

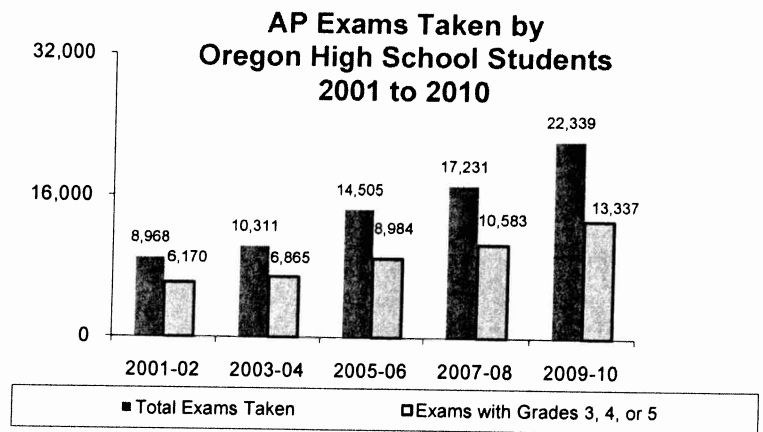
DUAL CREDIT AND OTHER COLLEGE PREP COURSEWORK FOR OREGON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Overview Dual Credit is one of several types of Accelerated Options that Oregon high school students can use to participate in college-level courses and earn college credit. These programs, which serve a wide range of students across Oregon, constitute an effective way to strengthen preparation for college and to ensure that students are work-ready. Accelerated Options increase rates of college entry, academic success in college, and college retention rates, and have the potential to keep Oregon's top performing high school graduates in state.

Accelerated Options Prepare Students for College Oregon secondary and postsecondary institutions jointly share responsibility for the success of Accelerated Options provided in high schools. Offering Dual Credit and other college prep options is part of Oregon's agenda to increase the rigor of the Oregon Diploma and align standards with postsecondary academic requirements. Many college prep options offer some form of **tuition assistance and allow students to affordably start investing in their college education**. As a lower-cost way of getting postsecondary credit, Accelerated Options programs can bring savings in tuition and fees once students enter college as they can start well into their freshman year, or in some cases, even skip freshman year, saving thousands of dollars in tuition.

A 2010 study¹ completed by the Oregon University System showed that **students who participate in Dual Credit programs are more successful in college**. They:

- Have higher college participation rates of 81.4% compared to 72.6% of students who did not participate;
- Continue on to their second year of college at higher rates, 87% for those who took Dual Credit versus 79.9% for those who did not;
- Earn a higher GPA in their freshman year of college of 3.13 versus 2.97 for those who did not participate; and
- Accumulate more college credit by the second year in college of 61.3 credits on average versus 49.8 credits for those who did not participate in Dual Credit.



Source: College Board, State Reports

The study also verified that Dual Credit instruction prepares students for subsequent college coursework just as effectively as college-situated instruction.

A 2010 College Board report shows encouraging news of **increases in AP participation in Oregon**. Between 2007-08 and 2009-10, the number of AP exams taken by Oregon students, including low-income and minority students, increased by almost 30%. The number of examinations with grades of 3, 4, and 5 (5 is the top grade) increased by 26% in that same period.

¹ Dual Credit in Oregon, 2010 Follow-up: An Analysis of Students Taking Dual Credit in High School in 2007-08 with Subsequent Performance in College; OUS, Office of Institutional Research; September 2010

Campuses Active in Accelerated Options Accelerated Options are a common service provided by postsecondary institutions in Oregon and across the country. **All seven OUS institutions offer such opportunities to high school students**, spanning a wide variety of program types, delivered on OUS campuses, at high schools, or through distance education. Three of these types of programs – Dual Credit, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB) – have program specific, statewide standards that are established by national or international academic organizations that define the programs’ instructor qualifications and level of the curriculum. These standards ensure the rigor of the courses, which is reinforced for AP and IB courses by the external assessment provided by the AP and IB exams.

OUS and Oregon community colleges have worked to ensure consistency of Dual Credit, AP, and IB across the state. For Dual Credit programs, all 7 OUS institutions and 17 community colleges agreed to adopt the national standards and program approval process; and for both AP and IB, all OUS institutions and community colleges award students the same number of credits for a given score on an AP or IB exam. In addition to the formal Dual Credit, AP, and IB programs, Accelerated Options programs available to Oregon high school students include the Oregon specific Expanded Options program (see sidebar).

Programs Delivered at OUS Campuses A variety of OUS programs allow high school students to take college coursework, along with college students, via distance learning or on an OUS campus. OUS dual credit programs also offer students **college-level courses taught by qualified college- or university-approved high school teachers within high schools**. Most of these programs offer concurrent high school and college credits, reduced tuition rates, and support services such as advising. Examples include:

- **Eastern Oregon University:** Weekend College and Summer Institute Programs provide credit-bearing and early start for high school students
- **Portland State University:** LINK (Leap Into New Knowledge) Program makes it possible for intellectually gifted high school students to attend the University for part-time advanced study.
- **Oregon Institute of Technology:** High School Transition Program allows high school students to get a head start on college studies by taking appropriate 100 and 200 level courses on campus.
- **Oregon State University:** Expanded Options Program (XOP) provides opportunities for high school juniors and seniors to take classes either on-campus or on-line through extended campus.
- **Southern Oregon University:** Early Entry Program, offering concurrent high school and college coursework.
- **University of Oregon:** DuckLink program offering UO courses to area high school students.
- **Western Oregon University:** High School Dual Enrollment program offering concurrent high school and college coursework.

Expanded Options

Expanded Options, established by the 2005 Legislature in Senate Bill 300, increases the likelihood that all students will have access to accelerated academic and professional/technical courses by requiring that high schools offer such opportunities.

Expanded Options provides opportunities for eligible high school students (juniors and seniors) to take postsecondary classes at Oregon public community colleges and universities, paid for by their school district. The program gives priority to academically able students who are at-risk for socio-economic reasons, or who have left school prematurely.

In 2009-10, 10,939 college/university credits were earned under the Expanded Options program, and there was a total tuition cost savings of \$942,772*.

*Source: Executive Summary of the Expanded Options Program (ORS Chapter 340) Annual Implementation Report; December 2010, ODE

