

Differences Between Dual Credit and AP

Dual Credit English 3	AP Language & Composition
<p>Attendance: TCC has attendance requirements of 90%, much like BHS. However, there is no way to make up hours in a TCC class. So, taking a Dual Credit course means showing up for class, or potentially losing credit.</p>	<p>Attendance: Uses the standard BISD policy for attendance and make up hours.</p>
<p>Grading: Dual Credit Courses generally have fewer total grades in a semester, thus each grade has a higher weight. While there may be some weight given to daily grades (this is up to the Instructor's discretion), most of the weight (likely 80% or more) will be given to just a few essays. Further, each individual instructor gets to decide how each course and assignments within the course is graded. While they will outline this for you in the syllabus, you will not really know until you get to the class. For example, in Comp I, grades may be weighted in the following way: 20% - Memoir, 20% - Evaluation, 20% - Letter of Advocacy, 10% - Annotated Bibliography, 20% - Research Argument, 10% Daily Work. That means 90% of their grade was based on 5 individual assignments.</p>	<p>Grading: AP courses are required to have at least 9 test grades and 24 daily grades in a semester. The weight will be 60% major grades and 40% daily grades.</p>
<p>Work Ethic: Due to the difference in grading, students who get behind easily, do not like to work ahead, or miss assignments will be more heavily penalized for this in Dual Credit (because there are fewer total grades).</p>	<p>Work Ethic: The work itself is more rigorous in AP, but because much of the work in AP, particularly major grades, is self-contained in the classroom (Multiple Choice Tests, Timed Writings), it is harder for there to be major grade penalties for late assignments in AP Language than in Dual Credit.</p>
<p>Scope of the Class: What is taught in the classes are similar in one sense: a focus on writing and reading will happen in both classes, though spread out differently. Dual Comp courses will focus primarily on writing, though there will still be reading, and the Lit courses shift the focus into reading more. There is more genre diversity in writing in the comp courses</p>	<p>Scope of the Class: What is taught in the classes are similar in one sense: a focus on writing and reading will happen in both classes, though spread out differently. AP classes will simultaneously throughout the year be focused on reading and writing. The focus is overwhelmingly on argument (in Lang) and analytical writing.</p>
<p>Way Credit is Earned: Dual Credit costs more money to take, however, many students</p>	<p>Way Credit is Earned: While AP courses prepare students better for the rigorous level of thinking in college, some students are trying to earn college credit at a manageable</p>

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<p>find it easier to earn credit by passing a course, rather than based on one test. However, this credit does impact your GPA. Meaning, if you earn a C in the class, you earn a C on your college transcripts. College GPAs work very differently than how we calculate GPA at BHS, and it is important for students to understand this. Most colleges operate on a 4-point scale, rather than a 100-point scale. The big reason this makes a difference is on a 4-point scale, once you have earned a grade lower than an A, you can never have a 4.0. On a 100-point scale, with weights, you can have Bs, with an A average. For students who want to go into the medical field, for example, or become a lawyer, where grades in undergrad make a big difference in acceptance into post-graduate schools, those beginning grades are important to score well in, and once they are on your transcript they are there forever.</p>	<p>price. If they earn the credit in the AP class, then that is a more cost-effective route (\$15 per test, \$5 if on free & reduced lunch). The credit is more difficult to earn, and comes down to test performance. If earning college credit is the most important thing, they need to consider what kind of test taker they are. There isn't really anything equivalent to AP Language before it, but if they have taken AP tests they have some idea. However, AP English courses are not content based – they are skill based, which means the focus of the course and preparation for the test is repeated practice, not memorization. Thus, doing well on WHAP, for example, does not necessarily mean doing well in AP English. If they earn a qualifying score (3 or higher), schools in Texas will accept the credit, and it is pretty widely accepted among colleges nationally, and even some schools internationally (they can and should check College Board's website if planning on attending an international university. And if they do, they should definitely consider AP over Dual). Further, the credit they earn is GPA neutral. That means it does not help or hurt their college GPA. This can be a positive or a negative. On the one hand, if you pass the test, but were earning a C in the class, you get the credit, and can still go on to earn a 4.0. On the other hand, you could get a 5, and you are still getting the same credit as those earning a 3.</p>
<p>Type of Writing/Type of Student: Process papers are held to a higher standard, though the prompts are often wider in scope, and there is more time to do them. It is because of the time and process that makes the expectation of them a higher quality. A timed writing that earns an A is not necessarily earning an A in Dual Credit. Essays are graded based on Instructor generated rubric. Students are more successful in Dual Credit when they like taking time. They like thinking about writing, and they are good at working ahead and not procrastinating. Both are great skills to hone, but students should go in prepared to hone those specific writing skills.</p>	<p>Type of Writing/Type of Student: Timed Writings are more difficult in some ways. They require quick thinking at a high level. Some students struggle incredibly to think this way, and it makes AP English very difficult and frustrating for them. Some students love it. Oddly, students that are natural procrastinators, with a skill at winging it, often find more success in the Timed Writings than in Process Writing. Students are more successful in AP writing when they are quick on their feet. Timed Writings are essentially first drafts, and they are scored based on the College Board Rubric. Both are great skills to hone, but students should go in prepared to hone those specific writing skills.</p>

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Exposure to College Level Skills: In Comp I, time is spent working on the skill of being a college student. That includes any of the following: formatting essays/MLA, using research databases, communicating with professors, navigating systems (like Canvas). This is particularly helpful to students who do not have support at home for this sort of navigation – parents didn't go to college, siblings didn't, etc. Some students have an educational privilege which makes navigating these systems seem more natural than other students. Students that don't have that may benefit from Dual Credit, particularly Comp I.

Exposure to College Level Skills: Both courses help to prepare students for different aspects of college, and where students need exposure to college should be considered. In AP, the level of thinking that is required is more rigorous and reflective of the sort of knowledge and thinking required in college classes. Students who take AP and earn the credit will miss this introductory how-to college skills that Freshman level comp courses often have.