



High School and College Level Course Options For Gifted and Advanced Learners

There are several programs available for students to pursue advanced coursework and potentially earn college credit. Although the list below is not exhaustive, the four key options most often utilized by Columbus City Schools' students are as follows:

- **Advanced Placement (AP)** – This is a collection of advanced courses taken at the high school. Meant to emulate freshmen college level courses, these allow students to work on university coursework in a supportive high school environment. College credit is not guaranteed and requires a score of 3, 4 or 5 (depending upon the university) on the AP exam in May. There is also no impact on a college transcript if credit is not awarded.
- **International Baccalaureate (IB)** - This is a collection of advanced courses taken at the high school either as individual courses or as part of a comprehensive diploma program. Meant to emulate college level courses based on international standards, these allow students to work on university coursework in a supportive high school environment. College credit is not guaranteed and requires passage of an IB exam administered in May. There is also no impact on a college transcript if credit is not awarded.
- **College Credit Plus (CCP)** – This program opens, with some limitations, the catalog of university courses to students who meet college entrance requirements as early as 7th grade. Courses and scheduling are dependent on the university. Credit is not guaranteed, but awarded based on the student earning a passing grade. There is an impact as the student's grade becomes a permanent part of their college transcript.
- **Career Center Pathways** – This program is based on a Pathway or area of specialization chosen by the student. The program is open to 11th and 12th graders who are accepted into their chosen program. Students can take courses in their specialization at 1/2 day programs at Ft. Hayes and a full-day program at Columbus Downtown High School. Students complete their academic courses at their chosen high school for 1/2 day programs. There is an impact on the college transcript if students enroll in College Credit Plus courses. Credit only is given to students taking the articulated credit courses or CTAG (Credit Technical Assurance Guide) courses.

We are often asked if one is better than the other. It depends on the purpose of taking the advanced courses and the goal of the individual student. If the goal is to build transcript strength for acceptance into a highly competitive university, Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate may be the way to go. If the goal is to get through an associate's degree or 4-year degree at a local university quickly, College Credit Plus may be the best option. If the end goal is to begin arranging for career placement out of high school in addition to becoming college and career ready, then the Career Center pathways may be the best option. Also, some courses may be more rigorous in different settings. Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses involve a lot of writing, so humanities courses tend to be very rich. However, College Credit Plus is helpful for students who need mathematics courses beyond calculus or specialized science courses or for students with very explicit course interests. Finally, the best option may not be one over another. It may be to mix and match courses from multiple options as the schedule allows to find the right fit for each individual student.

	Advanced Placement	International Baccalaureate	College Credit Plus	Career Center Pathway
<i>Available Courses</i>	Varies by high school	Variety at Columbus Alternative High School	A few courses on select high school campuses, full catalog available at local colleges and universities	See Career Center websites for full program information
<i>Typical length of course</i>	Full year	Full year	Semester (half year)	1-2 years
<i>Development of curriculum</i>	Created by College Board, a national organization, to emulate typical freshmen level university courses	Created by International Baccalaureate, an international organization, to emulate typical entry level university courses	Created by individual universities/ instructors	Created by CTE (Career Technical Education) department based on various state and national credentials and certifications.
<i>Typical instructor</i>	High school staff member	High school staff member	High school staff member or university instructor	High school staff member/industry professional
<i>Training/certification of instructor</i>	Ohio teaching license, Advanced Placement training, Gifted & Talented professional development	Ohio teaching license, International Baccalaureate training, Gifted & Talented professional development	If HS Staff: Ohio teaching license, master's degree or higher in content area taught If university staff: Graduate degree in content area taught	If HS Staff: Ohio teaching license, credentials in industry taught If industry professional: Advanced training and credentials in industry
<i>Enrollment process</i>	Schedule with high school counselor	Schedule with high school counselor	CCP meeting/ counseling by March 31, CCP letter of intent by April 1, apply to university by their timeline, schedule with high school counselor	Students apply to enroll sophomore year. Students are selected by teachers based on a rubric that considers behavior, attendance and grades.
<i>Pre-requisites for enrollment</i>	Interest and advanced academic skills	Interest and advanced academic skills, enrollment at Columbus Alternative High School	Acceptable score on college readiness test required by college, college admittance	Students must be on grade level and must have junior status when courses begin.

	Advanced Placement	International Baccalaureate	College Credit Plus	Career Center Pathway
<i>Location of course</i>	High School	High School	High School or University campus	Career Centers (Fort Hayes and Downtown High School)
<i>How credit is awarded</i>	Score of 3 or higher on end of year test	Score of 4 or higher on end of year test	Passing grade in course as determined by instructor	Passing grade in course as determined by instructor
<i>Impact on high school transcript</i>	Listed with grade and credit hours awarded, extra value for high grades, impacts high school GPA	Listed with grade and credit hours awarded, extra value for high grades, impacts high school GPA	Listed with grade and credit hours awarded, extra value for high grades, impacts high school GPA	Listed with grade and credit hours awarded, impacts high school GPA
<i>Impact on college transcript</i>	Listed with credit hours if test passed, no impact on college GPA	Listed with credit hours if test passed, no impact on college GPA	Listed with grade and credit hours awarded, impacts college GPA	Three types of college credit may be awarded depending upon the program and the course: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Articulated 2. CCP 3. CTAG Contact Career Centers for full program information.
<i>Transferability</i>	Credit accepted at all state universities and many public/private universities nationally	Credit accepted at all state universities and many public/private universities nationally	Most credits from public universities accepted at all state public universities; others vary at discretion of receiving college	Articulated credit may result in transfer credit and will vary by course; CCP credit is accepted at all state universities and many public/private universities; CTAG is guaranteed credit transfer based on state-wide agreement.