

College and Career Pathways: During High School

What will help prepare your student for their future while still in high school?

Utah's goal is for all students to graduate from high school ready for college, careers and life, to pursue the future of their choosing. By 2025, almost two out of three jobs in the nation (65%) will require some post-secondary education or training.¹ "Most students will need to earn a postsecondary credential in order to achieve a family-sustaining wage in today's economy."²

Take some time to check out these program pathways.

Utah students have many options in high school for exploring interests, aptitudes, and advanced coursework so that graduates can successfully navigate pathways to postsecondary opportunities. Advanced Placement (AP), Concurrent Enrollment (CE), Career and Technical Education (CTE), International Baccalaureate (IB), work-based learning and other opportunities. Students can pick a combination of AP, CE, CTE and IB courses offered that best suit their needs and goals. **Be sure to talk with teachers and school counselors about these options.**

PLAN

1

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

AP Information—<https://schools.utah.gov/curr/earlycollege?mid=1354&tid=1>

What Is It?

- Classes are advanced college courses, taught by a high school teacher, at the high school.
- Curriculum is designed by the teacher to meet College Board requirements.
- Students can earn college credit through an end of course test. They must score a 3 out of 5 on the exam for credit.
- Taking an AP exam is optional, but required for college credit.

Credit transfers fairly well from high school to university and university to university.

AP Students:

- Want to start college-level coursework in high school
- Plan to attend a college or university

Skills Learned & Practiced:

- Communication - receive & convey messages
- Planning, organization & management
- Responsibility, decision making & leadership
- Problem solving, analyze & think critically
- Demonstrate goal setting & attainment strategies
- Planning, organizing & management
- Life-long learning

¹ Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce (CEW). *IOWA: Education and Workforce Trends through 2025*, Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce (CEW), files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED574373.pdf.

² Bromberg, M. (2016, March 31). Meandering toward graduation: Transcript outcomes of high school graduates. Retrieved March 24, 2021, from <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED566663>



1

PLAN

2

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT (CE)

CE Information—<https://schools.utah.gov/curr/earlycollege?mid=1354&tid=2>

What Is It?

- Classes earn high school and college credit at the same time.
- Classes are taught by adjunct professors or high school teachers with a master's degree; content is designed by the university and accessed largely online.
- The grade earned in the class goes on the student's college transcript.

CE credit is transferable to most Utah colleges and universities.

CE Students:

- Want to start college coursework in high school
- Plan to attend a Utah tech-school or university
- Have interests in a specific job/skill (e.g., technology or health career)

Skills Learned & Practiced:

- Communication—receive and convey messages
- Planning, organization, and management
- Responsibility, decision making, and leadership
- Problem solve, analyze, and think critically
- Teamwork—working with others in common goals
- Life-long learning

Utah students saved over \$75 million dollars last year by using these programs to earn college credit while still in high school.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

CTE Information—<https://schools.utah.gov/cte>

What Is It?

- Career-focused programs that can start students on a pathway towards credentials in postsecondary, workplace, career and college coursework
- Technical, academic and employability skills through CTE courses, work-based learning and concurrent enrollment
- Sequence of courses allow high school students to explore career-focused courses in preparing students for post-secondary and career options
- **Career Pathways** offer students the skills necessary for post-secondary careers.

Many CTE courses are CE courses (they count for college credit). Check with the school counselor for more information about this.

CTE Students:

- Earn state and industry certifications and credentials recognized by industry.
- Apply academic learning to hands-on career opportunities.
- Seek internship opportunities to learn a skill set.

Skills Learned and Practiced:

- Opportunities are provided for students to participate in job shadowing, work-study, apprenticeships or internships.
- Generate numerous opportunities to learn about various careers.
- Provide connection to postsecondary education and employment through site visits.
- Provide opportunities to earn certificates in career areas.

3

4

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB)*

IB Information—

<https://schools.utah.gov/curr/earlycollege?mid=1354&tid=4>

What Is It?

- Classes focus on writing, researching and inquiry-based (taught by an IB certified instructor).
- IB students focus on global issues and giving back to the community (service learning).
- Students can earn the IB Diploma as well as high school diploma.
- Can earn up to 30 college credit hours depending on the university.

The IB Program is recognized internationally and is a key to admissions to Ivy League schools and the U of U's honor program.

IB Students:

- Show interest and ambition in many subject areas—not just areas of strength
- Want to apply their learning to real world situations

Skills Learned and Practiced:

- Acquire skills to conduct inquiry and research
- Explore concepts (local and global significance)
- Apply thinking skills critically and creatively
- Express ideas confidently and collaboratively
- Exhibit strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups, and communities

* Several Utah schools offer the International Baccalaureate program. Be sure to visit with your school counselor to determine if this program is available in your local school district/charter.

Utah State Board of Education
250 East 500 South
P.O. Box 144200
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200

Sydnee Dickson, Ed.D.,
State Superintendent of Public Instruction