

Program Information

Foundations High School Program-DLA: Distinguished Level of Achievement with Performance Acknowledgements

A student may earn a DLA by successfully completing all of the following:

- A total of 26 of the appropriate credits needed for graduation
- A total of four credits in mathematics, which must include Algebra II
- A total of four credits in science
- The curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement needed for graduation

A student must earn the DLA Program to be eligible for top 10% automatic admission to state universities. Many private universities in Texas are also requiring the DLA for admissions. As a part of the DLA, a student complete Alg. II and may earn Performance Acknowledgements that will be affixed to his or her transcript and diploma by completing the state's Distinguished Level of Achievement Program course requirements and, in addition, performance acknowledgment for outstanding performance in any of the following:

- Dual Credit: At least 12 hours of college academic courses with a grade of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale; or an associate degree while in high school
- Bilingual or Biliteracy: Proficiency in one or more LOTE courses by one of the following:
 - A score of 3 or higher on AP exam; or
 - Performance of at least Intermediate High or equivalent on a National Assessment.
 - In addition to completing the above, an English language learner (Dual Language student) must also have: Participated in and met the exit criteria for a bilingual or ESL program; and scored at the Advanced High level on TELPAS
- AP score of a 3 or higher
- PSAT/NMSQT score that qualifies the student for recognition by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation
- ACT – A composite score of 28 on ACT (excluding the writing subscore)
- SAT – Combined critical reading and math score of at least 1250
- Earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or

License or performance on an examination sufficient to obtain a government required credential to practice a profession.

At graduation, a student may only be classified as a *graduate candidate* for the DLA Program with Performance Acknowledgements because many of the acknowledgements can only be validated in the summer after Advanced Placement scores are received in the counseling offices. If the student completes all performance acknowledgements of the DLA before or during the senior year, the transcript can be changed to the DLA Program with Performance Acknowledgements. The DLA with Performance Acknowledgements will be recorded on the student's transcript (Academic Achievement Record) upon graduation or completion of the performance acknowledgment. The student should notify his/her counselor of his/her plans to complete Performance Acknowledgements before graduation. Any questions about the DLA and Performance Acknowledgements should be directed towards the student's counselor.

Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP)

The purpose of Pre-Advanced Placement courses is to give students the opportunity to develop skills that will enable them to be successful in AP courses. Although not recognized by the College Board because they are not college courses, Pre-AP courses are characterized by an immersion in rigorous content, an accelerated pace, and performance assessments at the synthesis and evaluative levels. Typically, successful Pre-AP students are task-oriented, proficient readers, and able to prioritize their time. The curricula for the courses are built on the core academic curriculum following the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) expectations for each course. Students are encouraged to take Pre-AP courses that are appropriate to their interests and academic strengths. The number of Pre-AP courses a student takes also varies with students' motivation, self-discipline, and available time outside of class.

In order for students to be college ready and successful in college admissions, students should take the most rigorous courses possible in high school.

Although Pre-AP classes are open to all students, the following are characteristics of successful Pre-AP students:

Personal characteristics

- Reading on or above grade level
- Strong study skills and sufficient self-motivation to persevere when faced with challenging material or a more rapid pace of instruction
- Proficient oral and written communication skills
- Self-discipline to plan, organize, and carry out tasks to completion
- Interest and self-directedness in the Pre-AP course

Academic characteristics

- Successful performance in related content area courses (example: math and science or English and social studies)
- Scores at Masters Grade Level on the most recent STAAR test related to the Pre-AP course being considered

Advanced Placement (AP)

The Advanced Placement (AP) program is a cooperative endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities. It gives high school students exposure to college-level material through involvement in an AP course, and then gives them an opportunity to show what they have learned by taking an AP Exam. Colleges and universities often grant credit, placement, or both, to these students. Students can find colleges with AP credit policies online by visiting AP Credit Policy Info. <http://www.collegeboard.com/ap>

The content and curricular goals of each AP discipline are outlined in an AP Course Description supplied by the College Board. AP courses are characterized by an immersion in college-level content, an accelerated pace, and a performance assessment at the synthesis and evaluative levels. Typically, successful AP students are task-oriented, proficient readers, and able to prioritize their time. The AP program prepares students for the future by giving those tools that will serve them well throughout their college career. Due to the rigor and high level of expectation and preparation time required in AP courses, students and parents must submit a signed letter of understanding. The Letter of Understanding is in the HS Course Guide. It should be returned to the Pre-AP or AP teacher.

AP Exams are rigorous, multiple-component tests in 37 subjects that are administered at high schools each May. High school students can earn college credit, placement, or both for qualifying AP Exam grades. Students can earn Performance Acknowledgements on the Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA) of the Foundation High School Program or the Distinguished

Achievement Program (DAP) on the Recommended High School Program (see graduation requirements based on the date the students entered high school). Each AP Exam has a corresponding AP course and provides a **standardized measure** of what students have learned in the AP classroom. Although not required, students are encouraged to the AP exam for their AP class they are enrolled in. The fee scale for the exam cost is below.

AP Exams are an essential part of the AP course experience, and help students:

- **Stand out** in the college admissions process
- Earn **academic scholarships and awards** from colleges and universities
- Experience **college-level academics** now, while they're still in high school
- **Save time and money** once they get to college, providing them with more study options and allowing them to **move directly into upper-level courses** in their field of interest
- Earn **AP Scholar Awards**, an academic distinction granted each September by the College Board to students with exemplary AP Exam grades

Students and parents should check the AP testing calendar at www.collegeboard.com or their high school campus website for dates.

Hays CISD supplements the AP test cost for students. Students may also apply for additional financial assistance. AP exam test fees are \$94 per exam without the Hays CISD contribution per exam. Exams are ordered in the fall for the Spring testing dates in May.

Hays CISD AP Exam Fees 2020-21

Numbers of Exams	Cost for FRL	Cost for Hays CISD students	Cost without Hays CISD additional funding
1	\$15	\$60	\$94
2	\$30	\$120	\$188
3	\$45	\$180	\$282
4	\$60	\$240	\$376
5	\$75	\$300	\$470
6	\$90	\$360	\$564
7	\$105	\$420	\$658

Students should see their counselor about the ordering of exams. IF you register for an exam and do not take it, there is a \$40 charge, no matter what you paid for the test.

AP exam registration occurs in the fall semester of each year.

Students should check with their counselors to see if they qualify for a fee waiver for AP exams, SAT/ACT exams and some college admissions application fees.

Gifted and Talented Services

Hays CISD offers an array of learning opportunities that are commensurate with students' abilities that emphasize content in the four core academic areas including English Language Arts/Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Identified gifted students are provided services through the regular classroom, Pre-AP classes, advanced classes, and AP classes.

Alternative Credit Options

Several options are open to students who want to earn credit outside the traditional classroom. Students may take correspondence courses, examinations for credit recovery or acceleration, participate in dual credit or concurrent enrollment courses, and participate in online learning classes.

Students should contact their counselor for more information about these alternatives as not all courses are allowed for alternative credit options.

Please check the NCAA website for eligibility restrictions in regards to alternative credit options.

Correspondence Courses

All high school students may take correspondence courses and earn credit toward graduation. Prior to enrollment in correspondence courses, students must make a written request to their high school counselor for approval. Credit toward state graduation requirements shall be granted only under the following conditions:

- The institution offering the course is The University of Texas at Austin, Texas Tech University, or other public institutions of higher education approved by the Texas Commissioner of Education (students must check with counselor for approval before starting a correspondence course.)
- The correspondence course includes the state required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

These courses are not paid for by Hays CISD and are the responsibility of the student and parents to purchase textbooks and fees. Some of these courses can be done online.

Some correspondence courses for core classes are not accepted by the NCAA for Division I or Division II eligibility. **Please check the NCAA website.**

Credit by Exam for Credit Recovery

Students may take Credit by Exam to earn credit in a course for which they have had prior instruction and failed or transferred into our district from a non-accredited high school program. Credit by Exam is offered through the University of Texas at Austin or Texas Tech University, but administered on the Hays CISD high school campuses. In order to take a CBE for credit recovery, the student must make arrangements to take these tests through the school counselor for approval. Students who successfully pass the credit by exam test with a grade of 70 or above will be given credit for the course. CBE grades will be recorded on the student's transcript. Should a student take the test and fail to pass it, the grade will not be recorded on the transcript. Passing CBE scores will be calculated into GPA and class rank. CBE credit for core classes is not accepted by the NCAA for Division I or Division II eligibility. **Please check the NCAA website.**

Credit by Exam for Acceleration

Students may take Credit by Exam to earn credit in a course in which they have had NO prior instruction. Credit by Exam is offered through the University of Texas at Austin or Texas Tech University, but administered on the high school campuses. A student must score 80 or above on Exams for Acceleration to receive credit on his or her academic transcript. The passing score is set by the state and not by the district. The school district pays for the cost for Exams for Acceleration. If the student fails the acceleration test and wants to repeat it, the student must pay to retest. The student must contact the counselor for permission to test. Students enrolled in courses that required a STAAR EOC test will not be allowed to take a CBE for Acceleration. These courses are: Algebra I, Biology, English 1, English 2, and US History. Passing CBE scores will be calculated into GPA and class rank. All CBE must be ordered through the school counselor. There are three dates between January 1 and June 30 and three days between July 1 and December 31 for annual credit by exams for acceleration. Students should contact their counselor for more information and the testing dates. Failure to register by the deadline of the test dates forfeits the opportunity to accelerate by examination.

CBE credit for core classes is not accepted by the NCAA for Division I or Division II eligibility. **Please check the NCAA website.**

Summer School

Summer school is provided to give the student the opportunity to take a course needed to get ahead (acceleration) or a class that was not successfully completed during the school year. Registration will be conducted during the spring semester. A fee is charged for summer school. Grades earned in summer school are considered a part of the student's transcript and grades are calculated as a part of the student's GPA. Passing summer school grades *cannot* be averaged with passing grades for year-long averaging. Passing those classes stands alone for the grade. Contact your counselor for more information about the dates of summer school.

Some Summer school classes may not be accepted by the NCAA for Division I or Division II eligibility.

Please check the NCAA website.

Credit Recovery

Credit recovery is provided during the school year to give the student the opportunity to regain credit for courses that have been posted to the transcript but no credit was awarded in the previous attempt. Credit recovery is offered via computer assisted instruction and available at each high school campus. Not all courses are eligible for credit recovery. **Students should contact their school counselor for approval.** Some credit recovery courses are also available through the night school program.

Online credit recovery classes are not accepted for the NCAA for Division I or Division II eligibility. **Please check with the NCAA website.**

Correspondence Courses

All high school students may take correspondence course and earn credit towards graduation. Credit towards graduation credits are granted under the following conditions:

- The institutions offering the courses are University of Texas or Texas Tech.
- The correspondence course includes all required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

The district does not pay for these courses and are the responsibility of the student and parents to purchase the materials and textbook and fees. Some of these courses can be done online.

Some correspondence courses for core classes are not accepted by the NCAA for Division 1 or Division. **Please check the NCAA website.**

Dual Credit and Concurrent Enrollment Courses

Students may also take courses at other area colleges if the college or university will admit them. Most district students have attended ACC because there are no tuition charges for the first 12 courses. But some students have taken courses at other schools.

Some Career and Technology Courses earn Dual Credit. Students should consult their high school counselor or CTE teacher for more information on this process. Most universities require you enroll in their institution before you get dual credit.

The requirements for a college course to be considered for credit at the high school level are:

- It must provide advanced academic instruction beyond, or in greater depth than the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for the course as defined by the Texas Education Agency
- The college offering the course must be accredited
- The student must have the permission of the parent and the principal, and
- The student must meet all admissions requirements established by the college.

Dual credit and concurrent enrollment college-level classes are generally transferable. The college offering the class can tell you if the college course transfers to public colleges and universities you may wish to attend in the future. However, students should always check with the college to which they plan to transfer, especially if it is out of state and/or private, to determine if course will be accepted as transfer.

The following conditions apply to students who plan to take college courses:

- Students must pass any college course required for graduation with at least a C. Hays CISD does not recognize a grade of D, F or W. A grade of B is required for a course to count as one of a student's Performance Acknowledgements.
- Students must receive approval from a counselor by completing the appropriate steps for enrolling in Dual Credit or concurrent enrollment classes.
- Dual credit courses taken during the spring of the student school year will not be included in final rank for seniors. Grades for dual credit are submitted to ACC by the professors, which means there are no grades for them to enter for the senior rank freeze. Seniors should consult their high school counselors for more information on senior rank.

Students who take college courses will be required to purchase their textbooks and other additional materials. It is up to the college teacher to pick the textbook and additional materials and up to the student to be prepared for the first day of class.

Hays CISD Online Classes Edgenuity

Students in grades 8-12 have the opportunity to earn high school credit through district approved online courses. Students complete the course anytime their schedule allows, using a computer with Internet access. Although many of the online classes are self-paced, the student is expected to turn in assignments according to a course calendar and login on a daily basis. The student will be required to take examinations on campus.

For more information, including fees, courses offered, and registration, visit: <https://www.hayscisid.net> and search digital learning or <https://www.hayscisid.net/digitallearning>

Course Information

Is online learning for you?

Do you...

- Have regular access to a computer with Internet?
- Have basic technology skills such as using a word processor, email and Internet?
- Like working on the computer and want to take an online course?
- Complete schoolwork and homework consistently and on time?
- Manage your time well?
- Ask teachers for help when you need it?
- Stay on task while doing work on the Internet?
- Read and respond to email?
- Have time beyond your school day to devote to an extra class?

Important:

- Enrollment in online classes is approved by the student's counselor if the course:
 - Is necessary per the student's graduation plan
 - Is taken in the correct sequence for the program of study
 - Is the best option for the student
- Students may take one online class at a time.
- Students may be dropped from a class if they are not actively logging in and completing assignments.
- The "No Pass, No Play" UIL eligibility rule applies to online classes.
- The final grade reported by the online instructor for an online class will be recorded on the high school transcript and calculated in the student's GPA and class rank after the course has been completed.