One way to save time and money in college is for students to earn college credit during high school. There are several ways to do this. For example, some high schools offer dual-enrollment programs that allow students to take college courses and earn credit that can be applied not only toward high school graduation requirements, but also toward an undergraduate degree.

Another option is to enroll in college-level courses taught in high school. Perhaps the most common programs are Advanced Placement (AP) and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. Below is information about these programs—check with your high school for program details and the availability of courses in your area.

**Advanced Placement**

AP courses and exams are offered in more than 30 subject areas—a complete list of subjects can be found at www.collegeboard.com. Please note that not all subjects are available in every high school that offers AP courses. You will need to check with the office that administers AP courses at your school for a list of available subjects and enrollment information.

Once enrolled in AP courses, students should sign up for the exam that will be administered at the end of the course. If the AP subject exam you wish to take is not offered as a course at your high school, talk to the office responsible for AP coursework to look into other options.

AP exams are scored on a scale of one to five. Many U.S. colleges and universities grant credit and/or advanced placement for scores of three and above. Check with the college or university you plan to attend to determine what scores for which it will grant credit or placement.

**IB Diploma Programme**

The IB Diploma Programme is an academically challenging educational programme for students aged 16 to 19. The programme is available at more than 4,000 schools and is known for its unique academic rigour and emphasis on students’ personal development.

Students enrolled in the IB Diploma Programme study six subject groups: language and literature studies, language acquisition, individuals and societies, sciences, mathematics and the arts. The Diploma Programme also includes three core requirements:

- Theory of knowledge, in which students reflect on the nature of knowledge and on how we know what we claim to know.

(Continues on back)
The extended essay, in which students complete an independent, self-directed piece of research resulting in a 4,000-word paper.

- Creativity, action, service, in which students complete a project related to those three concepts.

Students take written exams at the end of the Diploma Programme, and a diploma is awarded to students who earn at least 24 points for all coursework completed. For more information about the IB Diploma Programme, visit www.ibo.org.

College admissions and AP/IB courses

High school students who are planning to continue their education at college can use the AP courses/exams or IB courses to stand out in the admissions process.

The course material is challenging and shows your commitment to academics. To ensure that any college-level programs you participate in during high school will be accepted by the college you plan to attend, work with that school’s admissions office early in the college-planning process.

Need more information?

The College Place is here to help you with free college-planning resources and personal advice. Visit our website at www.ecmc.org.