



ADVANCED OPTIONS

Dual Credit, AP, OnRamps, CTE Pathways

Chart Your Course 2020-2021

In addition to providing opportunities in every classroom for students to practice critical thinking and problem solving skills, Little Elm High School offers several pathways for students to advance or accelerate their coursework. Students have the ability to enroll in Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, and OnRamps courses as well as CTE Pathways that lead to related advanced courses, while fulfilling endorsement requirements.

Options are great, but students can be left feeling overwhelmed asking, “Which advanced courses are right for me?”

There is no ONE right answer. Each situation differs as much as each student. However, you can set yourself up for success by knowing the course expectations and by making decisions with the guidance of academic counselors, teachers, your campus administrators, and with the support of your family.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

WHAT is AP? AP is a rigorous academic program built on the commitment, passion, and hard work of students and educators from both secondary schools and higher education. Taking AP classes benefits students in a number of ways.

WHY take AP? Students who take AP courses send a signal to colleges that they’re serious about their education and that they’re willing to challenge themselves with rigorous coursework. Research shows that students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely than their peers to complete a college degree on time. Just taking the AP exam, regardless of the score, increases a student’s chance of success in college. AP courses offer students the opportunity to dive into topics of specific interests such as American history, literature, Spanish language and culture, and music theory. They learn to tap their creativity & problem-solving skills and learn study skills needed for college & career success.

WHO should take AP? Little Elm ISD has an open enrollment policy. This means there are no GPA prerequisites to enroll in advanced courses, however, historical success in courses with similar expectations, PSAT, STAAR, & MAP scores can be indicators of AP potential. Some AP courses require you take classes in a specific sequence. *Students who enjoy a challenge, love to read and write, and would like the opportunity to earn college credit for AP Exam scores of a 3 or higher (TX state universities; please verify with IHE) should consider taking an AP course.

DUAL CREDIT (DC)

WHAT is Dual Credit? Dual Credit courses are college courses provided by institutions of higher education (IHE). These colleges are typically local junior colleges that LEISD has partnered with but can also be four year universities or online programs.

WHY take Dual Credit? Benefits to DC courses include increased savings and an easier transition to college as well as higher rates of successful and on time completion of college. DC allows students the opportunity to enroll in a college course while also earning high school credit. *Students can graduate having earned core college credits, giving them a headstart with their post high school education.

**Always consider how credits will transfer. Not all four year universities will accept AP scores or DC courses as they are earned and may award hours as electives or not at all.*



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WHO should take Dual Credit? Students who want to take challenging college courses while also earning high school credit should consider DC. Students should always discuss schedules and course selections with counselors and parents to ensure the best choices are made for short and long-term success. Remember, as soon as you take a DC course your college transcript has begun.

ONRAMPS through UT

WHAT is OnRamps? OnRamps innovative dual-enrollment program brings rigorous courses aligned with the high standards & expectations of The University of Texas at Austin to thousands of students across TX.

WHY take OnRamps? OnRamps allows students to participate in college level coursework in a supportive environment and with a Little Elm ISD teacher. LEISD teachers partner with the UT Professor to assess student work to determine mastery. This experience provides an authentic entry point to college expectations for students and their families. OnRamps students learn first-hand what that it takes to succeed in college, before they get there.

OnRamps students who earn college credit receive a college transcript along with separate high school credit and a high school transcript. OnRamps college course credit is accepted at any public university or college in Texas as well as many private and non-Texas institutions.

WHO should take OnRamps? Students who have been in on-level courses but are ready for a challenge their senior year are great candidates for OnRamps. Also, students who have taken AP courses but maybe were not successful on the exam, receiving a 1 or 2, might benefit from an OnRamps course. OnRamps provides those students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate learning instead of one major exam. OnRamps is a good option for students who would like to challenge themselves in a low risk and supportive environment.

Tuition, books, and supply rates may apply. Always communicate with campus administrators, counselors, and institutions of higher education before registration.

Keep In Mind: All advanced courses require students to read, write, study, and discuss at high levels. The best way to know if an AP, DC, Advanced CTE Pathway, or OnRamps course is right for you is to talk with teachers, counselors, and other students. Set yourself up for success by knowing about the course and what will be expected of you. Please see the Little Elm High School Course Guide for details about course GPA weights.

Sign up for the Little Elm High School Newsletter at littleelmisd.net to be in the know about upcoming Parent Meetings. Reach out to Michelle Gentry (mgentry@littleelmisd.net) with questions.

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