

Understanding Pre-College Examination Credit and Dual Enrollment

I'd like to get credit for my AP or dual-enrollment (or other) work done prior to coming to Sewanee. How do AP or IB or other sorts of credit factor into the course preference process and my first semester schedule?

You should have indicated your efforts to earn AP, IB, and other forms of college credit on your Academic Inventory, even if you did not have results at that time. If you did not, please add your information on the Course Preference Form.

Let's separate this "pre-Sewanee" credit into two broad categories: *pre-college examination credit* and *dual enrollment*.

Pre-college examination credit:

Students who have pursued AP, IB or GCE A-level examinations may earn college credit for such pre-college work. That is, credit may be applied toward fulfillment of degree requirements (specifically for general education requirements and for elective courses) for students who have met these guidelines:

A student earning scores of 4 or 5 on a given AP examination, or a score of 5, 6, or 7 on IB higher level tests or a grade of B or higher on A-level examinations may be deemed to have met one general education learning objective aligned with that AP examination.

Note two limitations:

- A maximum of one elective course credit [four semester hours] may be awarded for a score of 4 or 5 on an AP examination or a score of 5, 6, or 7 on a higher-level IB examination or a grade of B or higher on an A-level examination in most subject areas as identified in the lists below.
- If a student presents satisfactory scores on AP, and IB and A-level examinations in the same subject area, credit is awarded for only one examination except when a student presents satisfactory scores on two distinct examinations in the subject areas of economics, history, or politics where a maximum of two elective course credits [eight semester hours] may be awarded in those areas.

[This information from the Registrar](#) clarifies how pre-college credit may be applied toward particular General Education requirements. With minimal exceptions, AP (etc.) credit is **not** specifically tied to a course at Sewanee: students meet a *requirement* but, with very few exceptions, are not marked as having taken a specific *course*.

Students should report the results of any AP, IB or GCE A-level examinations that meet the criteria above by having official scores (or transcripts) sent directly to the Office of the Registrar. **Once received and approved by the Registrar, these credits will be "banked" by the Registrar, ready for you to apply once you are on campus.**

Dual-enrollment credit:

Students who have completed any dual-enrollment courses (college courses taken while still in high school) need to submit final transcripts to the Registrar *as soon as possible*. It is important to ensure that these are sent

to the Registrar at registrar@sewanee.edu instead of the Office of Admissions. The Registrar will review the final transcript and, as appropriate, make determinations as to whether an incoming course meets a Gen Ed requirement and/or whether it specifically matches a Sewanee course or will be general elective. **Once received and approved by the Registrar, these credits will be “banked” by the Registrar, ready for you to apply once you are on campus.** Should you decide to apply these credits, the Registrar will have a conversation with you regarding how the credits will count toward your degree.

Does that mean that my pre-college credits won't factor into this Course Preference process and schedule?

Your pre-college credits can help you, even if not applied immediately to your academic record. We use your self-reported pre-college scores (and your high school transcript) to place you into the right Mathematics and Chemistry courses. (Every student gets a placement, whether or not you end up taking MATH or CHEM.) In other cases, we can use dual-enrollment and/or test scores to place you into a higher class if deemed appropriate by the department: for example, some students can begin in a 200-level English class rather than English 101 if they have a comparable pre-college exam score or took an English 101 equivalent as a dual-enrollment class. **Importantly, you won't be behind on your efforts to move through your courses.**

So why not add them to my academic record immediately, this summer?

Three reasons at least:

- Timing: many pre-college exam scores aren't posted until mid-July, and we will be far along in building your schedule by that point.
- Outcomes: related to timing, some students may be confident of earning a sufficient score . . . but unfortunately end up short. Or the test they took wasn't exactly the one they recalled. (For example, the English *Language* and Composition test and the English *Literature* and Composition test are not the same!) In such cases, we would discover very late in the process that those credits actually weren't earned, and a schedule might have to be rebuilt from scratch from whatever courses remain available.
- Limiting opportunities: in some cases, students have run into financial aid restrictions *for finishing all requirements sooner than expected*. Students end up losing aid if they have insufficient courses that are required for finishing their degree—their “course program of study” (or CPoS). Bringing in 16 credits of pre-college work effectively reduces time at Sewanee by a semester; 32 credits (the max) reduces by a full year, and many students *want* a four-year experience at Sewanee. Holding the credits in reserve with the Registrar means **you get to apply them over time, not all at once, and you control how you move through college.**

That's why we ask you to approach this preference process *as if you have not earned pre-college credit*. If in the process of building your schedule, we indeed discover that you really do need to have documented pre-college credit applied to your record, we will communicate that to you.