

College Course Credits Earned by High School Students

Today, high school is not only the time to earn a high school diploma. It can be a time to earn college course credits, as well.

Why get a college degree?

With a college degree, graduates can:

- 🕒 Get better jobs
- 💰 Earn more money
- 📈 Have more successful careers

First, here are a few different routes to obtaining a college degree.

Choices of Higher Education

Bachelor Degree

Given at a College/University
Some at Community Colleges
Usually 120 credit hours
60 General/60 Major

Associate of Arts Degree

60 credit hours of general content
Usually from community college
Meant to lead to a transfer to a college/university for a bachelor degree

Associate of Science Degree

Shorter route to a specific job
60 credit hours
15 general education credits
45 credits for a specific job

Why earn college credits in high school?

College course credits earned by high school students are often tuition-free or have reduced-tuitions. With college course credits earned in high school, a student can complete their degree studies at a college or university more quickly. That saves both time and money.

Various Ways to Earn College Credits in High School

Advanced Placement

International Baccalaureate or Advanced IB

Dual Enrollment

- The classes meet at the high school, a nearby college or university or on-line
- Generally tuition free and do not have book charges
- Available for public, private, charter and home school students throughout Florida

Other things you should know before embarking on college credits in high school:

1 – These college courses are more challenging than high school classes: They cover both high school and college content.

2 – If you know the college or university that you want to attend or what you plan to major in, check to ensure that the course credits earned in high school will transfer to that institution. Before taking a course, students should check that course credits transfer to their intended college or university.

Student Route Finder

(Under Construction)

Find Your Route to a College, University & Career

Military Veterans College Network

(Under Construction Establish a new Subpage)

Support That the Military Community Has Earned

Independent Higher Education

Simple, Swift, Sure & Affordable Routes to Degrees

American Student Assistance

Free On-Line Assistance on Money, Student Debt & Careers

My Career Shines

Sign in Page to Open Free Education & Career Planning System

3 – If a high school student does not have a targeted major, college or university, it is smart to choose general education courses that fulfill mandated general education requirements first. Save general education elective course choices to fulfill any prerequisite courses that a student's future major, college or university requires for admission to a major, college or university.

4 – To earn a bachelor's or associate's degree all students must take a communication, math, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences course. The site below is an initial sampling of courses in these five areas are required in 60-credit associate's degrees, as well as all bachelor's degree programs. <https://www.floridashines.org/succeed-in-college/plan-your-path/general-education-core-courses>.

Using this GPS Website

Colleges and universities in Florida offer many routes to successful careers through industry certificate and degree programs. This site focuses on the most common routes to a bachelor's degree: 60 general education course credit and 60 major course credits. Nearly as often, students earn a general education associate of arts degree at one college and then transfer to complete their 60 course credits in their major at another institution that awards bachelor's degrees. Although less often, students with industry certificates and other associate's degrees can also continue their coursework and earn a bachelor's degree.

ON-LINE RESOURCES & INFORMATION

FROM THE COLLEGE BOARD

Getting Into College - Big Future by the College Board

FROM FLORIDA SHINES

Getting Ready For College

College Prep Courses

Many Florida high schools offer rigorous college preparatory courses with end-of-course exams that are eligible for college credit.

Advanced Placement - courses are rigorous college-preparatory courses in 34 subjects offered in classrooms and on-line in middle and high school. Students who pass the end-of-course exam with a score of 3 or higher, on a scale of 1 to 5, can earn college credit for the course.

The International Baccalaureate - program is a rigorous academic program offered in some public high schools. Students who pass an end-of-course exam in the program with a score of 4 or higher, on a scale of 1 to 7, can earn college credit for the course.

The **Advanced International Certificate of Education**- is a rigorous academic program offered in some public high schools. Students who earn an A, B, C, D or E on an end-of-course exam in the program can earn college credit for the course."

Dual Enrollment

"**Dual Enrollment** allows students to earn simultaneously credits toward their high school diploma and a college degree. Students in 10th, 11th and 12th grades can en-roll in courses offered, on campus or online, at state colleges and universities. Credit earned by successfully completing the course applies to both high school and college graduation requirements. School districts may pay independent and state colleges and universities partial tuition for a student through articulation agreements. The courses and all instructional materials are free to students in public and private schools and home education programs. Books and instructional materials for the courses are free for public school students, but students in private schools and home education programs must pay for their own books and instructional materials.

College Course Work Coaching - Florida Shines

[Managing Your Time \(PDF\)](#)

[Note Taking Skills \(PDF\)](#)

[Developing Study Skills \(PDF\)](#)

[Test Taking Strategies \(PDF\)](#)

FROM MY CAREER SHINES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sign in page to open a free account

MyCareerShines is a free on-line education and career planning system that gives students the tools they need to build a foundation for lifelong career success.

Students will learn what their interests, skills and work values are and how to apply them to a career plan for their future.

This website also helps students with real-world skills such as how to write resumes and cover letters,

how to research employers, and how to prepare for job interviews.

Students can even create an electronic profile that they may choose to share on-line with prospective colleges or employers.

FROM AMERICAN STUDENT ASSISTANCE (SALT)

Students & Alumni: Your Money, Student Debt, and Career

Saltmoney.org is a free on-line program dedicated to simplifying everything from budgeting for college to FAFSA Federal Student Aid Applications to student loan repayment options to internships and job searches, with articles and tools that are easy to use, and even easier to understand.

FROM BEYOND EDUCATION

Key facts about Higher Education Outcomes in Florida.

Higher Education is an investment. Understanding the costs and benefits is helpful when choosing a degree. This website provides information to help students make informed higher education and career choices.

FROM THE COLLEGE BOARD

Explore Careers - Big Future by the College Board

JOB MARKETS

FROM THE INDEPENDENT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES OF FLORIDA

About Florida's 30 Independent Colleges and Universities in Florida

Websites & Profiles of Independent Colleges and Universities in Florida

Financial Aid Offices at Independent Colleges and Universities in Florida

On-Line Certificates, Courses and Degrees