

Advanced Placement[®] and Dual Enrollment

Access to challenging course work is essential for college and career readiness. The College Board believes that students should challenge themselves and take courses for which they are academically prepared and motivated.

While Dual Enrollment courses can help start students on a college- and career-ready pathway, they should be a first step toward, and supplementary to, a strong AP[®] program. Research indicates most AP Exam takers experience greater educational outcomes than students in dual enrollment programs.

Advanced Placement[®] provides greater educational outcomes for students

Research clearly and consistently indicates that a strong AP program, that supports students to do well on AP Exams, provides greater educational outcomes for students than dual enrollment programs.¹

- ▶ **Key Finding #1:** AP students who score a 3 or higher are more likely than dual enrollment students to earn a college degree within four years, which can save students and families time and money.

Recent research has found that taking an extra year to complete a college degree costs a student \$65,000 over his or her lifetime, including additional tuition and fees as well as the opportunity costs of not entering the job market for another year. “Students who stay in school longer wind up paying more up front (net college tuition in the U.S. is about \$8,890 per year), but delaying their entry into the job market can cost them tens of thousands of dollars in future earning potential.”²

- ▶ **Key Finding #2:** AP students have higher average college GPAs than dual enrollment students.

Advanced Placement provides greater validation and consistency

AP courses and exams are developed by representatives from colleges and universities across the nation and align with standards set by some of the nation’s most well-respected liberal arts and research institutions.

AP teachers’ syllabi undergo a thorough review by college faculty — ensuring consistency in quality and expectations across AP courses.



The AP exam provides a standard means of comparison between AP courses nationwide, so that colleges and universities can gauge the extent to which participating students have mastered the course content.

AP Exams provide external validation of teaching and learning in the classroom. The exams are scored by college professors and expert teachers, not the students' own teacher.

In contrast to AP, dual enrollment programs do not have any external measure, such as a standardized assessment, to measure and ensure consistency in quality. It is therefore difficult for admission officers and college faculty to gauge the quality of any given dual enrollment course.

1. Linda Hargrove, Donn Godin, & Barbara Dodd. (2008). College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences. New York: College Board Research Report No. 2008-3.

Leslie Keng & Barbara Dodd. (2008). A Comparison of College Performance of AP and Non-AP Student Groups in 10 Subject Areas. New York: College Board Research Report No. 2008-7.

2. Source: <http://libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2014/09/staying-in-college-longer-than-four-years-costs-more-than-you-might-think.html#.VSwbgZOVIAN>