Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between dual credit, dual enrollment, and AP courses?

- **Dual Credit** - Dual credit courses are college-level courses offered to high school students. These courses are usually taught in the high school by a qualified high school instructor. Upon completion of those courses, the student will receive a grade on his/her academic transcript at both Lake Land College and the respective high school.

- **Dual Enrollment** — In some cases, high school students enroll in courses at Lake Land College, an extension center, or online. Upon completion of the course, the student receives college credit. The high school makes the determination whether these courses can be offered for high school credit.

- **Advanced Placement** — AP courses are high school courses in which students can receive college credit after successful completion of an AP exam. The exam is administered by the College Entrance Examination Board. A maximum of 15 hours of AP credit can be used toward graduation.

- For more information about Lake Land credit through AP coursework, visit [www.lakelandcollege.edu/as/as/academicstandards/advanced_placement.cfm](http://www.lakelandcollege.edu/as/as/academicstandards/advanced_placement.cfm). Dual credit, dual enrollment, and AP courses can all be valuable to students.

Who should take dual credit courses?

- Any junior or senior high school student who is willing and able to work at the level of expectations of a college level course. Highly recommend for students looking to get a jump start on their academic life after high school.
- Must have a “C” or higher for their high school GPA and maintain a “C” or higher in their dual credit course(s) to receive college credit.

How do I get into a dual credit course at my high school?

- If your high school is offering a course, speak with your school guidance counselor. Once they have explained the fees and course rigor, they can approve you and have you fill out a Intent to Enroll form to be sent to Lake Land College. At the end of the course, the school will be billed by dual credit and that cost will potentially be passed on to the student.
- If the course is Math or English based, the student will need to meet minimum qualifications via the ACT exam or the Lake Land College Compass exam. You can only take the Compass twice in a 4 year period, so prepare ahead of time and consult with your instructor and guidance counselor on when to take the exam. The minimum scores must be met before the start of the college course.
Note: If a semester college course is taught over a high school’s year, the student can take it up until the dual credit status begins. [http://www.lakeland.cc.il.us/ss/lc/](http://www.lakeland.cc.il.us/ss/lc/)

What is the cost of the Dual Credit Program?

- The dual credit fee for 2015-16 will remain the same, at the rate of $13.95 \times \text{# of credit} \times \text{# of students}. See Cost and Billing under the Students and Parents tab for more information.
  - Typically, Lake Land College will bill the high school this cost and it is up to the high school on how to cover the cost. Each high school must contact the Dual Credit Program to discuss billing. Lake Land College does not bill students directly for dual credit.
  - Dual enrollment students however do pay tuition and fees and will be billed directly.

What courses will be most applicable to the most students, regardless of degree of institution?

- Checkout Lake Land College’s general education course offerings, then check with your school to see what they offer for dual credit, and then consult with your high school guidance counselor and then with a Lake Land College academic counselor.

Why do some high schools offer more dual credit courses than others?

- While we would like to offer the same dual credit courses to every high school, we must follow guidelines. The Illinois Community College Board, the Higher Learning Commission, and the Lake Land College Board Policy are specific about college instructor credentials. For that reason, only those instructors meeting the minimum requirements are approved to teach dual credit. Some high schools have more dual credit-approved instructors than others.

Why can some high school faculty teach dual credit, but others cannot?

- We know that your high school is staffed by excellent teachers. But the Illinois Community College Board, the Higher Learning Commission, and the Lake Land College Board Policy are specific about college instructor credentials. For that reason, only those instructors meeting the minimum requirements are approved to teach dual credit.
  - The Higher Learning Commission’s instructor credentialing policy
Lake Land College’s Board policies on Dual Credit

Why does Lake Land College offer dual credit at the high school and dual enrollment here on campus?

- There are benefits to both. Best way to offer the most opportunity to the greatest number of students is to have both options.
- A huge benefit to having high school locations offer dual credit is that high schools act as essentially satellite locals for Lake Land College with highly qualified high school instructors. Several schools who currently participate in dual credit would otherwise be unable to provide it with travel time and expense.
- At the same time, students who are fortunate enough to have the opportunity to come before, during, or after school to our main campus (or the Kluthe Center) (or take classes online) benefit from the college atmosphere feel and our wonderful teaching staff.

Do Lake Land College dual credit courses transfer to other institutions?

- YES! While you may have taken the courses in a high school building, dual credit classes are Lake Land College courses and will appear as such on your permanent academic transcript. With very few exceptions, you should have no problem transferring courses. Any difficulties in transferring courses should be reported to the Dual Credit Program.

How do I let other colleges and universities know that I already have earned college credit?

- Dual credit classes are Lake Land College courses and will appear as such on your permanent Lake Land College academic transcript. When you’re ready to transfer to another institution, you can request that an official transcript be sent to the institution of your choice by contacting the Admissions and Records Office or through your IRIS account.

I know that Dual Enrollment students can use the Lake Land College library, but can dual credit students?

- Yes, you are entitled to use the library as part of your dual credit fee. Contact librarian Sarah Hill for more information.
I’m taking a dual credit course this year, but it doesn’t show up on my schedule, it didn’t appear on my dual credit letter, or I didn’t receive a dual credit letter.

- If a dual credit course takes place over an entire academic year, it will not show up on your schedule and you will not receive a letter about the course from the Dual Credit Program until the spring semester. While you will be graded for an entire year’s work, you will only receive one semester’s credit for the course.

I’m taking a dual enrollment course this semester but it didn’t appear on my dual credit letter.

- Only dual credit courses will appear on your Dual Credit Program welcome letter. Both dual credit and dual enrollment courses will appear on your schedule in IRIS.

Will I receive college credit hours from dual credit?

- Yes! If you meet the requirements for a passing grade in your dual credit course, you will receive the equivalent credit hours on your Lake Land College transcript as if you were a traditional college student taking the course on campus.

Is it advisable for me to graduate at Lake Land College before I transfer to a four-year college?

- Most often it is to the benefit of the student to complete the Associate in Arts or Science degree at Lake Land College before transferring. This degree will usually exempt a student from the necessity of taking lower-division general study courses at the four year institution.

Is it less expensive to attend Lake Land College than public and private 4-year institutions?

- Thousands of dollars can be saved by attending Lake Land College. Students today are trying to cut costs as much as possible without diminishing educational quality. That's why, more than ever before, students are choosing to spend the first two years at Lake Land College (which enable them to get their general education requirements completed at sizeable monetary savings) before transferring to a four year college or university.
Are there ramifications for doing poorly in dual credit? And what about financial aid status?

- Yes. We advise that dual credit students be responsible and proficient in the discipline to which they hope to achieve college credit as they are held to the same standards as a traditional college student. It is advantageous to the student to receive a passing grade in the course. Students who take dual credit are being counted for financial aid regardless of the use of financial aid, so more classes in less semesters in preferable for maximum benefit to the student. It is also important that a student does well in their courses as a failing grade or withdraw (W) will remain on their Lake Land College transcript record and can also affect their financial aid status (warning, suspension, etc.).