



Dual Credit vs AP

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

	Dual Credit (DMACC & SLU)	AP Credit
What is the difference between AP credit and dual credit	Dual credit is taking a college-level course while still in high school, allowing students to earn credit towards both their high school diploma and a future college degree simultaneously; essentially, they are receiving credit for the same course from both DCHS and a college (SLU or DMACC).	You may earn college credit by taking the AP national exam and scoring at a mastery level (typically a 3 or higher).
Cost	DMACC = free, SLU = \$225 for a 3 credit hour course, represents a cost savings compared to a traditional college course on a college campus	\$100 per exam, non-refundable
Course Delivery	Courses are taught in the high school classroom by the student's high school instructor	Same as DMACC & SLU– AP teachers have AP standards to adhere by for their curriculum
Are AP classes graded or pass/fail	Students earn an A Through F on their official SLU or DMACC transcript and it is shown on the Dowling transcript too. Students earn a final letter grade based on work completed and their performance throughout the course.	Students receive a score of 1 to 5, which universities interpret for potential college credit (i.e. 5 is an A/A+, 4 is an B/B+,etc.)
Risks of taking the AP exam?	Some students choose to take an AP class to demonstrate to colleges academic rigor, building critical thinking skills and confidence, digging deeper into content and the increased weight on their gpa. The AP weighted grading scale is a 4.83 vs 4.58 adv/honors vs a 4.33 for regular classes if a student receives a A+. <i>*The final exam is still required at DCHS even if a student chooses to take the AP Exam through the College Board*</i>	AP exam scores have no impact on student's grade in the class or GPA. Colleges do not see scores unless a student sends their scores directly to colleges – usually not until the summer after high school graduation
Do all AP classes at Dowling Catholic offer college credit?	No, please reference the course guidebook, the list of DMACC & SLU dual credit courses in the college planning tab in resources in on campus. The ability to offer a course for college credit is determined by the teacher's credentials	Please note the following courses are eligible for college credit only by taking the AP Exam: AP Biology, AP Physics I & II, AP Chemistry, AP Human Geography, AP Microeconomics, AP Government, AP Psychology, AP Computer Science, AP African American Studies
GPA requirement to take dual credit courses?	SLU requires juniors/seniors to have a 3.00 to register for dual credit courses, 3.5 for sophomores.	No GPA requirement to take AP Exams.
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How many AP courses does DCHS offer?	21 dual credit courses offered at DCHS	21 AP courses offered at Dowling Catholic.
Semester final exemption?	Students cannot exempt semester finals in the semester in which a student is earning college credit**	Exemptions are not permitted for students enrolled in AP classes
Where do credits/scores transfer?	DMACC and SLU transfer just about everywhere in the US. Utilize the free resource, transferology.com or each individual college's transfer guide to determine how credits will transfer.	
Accreditation	Both DMACC and SLU are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission	
What does it mean that DCHS is a college prep high school?	DCHS is focused on preparing students for higher education with a curriculum that emphasizes college readiness. 97% of DCHS students go onto some kind of college/university/training after graduation	
Why does Dowling Catholic partner with both DMACC and SLU?	DCHS has had a long standing partnership with SLU and DMACC that spans decades. SLU is unique with their dual credit program that it is only offered to catholic high schools in the midwest.	
Scenario: student is signed up for 4+ AP classes, how would you know if the course load is too heavy? If a student finds an AP class to be too challenging what are the options?	Please have a conversation with the AP Teacher who teaches the course to better understand the course content and expectations. If a student is finding the course to be too demanding in the semester please have a conversation with their school counselor and teacher.	SLU and DMACC determine drop/withdraw dates for dual credit courses. When determining if a class is too challenging and a student requests to drop the course is on a case by case with their school counselor.