


How Washington State's Public Colleges and Universities Evaluate AP, IB, and Cambridge Credit

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Project Purpose

As proposed in HB 2285 (2014 session)

"...as the cost of higher education is shifted away from state support and more toward...students and their families, dual credit courses allow students an opportunity to cut the cost of their higher education by earning college credits while in high school.


However, because each institution...has its own unique policies [for] awarding credit, the dual credit work students do...is not always recognized by institutions of higher education."





Project Purpose

As proposed in HB 2285 (2014 session)

- Review two- and four-year institutions' policies for awarding credit for exam-based dual credit programs
- Make recommendations on how to improve these practices

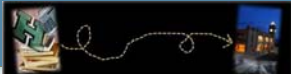


What do high school students and their parents want to know?


What do high school students and their parents want to know?

- Can I get credit for my AP/IB/Cambridge exams?
- How much credit will I get?
- What kind of credit will I get?
- Will I be able to graduate sooner?



Do the public colleges and universities offer credit for AP, IB, and Cambridge?


| | Public Baccalaureates | Two-Year Colleges |
|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| AP | All | All |
| IB | All | Most (26 of 34) |
| Cambridge | 2 | None |



How much credit can students get for these exams?

This depends on:


- The student's exam scores
- The minimum score each institution accepts
- The number of exams the school accepts



...And what types of credit will students be awarded?

This depends on:


- Institutions' policies regarding credit awards for each exam – do they grant credit fulfilling general education requirements, or elective credit?
- The student's score on each exam



Minimum scores for credit

| AP | IB |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 3: All 4-yr schools* | 4: Evergreen, WSU, Western |
| All 2-year schools | A few CTCs |
| | 5 or higher: Eastern, UW |
| | Most CTCs |

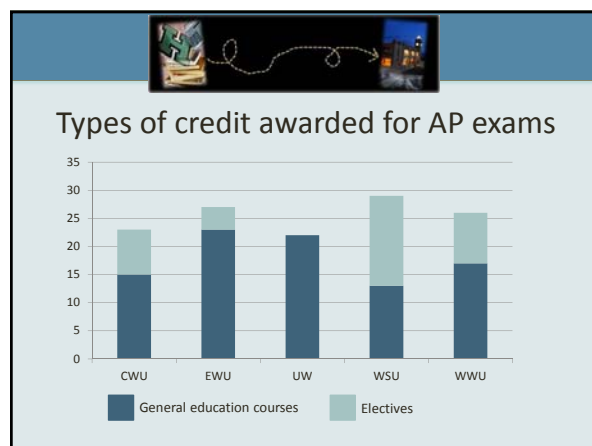
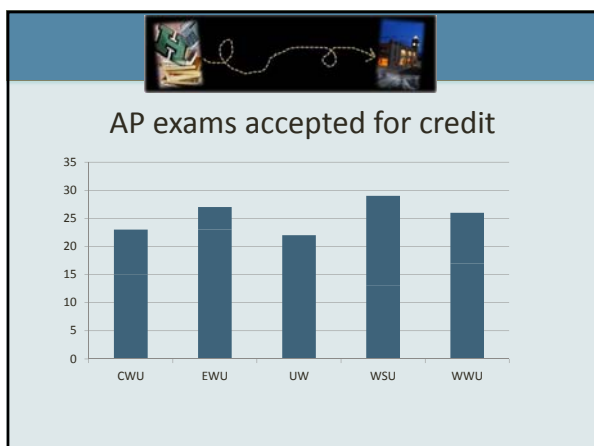
*Central and UW require higher scores for selected exams.

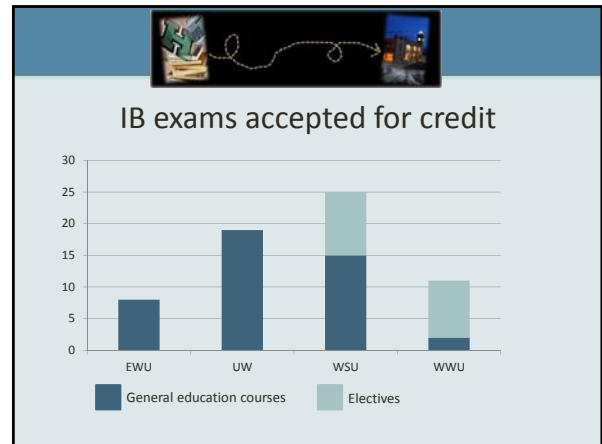
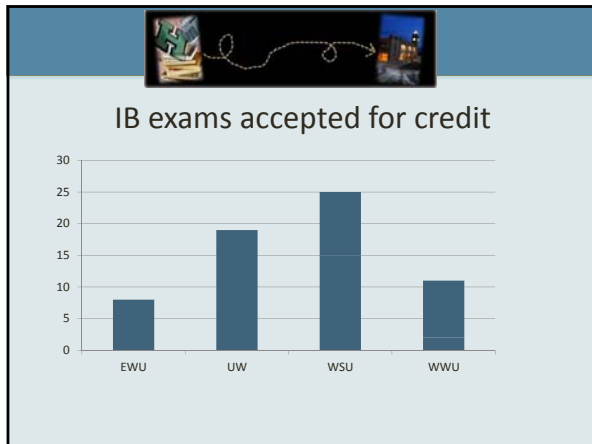


The amount of credit awarded can depend on a student's exam score

UW Chemistry equivalencies for AP with different exam scores

| Exam Score | Credits Awarded |
|------------|-----------------|
| 3 | 5 credits |
| 4 | 10 credits |
| 5 | 15 credits |





The *type* of credit awarded can depend on a student's exam score

EWU Microeconomics equivalencies for AP with different exam scores

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 3 | 5 credits - electives | 4 or 5 | 5 credits - social sciences |
|---|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------------|

- ### Findings
1. There are big differences in policies.
 2. Policies can be hard to find.
 3. Students can't always tell what their credits will be worth before they're admitted and committed.
 4. These programs don't guarantee college credit.
 5. High school-to-college data is not yet available.

- ### Recommendations
- For postsecondary institutions**
- Continue to evaluate existing policies, particularly for IB and Cambridge.
 - Make information easy to find on websites.
 - Provide prospective and enrolled students with information so they can make informed decisions.

- ### Recommendations
- For high schools**
- Promote opt-out, as opposed to opt-in, policies for advanced study classes.
 - Explore options such as *College in the High School* as an alternative to, or in conjunction with, credit-by-exam programs.



Recommendations

Throughout the system

- Continue to build linkages between K-12 and postsecondary data systems.
- Continue to assess this data to determine how students' participation in these programs correlates with college graduation rates and time-to-degree.



Website & Complete Report

How Washington State's Public Colleges
Evaluate AP, IB, and Cambridge Credit
Students Earn in High School

[BLOG](#) [FOR YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH](#) [POLICIES AT THE 4-LEVEL](#) [MORE INFORMATION](#) [ABOUT](#)

on the Dual Credit wiki in December