

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Are Dual Credit courses hard?

A Dual Credit course is a college-level course, which means that it is rigorous and challenging; however, you also get to experience hands on learning experiences with dedicated faculty who want to prepare you for wherever you want to go academically and professionally. It may be difficult at first, but with all the support you will receive from faculty and staff, you'll do great!

### How many courses can I take?

Technically you can take up to 19 credit hours per semester without having to seek administrative approval, but with Dual Credit students facing an already massive workload, we recommend no more than two courses per semester.

### What are some of the degrees I can earn?

You can earn Workforce certifications, an Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree to name a few. Check the catalog for more degree plans.

### Can I take summer courses?

Yes you can! Dual Credit students are still Galveston College students even after the high school academic year ends. Please note that taking summer courses may not result in earning both high school and college credit. Check with an advisor in April on the College's campus to see what options are available to you.

### Why should I take Dual Credit courses when I can just wait until after I graduate to take college courses?

You could wait, sure, but Dual Credit students have the advantage of getting to their academic and professional goals faster thanks to completing courses while still in high school. If you waited, you would be sitting in the same courses that Dual Credit students already completed and have moved on from. Why wait when you can get your degree done faster and experience much smaller class sizes with faculty who can give you more attention?

### I've heard AP looks better to colleges than Dual Credit. Is that true?

Advanced Placement courses are a wonderful tool to help you prepare for college, but what "looks" better to one college might not look as great to another. Check with recruiters and academic advisors for the colleges you want to attend and see what their thoughts are on whether or not AP or Dual Credit would look better. Don't forget to look at the comparison chart located in this brochure to help you make a decision on what would be best for you.

## Student Services

Galveston College offers a number of different services to Dual Credit students to help them succeed. Please find information on just some of the services available below. A full list of student services can be found on the College website at: <https://gc.edu/student-services>

### Library:

The College library offers students a number of different services that include:

- Access to relevant books, articles, magazines and other material necessary for Dual Credit courses
- Access to research databases
- Librarian assistance in finding credible and meaningful sources for research assignments

**Link to library services:** <https://gc.edu/learning-resources/library/>

### Student Success Center:

The Student Success Center is a free resource that offers tutoring in both general and subject-specific content matter. Tutors are available to help whenever needed.

#### Link to Student Success Center:

<https://gc.edu/learning-resources/student-success-center/Testing Center>

The Testing Center is where you can take exams required by your courses unless otherwise noted by your instructor. The center is also available to use as a testing site for specific academic placement tests and other national exams.

**Link to Testing Center:** <https://gc.edu/testing-center-welcome/>

### Student Advisor for accommodations and special needs:

Students who are in need of accommodations to successfully complete their coursework can meet with an on campus advisor who can assist in obtaining any necessary accommodations. Please note that a meeting with the advisor is necessary before any request for accommodations can be made for any course.

#### Link to Counseling & Advising:

<https://gc.edu/student-services/counseling-career-center/students-with-special-needs/>

## Important Contacts

Cissy Matthews  
Vice President of Instruction  
409-944-1204  
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Director of Educational Services  
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Dual Credit Advisor  
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## Departments of Note

### ADMISSIONS | (409) 944-1230

Information about applying to the college and college tours

### COUNSELING & ADVISING CENTER | (409) 944-1220

Information about majors/programs offered, course requirements, and Texas Success Initiative (TSI) testing requirements

### STUDENT SERVICES | (409) 944-1341

Information about programs, activities and student support services

### FINANCIAL AID | (409) 944-1235

Information about grants, loans, scholarships, and other financial assistance

### TESTING CENTER | (409) 944-1290

Information about tests/exams offered

### STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS | (409) 944-1223

Information on support services for students with learning differences

### IT HELP DESK | (409) 944-1352

Information on accessing and troubleshooting issues with computer applications, software, and hardware



It is the policy of Galveston College to provide equal opportunities without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.

# GALVESTON COLLEGE DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM

# MAKE IT REAL!

## REAL LIFE. REAL EXPERIENCES. REAL JOBS.



# Dual Credit

## So what is Dual Credit?

Courses offered through the Galveston College Dual Credit program provide the opportunity for students to earn both high school and college credit while still enrolled in grades 9-12.

Dual Credit courses are approved college level classes that are taught by qualified faculty who either teach full-time for Galveston College or embedded instructors on a high school campus that meet the same rigorous requirements for instructing full-time on Galveston College's campus. Courses are offered in face to face formats, a blend of online and face to face as well as completely online.

## Why bother?

Students who enroll in Dual Credit courses get access to some fantastic benefits:

- Credits earned across most Dual Credit courses can be transferred to colleges and universities across Texas as well as some out-of-state intuitions.
- Earn college credit while still in high school, which can cut degree completion time by up to an academic year.
- Access to college level courses at a drastically reduced tuition rate.
- Smaller class sizes and accessible instructors that are tailored to fit the specific needs of a student enrolled in both high school and college courses.
- Get valuable college preparation experience by learning in a collegiate environment.

## What courses can I take?

Course offerings vary by semester, but generally you can take courses in the following subjects:

- English
- History
- Biology
- College Algebra
- Government
- Economics
- Welding
- Health Science

Check with your Dual Credit advisor or click on the “Search for Classes” link on the Galveston College homepage ([www.gc.edu](http://www.gc.edu)) to see the most current course offerings.



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What about AP courses or just waiting to take college courses until after graduation?

## Here’s a Comparison Chart: AP vs. Dual Credit

Pathway to College	Advanced Placement (AP)	Dual Credit
Overview	College-level courses that grant college credit depending on AP test scores	College-level courses that grant college credit based on performance within the course
Eligibility	Successfully passing the appropriate STAAR exams	Successfully meet college readiness score requirements on the TSI (exemptions do apply)
What costs are involved?	College board exam fees Test preparation materials	Tuition and fees that may be reduced by the College and/or paid by other sources. Course materials such as books.
How is college credit earned ?	A numerical score on a College Board exam (normally, a score of 3 out of 5 is considered valid for college credit).	A letter grade and numerical grade based on performance within the course.
What are the benefits?	College -level curriculum can help prepare for full time college workload.  Conduct in-depth, specialized study in an academic subject.  Learn test -taking and time management strategies.  If earned, credits transfer to most out of state institutions as well as Texas institutions.	College curriculum that helps prepare for full time college workload.  Learn knowledge and skills relevant to chosen degree program.  Work with college faculty in small class sizes for more individualized instruction.  Credits can be applied to chosen degree plan.
What kind of courses are offered?	Selection varies, but all courses are academic in nature.	Selection varies, but all courses are either workforce or academic in nature.
How many courses can I take?	As many as desired depending on course availability and student schedule.	Students can take up to 19 hours per semester.

# Registration for Dual Credit Courses

## 1. Get approval from high school counselor and Dual Credit Advisor

Before taking any Dual Credit courses, students must first consult with their high school counselor and campus Dual Credit Advisor to ensure eligibility requirements are met. As a part of eligibility requirements, students will need parent approval via signature on both the Dual Credit registration form and Dual Credit Program contract.

## 2. TSI exam taken and scores submitted:

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a placement exam that helps assess college readiness. There are three components of the test: Reading, Writing and Mathematics. In order to be considered eligible to take academic college level courses, you will need to have the following scores on each component of the TSI:

- Reading score of 351
- Math score of 350
- Writing score of:
  - 340 and Essay score of 4
  - Essay score of 5

## The TSI exam can be taken at the following locations:

- The Testing Center at Galveston College (Link: <https://gc.edu/testing-center-welcome/>)
- Proctored testing site approved by Galveston College (see your high school counselor for more information about this option)

A student can retake any portion of the TSI that did not meet qualifying scores at the Testing Center at Galveston College.

There are certain exemptions from taking the TSI exam. These exemptions are as follows:

## TSI Exemptions/Waivers

- ACT® – A total score of 23 with a minimum of 19 in the corresponding sections of the English and/or mathematics.
- SAT® – A score of 480 in evidenced-based reading and writing and a math score of 530 (combined scores are not required).
- STAAR – A minimum score of 2000 on the English II end of course exam and a minimum score of 4000 on the Algebra I end of course exam with successful completion of high school Algebra.

## 3. Apply for admission into Galveston College

Complete an Application for Admissions and Residency Questionnaire from the Office of Admissions, the GC website [admissions@gc.edu](mailto:admissions@gc.edu) or complete the Texas Application for Admission to community colleges on-line at [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org). Submit paper copies of your official transcripts from your high school to the Office of Admissions. The submission of all transcripts is required by the Office of Admissions for evaluation of high school and/or college curricular requirements.

## 4. Register and pay for classes in person through registration events or your local Dual Credit Advisor, through the Whitecaps Portal or over the phone.

For more information, speak to your assigned Dual Credit Advisor.