



COLLEGE CREDIT 101

An overview of college credit options available to high school students in the Desert/Inland Empire Region

COLLEGE CREDIT 101: AN OVERVIEW OF THE DIFFERENT PROCESSES AVAILABLE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO COMPLETE COLLEGE COURSEWORK.

According to California Education Codes for School Districts and Community Colleges, there is currently no legal distinction between the terms “Dual” or “Concurrent” Enrollment. These terms are used interchangeably throughout the state to define processes by which high school students enroll in college courses and receive college credit upon successful completion. In law, such students are referred to as “special part-time and special full-time students (Ed Code 76001). There are distinctions between the requirements to offer college courses on the high school site vs. allowing high school students to enroll in college courses.

This document was developed as part of the CTE Pathways Project for the Desert/Inland Empire Region to help differentiate between the different processes. Each community college has local control which means that the processes and their requirements can often be interpreted and implemented differently. Following is a summary of the predominant college credit options available to high school students in the Desert/Inland Empire:

○ **CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT**

- College courses taken by high school students ***outside of the traditional school day***
- Courses are typically offered on community college campus
- Courses are taught by community college faculty
- They are open to the public

○ **DUAL ENROLLMENT**

- College courses taken by high school students
- Courses typically offered on the high school campus ***during traditional school day***
- Courses are typically taught by high school faculty who meet community college minimum qualifications
- These courses serve primarily HS students

○ **HIGH SCHOOL ARTICULATION**

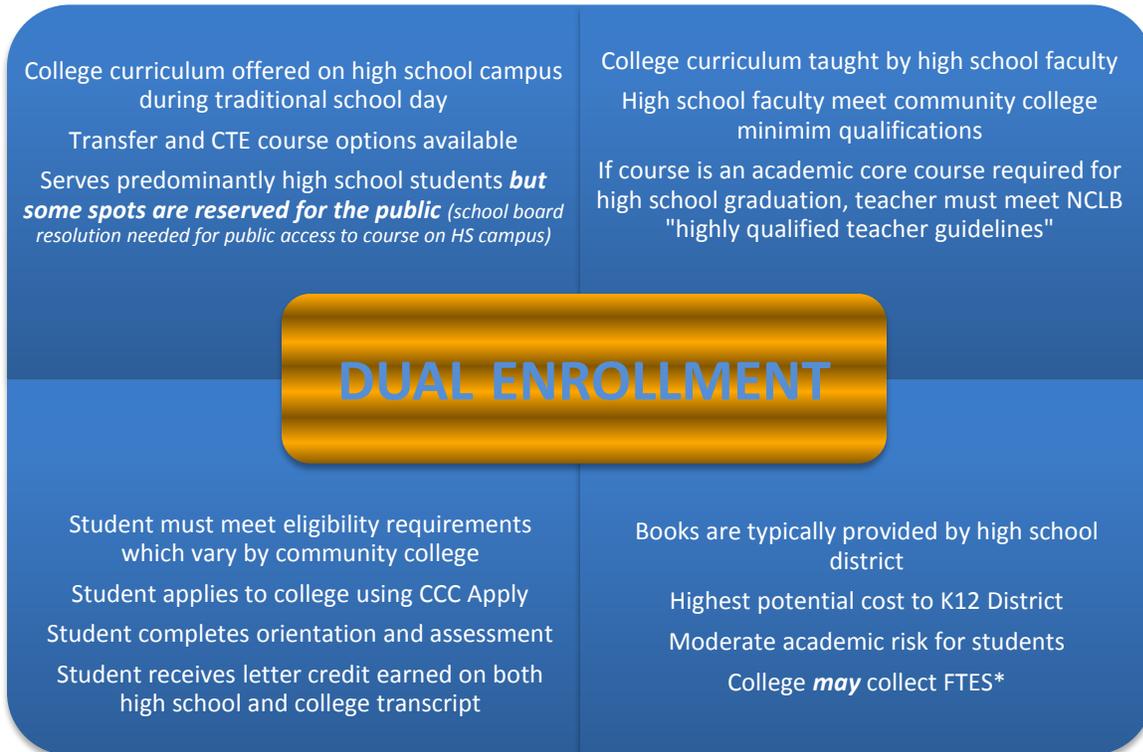
- High school courses taken by high school students ***during the traditional school day***
- Courses are aligned with a community college course in the same discipline
- Courses are taught by the high school faculty
- Courses are offered on the high school campus
- Serves high school students only

All three methods provide high school students the opportunity to get a “jump-start” on their education – saving valuable time and money in the process! In addition, students will gain confidence in their ability to complete college work which should help them to transition into post-secondary education much easier.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT: *High school students enrolled in community college course work while still in high school. The courses are approved by both the community college and high school district. The courses are typically offered on a community college campus. Students typically take these courses on their own, outside of the traditional school day. Students are held to the same standards as other college students. They may have to pay some college fees including a health fee and the cost of textbooks.*



DUAL ENROLLMENT: The high school student is enrolled in a community college course at their high school during the traditional school day. The courses are approved by both the community college and high school district. The courses are typically offered on the high school campus and taught by high school faculty who meet community college minimum qualifications. Some consider dual enrollment an advanced placement alternative for students. **Advanced placement (AP)** is a program in the United States and Canada, created by the College Board, which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. Students who earn high examination scores may earn placement and course credit. Please visit <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/home> for more information.



*Colleges can claim FTES for unduplicated courses that are in addition to the high school student's minimum school day. Minimum high school day is 240 minutes of discreet high school courses for full ADA or 180 minutes for ¼ ADA



HIGH SCHOOL ARTICULATION: This process involves the development of course to course articulation agreements. The agreements are developed between high school and community college faculty when the two parties agree that the high school and community college course align. The majority of community colleges in the Desert/Inland Empire region award college credits using a credit-by-exam process that tests mastery of key course content. (California Education Code section 55753.5). In most cases, the college faculty determines the content and method of the credit exam.

