

Difference between Honors Courses, AP Courses, and Dual Credit Courses?

	Honors Courses	AP Courses	Dual Credit Courses
Definition	Higher level courses developed by local teachers that move at a faster pace and cover more material than regular courses; courses are reserved for high school students who excel in certain subjects; students do not earn college credit for these courses	College level courses consisting of a national curriculum developed by both high school and college teachers overseen by the College Board. The courses prepare the students to take an AP Exam. Scoring a 3 or higher on the exam can earn college credit for the course or placement out of introductory college courses.	College courses that provide students the opportunity to earn college and high school credit at the same time. The curricula are developed by the teacher or adjunct professor connected with the college providing the credit.
Course Requirements	Requires teacher recommendation to get into the course; option is typically available for sophomores, juniors, and seniors	Anyone can sign up. Option is mainly available for high school juniors and seniors. Some sophomores do enroll in the courses. Check with school to see if the district has additional course requirements.	Anyone can sign up. Option is open to high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Students must have a GPA of 3.0 and obtain permission for school superintendent to take Dual Credit courses.
Advantages	Increased rigor over regular classes; add value to the college resume	Provides the opportunity to take a rigorous college course while in high school. Opportunity to earn college credit if score a three or higher on the AP Exam.	College credit is awarded when the student passes the course. Opportunity to gain exposure to the rigor and workload of a college course.
Curriculum Development	High school teachers and/or department heads	College Board	College or university providing the credit.
Costs	No extra costs	AP Exam fee	Reduced tuition fees, books, transportation (if on campus), other costs.
Teachers/Instructors	High school teacher licensed in subject area	High school teacher licensed in subject area who has been trained by the College Board	College instructors and/or high school teacher who has been approved as an adjunct professor in the subject area (meets all NDUS qualifications).
Workload	More challenging than the regular course by going deeper into the subject matter; course is a high school course	More challenging than regular courses and tend to require more work since course is at the college level.	More challenging than regular courses since the course is a college course and student will be expected to perform at college level.

	Honors Courses	AP Courses	Dual Credit Courses
College Credit	No college credit opportunities	May earn credit if score a three or higher on the AP Exam. If credit is granted, the college receiving the scores will provide credit.	Credit is earned upon passing the course. College providing the course provides credit.
Transcript	Course is on high school transcript	Course is on high school transcript. AP Exam scores may be sent to college and credits may be assigned by college.	Course is on high school transcript and on the college transcript of the college providing the credit.
College/ University Acceptance	No Credit	Check with College. Most NDUS system provide credit if AP Exam score is a 3 or higher. Accepted throughout nation.	If planning to attend college different from that offering credit, check acceptance of credit before taking the course.
Location of Course	Local high school	Local high school, ND Center for Distance Learning, or online.	Local high school, college campus, Center for Distance Learning, or online.
Curriculum	Offers the same curriculum as regular classes but tailored to meet the needs of high achieving students by covering additional topics and covering some topics in greater depth; pace is faster than the regular class; classes are harder and have more complex assignments than the standard class	Covers depth of information, skills and assignments found in corresponding college courses. Aligns with standards and expectations of leading liberal arts and research institutions. Provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to study and learn at the college level. National curricula are developed by both high school and college teachers overseen by the College Board.	Course is a college level course which exposes students to the rigor, pace, and skill expectations at the college level. Curricula is developed by the teachers at the college providing the credit.