



**Ensuring College Readiness and Applicability of Credits Earned During High School**  
Division of Student Success & Academic Affairs  
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Many high school students enroll in Dual and Concurrent Enrollment courses with the intention of getting a head start on college. The credits earned through Dual/Concurrent Enrollment, and through Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs, can help students finish their degrees sooner and save money by taking fewer courses in college. But not all Dual/Concurrent Enrollment courses “count” in the same way or are guaranteed to transfer between institutions. Dual/Concurrent Enrollment courses taken for college credit should be chosen carefully, with consideration of the following:

- Courses will be included on the student’s official college transcript. The grade the student earns in the course will be factored into the student’s official college GPA. If the student gets a low grade or fails the course, it will lower the overall GPA and could put the student on academic probation at the college or university. The grade could also affect the student’s chances of qualifying for some scholarships that require a certain college GPA.
- To maximize course applicability and future transferability, students are advised to take dual/concurrent enrollment courses that are part of the General Transfer Pathways (GT Pathways) curriculum. Courses that are part of GT Pathways apply to the general education requirements at all public institutions in Colorado and are guaranteed to transfer between institutions. A list of all GT Pathways courses can be found at <https://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/gtPathways/Curriculum/Courses.aspx>.
- Dual/concurrent enrollment courses that are not part of GT Pathways are guaranteed to apply to a program of study only at the institution that teaches/offers the course. Whereas the course might be transferable to another institution, it is not guaranteed (see the examples below).
- If students take too many dual/concurrent enrollment courses that don’t apply to their eventual program of study, it could delay their college graduation and exhaust their Colorado Opportunity Fund eligibility (and potential other financial aid) before completing their degree.

**The difference between *transfer of credit* and *application of credit***

Whereas most course credits will be accepted in transfer, the credits won’t necessarily apply to degree requirements at the receiving institution.

Example A: A high school student who knows she’s going to college takes a college algebra Concurrent Enrollment course hoping to knock out the college’s math requirement. When she gets to college she’s told that for her major in criminal justice she should have instead taken Intro to Statistics. While her credits for college algebra might apply toward



general education requirements or count as elective credit, she has to “retake college math” because she needs Intro to Statistics to meet the degree requirements for her major. Now it will take her longer to complete her degree when she was hoping to reduce time to completion through Concurrent Enrollment.

**Example B:** A high school student who loves history takes AP History and IB History (and passes the exams with high enough scores to earn college credit), and she also takes a Concurrent Enrollment history course. She now has 9 credits of college-level history. BUT, only 3 of those credits are guaranteed to apply to degree requirements, because GT Pathways (the general education core of most AA/AS/BA/BS degrees) only requires 3 credits of history. The remaining 6 might be applied as elective credit, but it’s not guaranteed. That is, the student may have thought she was getting 9 credits closer to attaining a college degree but only 3 of those credits are guaranteed to apply.

**Example C:** A student completes Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses through Concurrent Enrollment. However, the student decides to pursue an academic degree (AA/AS/BA/BS) after high school graduation. Not very many CTE courses will apply to academic degrees, and as a result, the courses will not assist the student in graduating sooner.

### **Taking the right math course**

As noted in the example above, different college majors have different math requirements. Some majors require college algebra or calculus, some require statistics, and some require a different kind of math course designed specifically for programs in the arts and humanities.

At the same time, depending on the major, a higher score may be required on the new SAT or another test to signal that a student is “college-ready” in math. For example, while a score of 500 or more on the new SAT indicates readiness for “Quantitative Reasoning” or “Mathematics for the Liberal Arts” (the math courses required in many arts and humanities degrees), a score higher than 500 is needed to indicate readiness for the math required in most STEM, business, and health sciences degrees, and these cut scores vary by institution.

College math courses (also referred to as “math pathways”) usually vary by the type of degree program, as follows:

- **Career and Technical Education (CTE):** The college-level mathematics course is often contextualized in the vocation, such as “Technical Mathematics”. (These are usually certificates, A.A.S. degrees, and B.A.S. degrees.) SAT score requirement: 500 or higher.
- **Arts & Humanities:** The college-level mathematics course is usually called something like “Math for the Liberal Arts” or “Quantitative Reasoning” for degrees in fields like art, English, history and philosophy. (These are usually B.A. and B.S. degrees.) SAT score requirement: 500 or higher.
- **Social & Behavioral Sciences:** The college-level mathematics course is usually “Introduction to Statistics” for degrees in the social and behavioral sciences, such as anthropology, criminal justice, psychology, and sociology. (These are usually B.A. and B.S. degrees.) SAT score requirement: 500-550, depending on the selectivity level of the institution.
- **STEM, Business, & Health Sciences:** The college-level mathematics course is usually “Calculus I” for degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); many business degrees; and certain health science degrees like audiology, nursing, and public health. (These are usually B.A. and B.S. degrees.) SAT score requirement: 550-610 for College Algebra and Pre-Calculus; 640-760 for Calculus I – both ranges depending on the selectivity level of the institution.



## **Other college-ready and course transfer resources on CDHE's website**

Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways General Education:

<http://higherred.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/gtPathways/curriculum.html>

- GT Pathways courses, in which the student earns a C- or higher, will always transfer and apply to GT Pathways (General Education) requirements in every Liberal Arts & Sciences associate and bachelor's degree at every public Colorado institution, except for some bachelor's degrees (like engineering, computer science and nursing) listed [here](#). Students should always seek advising from the appropriate advisor at the college or university they plan to attend to ensure they are selecting the appropriate coursework for the chosen degree and to ensure it will apply to those degree requirements.

Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements (aka Degrees with Designation)

<http://higherred.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/TransferDegrees.html>

- These agreements allow students to graduate from a community college with a 60-credit Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree, enroll with junior status at a university and complete most bachelor's degree in no more than an additional 60 credits (for a total of 120 credits). Students must meet all admission and application requirements at the receiving four-year institution. Admission to a receiving institution does not guarantee enrollment into a specific degree program. Some programs at receiving institutions have controlled entry due either to space limitations or academic requirements.

CCHE Graduation Guidelines/Admissions Policy

<https://higherred.colorado.gov/Publications/Policies/Current/i-partf-fall-2019.pdf>

CCHE Developmental Education Policy

<https://higherred.colorado.gov/Publications/Policies/Current/i-parte.pdf>

Getting College Credit for AP, IB and Challenge Exams

<http://higherred.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/GetCredit.html>

Concurrent Enrollment

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/concurrentenrollment>

<http://higherred.colorado.gov/academics/concurrent/>

