and higher-level IB exams
- E(e) or higher on A- and AS-Level Cambridge International exams

13. How does a student know what credit will be awarded for an exam score?

All public higher education institutions of higher education and many private institutions post credit awarding policies on their college or university websites.

Washington public four-year college and universities provide information about course equivalencies awarded for AP, IB and Cambridge standardized exam scores.

College/University	AP/IB/Cambridge Exam Score Course Equivalencies
Central Washington University	https://www.cwu.edu/admissions/college-credits-earned
Eastern Washington University	https://catalog.ewu.edu/transfer-students/
The Evergreen State College	https://www.evergreen.edu/admissions/priorlearningassessment
University of Washington Bothell	https://www.uwb.edu/admissions/faq/firstyear
University of Washington Seattle	https://admit.washington.edu/apply/freshman/
University of Washington Tacoma	https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/admissions/prospective-freshman-admissions
Washington State University	https://admission.wsu.edu/apply/ap-ib-and-running-start/
Western Washington University	https://admissions.wvu.edu/apply/ap-ib-cic

The State Board of Community and Technical Colleges provides information about course equivalencies awarded for each AP and IB exam score that are recognized by all community and technical colleges in Washington. Colleges may award additional credits based on local policies, when appropriate.

- AP chart: <https://www.sbctc.edu/resources/documents/colleges-staff/commissions-councils/atc/2019-spring-atc-ap-scores-crosswalk.pdf>
- IB chart: <https://www.sbctc.edu/resources/documents/colleges-staff/programs-services/transfer/ib-test-scores-course-equivalencies.pdf>

In addition, the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) Dual Credit Look-Up Tool also posts college credit awarded for college preparatory programs with exams – https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/rsg_cred_wiz/form

14. Are college preparatory programs transcribed by a college or university?

No. The national or international organization offering the program is responsible for transcribing the assessment scores.

An institution of higher education cannot review and potentially award credit for an exam unless the institution receives an official transcript from the national or international organization.

15. Is credit earned through CPPE programs transfer credit?

Yes. Credit earned from an entity or institution different than the college or university a student attends is defined as transfer credit. This includes AP, IB and Cambridge. Policies associated with these programs will often be found in the transfer credit policies of an institution.

16. If a student earns college credit from two different dual credit programs, and those credits and/or exam scores transfer with the same equivalencies to a college, can the student earn both forms of college credit?

No. A student will only earn college credit for the same college courses with substantially the same content once. EX: If a student earns a score on the AP PSYCH exam equivalent to PSYCH 101, and also earns college credit for a College in the High School PSYCH 101, the student cannot receive college credit twice for PSYCH 101.

17. Do in state and out-of-state colleges and universities award credit for college preparatory programs with exams?

Maybe. An institution of higher education, regardless of where the institution is located, determines the type and amount of college credit, if any. The type and amount of credit is based on the type of assessment (i.e. IB standard level and higher level, Cambridge A and AS Level) and the score on the assessment. There are some colleges and universities that do not accept any credit from college preparatory programs with exams. Students are encouraged to reach out to potential institutions of higher education to learn about institutional and degree major policies.

18. Are there credit limits applied to college preparatory programs with exam credits?

Yes. Most institutions of higher education have credit limit policies that apply to all students, whether they are matriculated or not. Students should connect with the institutions of higher education to identify institutional credit awarding policies.

ADMISSIONS

19. Do institutions of higher education have a preference for particular dual credit programs?

Yes. While, Washington’s public, four-year colleges and universities **do not give** preference in the admissions process to any one type of dual credit and recognize the value of various college preparatory experiences for students, there are some colleges and universities that prefer certain college preparatory programs with exams and concurrent enrollment programs over others.

20. Is there value of participating in college preparatory programs with exams without taking an assessment?

Yes. Dual credit is an opportunity for growth and exploration. Dual credit programs provide students with an introduction to college including coursework, study habits, college culture, course content and expectations. College requires preparation, commitment and organization. For some students this is a different experience compared to prior educational experiences. Dual credit programs offer a bridge between K-12 and higher education that gives students a strong start in their first year of college. Participating in dual credit also provides students with an opportunity to explore their educational and career options.

The primary value is exposure, experience and preparation for college. Advanced courses are a way students can explore the intersection of their academic and personal interests and begin to prepare for life after high school and develop a sense of self.

Finally, students may earn college credit in addition to high school credit by earning an appropriate grade on an exam for Advanced Placement, Cambridge International and/or International Baccalaureate. Washington’s public four-year college and universities believe the experience of participating in a dual credit course provides value in the experience, preparation and exploration. Students will gain valuable knowledge, skills and experience even if they choose not to take the exam.

21. What if I do not complete the assessment for a college preparatory program with exam?

The assessment is not required for any college preparatory program with exam. Washington's public four-year college and universities believe the experience of participating in a dual credit course provides value in the experience, preparation and exploration. Students will gain valuable knowledge, skills and experience even if they choose not to take the exam.

The assessment and an eligible score as determined by an institution of higher education is required, however, to be eligible for college credit.

22. Is more credit better?

In general no, the more important factors are fit and mindful credit accumulation. Student's high school curriculum choices should be determined by their personal, career, and educational goals and interests, with an emphasis on fit, including academic readiness and preparation. Intentional enrollment in all dual credit programs is encouraged within the context of fit, readiness and relevancy to long term educational and career goals so that students maximize their opportunities and avoid unintentionally eliminating college and career pathways.

23. How will my scores/classes affect my enrollment decision?

The decision to enroll in a college or university is determined by the student. Students are encouraged to be aware of institutional credit awarding policies and how they align with a student's personal educational goals, including how the credit may impact degree major requirements, prerequisites and other program or institution specific areas.

OFFERING COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAMS WITH EXAMS

24. If my district is interested in offering CPPE programs where can I get more information?

Each college preparatory program with exam is offered by a different national or international organization.

Advanced Placement is open to any high school. Each fall, schools register with The College Board for participation. For more information go to:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/start-grow-ap/start-ap/how-your-school-can-offer-ap>

To offer the Cambridge International program schools must complete a registration process with Cambridge Assessment International Education. For more information go to: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/why-choose-us/join-cambridge/>

To offer the International Baccalaureate program, schools must complete an authorization process through the International Baccalaureate Organization. For more information go to: <https://www.ibo.org/become-an-ib-school/how-to-become-an-ib-school/>

25. What qualifications must a high school teacher meet to be eligible to teach a College Preparatory Program with Exams?

The national and international organizations offering AP, Cambridge and IB require that teachers meet the qualifications by the local authority to teach in the school in the subject or grades they work with. In Washington this would be the state.

For IB, the International Baccalaureate Organization requires teachers to have taken a minimum of Category 1 training in the subject they teach or their position (e.g. Head of School or coordinator) as offered by the IBO professional development program. For more information go to: <https://www.ibo.org/professional-development/workshop-categories-and-types/>

For Cambridge, no training is required but professional development focused on Cambridge is highly encouraged. For more information go to: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/support-and-training-for-schools/teaching-cambridge-at-your-school/>

For AP, all teachers must submit a syllabus to The College Board for approval. No training is required but professional development focused on AP is highly encouraged. For more information go to: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/professional-development>

FEES AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

26. What costs are associated with CPPE programs for students?

The student costs associated with college preparatory programs with exams differ by each program.

- Advanced placement students do not pay any costs associated with taking an AP class. If a student chooses to take an AP exam the cost per exam is \$94.
- Cambridge International students are required to pay an exam fee which may vary by level.
- International Baccalaureate students pay a \$172 registration fee and a \$119 exam fee.

Qualifying low-income students may pay no [fees](#) for AP, Cambridge and IB. In addition, for all dual credit programs, schools annually receive Academic Acceleration Incentive Program funds based on the previous year's dual credit course enrollment. These funds can be used to help students with the costs associated with any dual credit program.

27. What costs are associated with CPPE programs for districts and schools?

The school or districts costs associated with college preparatory programs with exams differ by each program.

- Schools and/or districts offering AP may be required to pay for teacher training.
- Schools and/or districts offering Cambridge are required to pay an annual fee.
- Schools and/or districts offering IB pay an annual fee to offer the diploma program and may be required to pay for teacher training.

LEGISLATION

28. Is there foundational legislation for college preparatory programs with exams?

Yes. Passage of Senate Bill [5410](#) in the 2019 legislation session required all public higher education institutions to award as much possible college credit as is appropriate for the following exam scores:

- 3 or higher on AP exams
- 4 or higher on standard-level and higher-level IB exams
- E(e) or higher on A- and AS-Level Cambridge International exams.

The law also requires the following for all public higher education institutions in Washington.

- Respond to students who request in writing an evidence-based reason if general education or course equivalent credit is not awarded for the exam scores identified above. Post credit awarding policies to their institutional websites.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

29. Can a student use either their course grade OR exam score towards satisfying their graduation pathway requirement?

Yes. For AP/CI/IB dual credit courses, students must earn at least a 1.0 high school credit with a grade of C+ or higher each term to qualify for using the course as a Graduation Pathway. Students do not need to take or pass the corresponding AP/CI/IB exam to use

the course-based dual credit graduation pathway. However, students may also use their AP/CI/IB exam scores to meet the exam-based dual credit graduation pathway.

The list of eligible AP/CI/IB courses for this graduation pathway is the same as the list for dual credit exams. Students may use a combination of credit from different AP/CI/IB courses to meet the total 1.0 credit requirement and/or C+ grade requirement as long as the courses are on the list. Below is the list of accepted dual credit courses/exams. The required exam score is listed next to the organization name.

Advanced Placement Courses/Exams (exam score 3 or higher)

- English Language Arts: English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, US History, World History, US Government and Politics, or Comparative Government and Politics
- Mathematics: Statistics, Computer Science, Computer Science Principles, or Calculus

Cambridge International Courses/Exams* ("E" or better on one of the approved Advanced or Advanced Subsidiary (A/AS) CI exams)

- English Language Arts: English Language, Literature in English, English General Paper, Psychology, History, Sociology, Global Perspective and Research, or Law
- Mathematics: Mathematics or Further Mathematics

International Baccalaureate Courses/Exams (4 or higher on one of the approved IB exams)

- English Language Arts: Language A: Literature, Language A: Language and Literature, Business and Management, Economics, Geography, History, Information Technology in a Global Society, Philosophy, Psychology, or Social and Cultural Anthropology
- Mathematics: any IB math course

CONTACTS

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