

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

**block:** 90 minute period daily

**term:** 9 week, 90 minutes per day course

**course number:** each course is assigned a 6 digit number for scheduling and grade reporting purposes.

**unit:** a form of credit based upon the Carnegie unit; one unit (1.0) is granted for the successful completion of a course which meets one block per day for a two terms, or the equivalent; a half unit (0.5) is granted for the successful completion of a course which meets one period/block per day for a term or the equivalent. One Carnegie Unit is equal to 120 hours of instruction.

**full credit course:** a course which earns 0.5 units per term. Sometimes called a "solid".

**partial credit:** a course which is not a "solid"; earns less than 0.5 units per term.

**prerequisite:** a course which must be taken first before enrollment in another class (Example: Financial Accounting is a prerequisite to Managerial Accounting ).

**required:** a full credit course which must be successfully completed to satisfy graduation requirements.

**elective:** a course which may be taken for credit but is not required for graduation.

**recommended:** a course the student would be advised to take but is not required.

**grade points:** grades are based on a 4-point scale, i.e., A = 4.000, B = 3.000, C = 2.000, D = 1.000, F = 0.000; grade points are totaled at the end of each term for all credit subjects.

**grade point average (GPA):** computed by dividing the total grade points by the number of credit subjects completed; based on a 4-point scale, i.e., A = 4.000, B = 3.000, C = 2.000, D = 1.000, F = 0.000. Grades in all credit courses are included in the GPA. This may include grades in partial credit courses. Beginning fall 2005, Physical Education will receive .5 credits and be included in their GPA.

### CLASS LOAD

The class load in high school is four (4) courses per term and must include 1 term of PE each year. Freshman, sophomores, and juniors are required to take 4 blocks of classes each term. This will allow students to make normal progress toward graduation. Course selections should be made for the entire academic year. Students are asked to give careful consideration to course selections as schedules and teacher assignments are based upon these requests. **Once schedules have been established, student requests for changes will normally not be honored. Students enrolled in AP courses will be expected to complete all 3 terms and take the AP exam.** **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY:** Any student wishing to participate in athletics must be enrolled for two courses each term of the school year (total of 8 courses).

### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students enrolled in Davenport high schools:

- shall be required to pay for any excessive or unauthorized usage of course materials, as well as for a breakage of equipment resulting from inappropriate or unauthorized usage
- may be required to purchase workbooks, manuals and/or other necessary supplies. (See course descriptions.)
- shall be required to observe all safety precautions and, when required, wear the necessary safety gear, i.e., goggles, aprons, gloves.
- shall keep a record of the units they have earned. It is expected that students will know where they stand with respect to graduation requirements.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) AND CONCURRENT (DUAL) CREDIT GETTING A HEAD START ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Davenport Community Schools offers high school students a variety of courses to earn college credit prior to graduation. These courses, with some exceptions, are typically open to juniors and seniors. Students who participate in concurrent enrollment classes are registered as Scott Community College (SCC) students and receive a transcript from SCC showing their credits and their grades. Students who do not have an ACT score on file must take a COMPASS Test **administered by the school at no expense.**

AP courses are taught at the high school by Davenport teachers. College credit courses are taught at the high school, typically by a Davenport teacher but occasionally by a Scott Community College instructor. Students do not pay for the college credit or buy the college textbook. Even though the coursework is college-level, students can be successful if they devote the time and effort it takes to do the work. However, students who are unsuccessful may drop out of the college portion approximately two weeks before the end of the grading period.

### Advantages of Advanced Placement

- Participate in the only collegiate-level program recognized nationally.
- Earn credit in over 12,000 colleges and universities.

### Advantages of Concurrent Credit

- Earn college credit based on performance over an entire semester.
- Earn college credit immediately after successful course completion.

Students should visit their school counselors to discuss their choices. These decisions are far too important to leave to chance. Please refer to the course guide for more details. Note: These college credits may benefit students who attend a community college or a 4-year college elsewhere. Transfer equivalencies for several colleges can be found in the Course Equivalency Guide on the SCC website at: <http://www.eicc.edu/students/transfer/eqguides.html> **ALL CONCURRENT COURSES ARE IN ITALICS IN THIS COURSE GUIDE.**

**AP Credit and Concurrent (Dual) Credit Comparisons**

	<b>Advanced Placement (AP)</b>	<b>Concurrent/Dual Credit</b>
<b>Description</b>	AP courses enable high school students to participate in college-level courses while still in high school. The AP courses offered currently were created by teams of leading educators nationally.	Concurrent or dual credit course are college-level courses taken by high school students in which they receive college and high school credit at the same time. Courses are taught by college-approved instructors.
<b>Eligibility</b>	Each high school develops its own criteria for student participation. Typically, courses are open to students in grades 10 - 12 who are in good academic standing.	Typically, courses are open to students in grades 11 - 12 who are in good academic standing. Specific eligibility requirements will be provided by your high school counselor.
<b>Grades</b>	AP course grades are given by the teacher.	Students are taught and graded in the same way as college students who take the same course.
<b>College Credit</b>	Students <b>must</b> take an AP exam to receive college credit. The credit received is based on scores earned. Over 90% of U.S. colleges and universities as well as colleges in 20 other countries give credit for AP exams.	The college or university offering the class awards credit immediately after students successfully complete the course. Most courses will transfer to any public Iowa college or university when a student earns a "C" or better.>
<b>Cost</b>	Advanced Placement courses are free, but students must pay for the exam. The cost of the exam varies. Please contact your guidance counselor for the actual cost of AP exams each year.	Scott Community College credits are awarded at no cost.
<b>Courses</b>	AP English Literature and Comp AP Calculus AP Statistics AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Spanish AP French AP US History AP Studio Art	Auto Technology I Civil Engineering & Architecture Computer Integrated Manufacturing Culinary/Hospitality ProStart I & II Digital Electronics Engineering Design and Development Environmental Science 111 Financial Accounting Intro to Engineering Managerial Accounting Occupational Childcare Principles of Engineering Intro to Psychology 111 Student Built Home Vocational Welding I & II

**POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTION (PSEO)**

The Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act is intended to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a wider variety of options to qualified high school students. The act allows students in grades nine through twelve to enroll part-time in nonsectarian courses in eligible postsecondary schools. A ninth or tenth grade student must be identified as a gifted and talented student, according to the school district's criteria, to participate in this act. The following information is intended to respond to frequently asked questions about the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act.

- 1. Which students are eligible to participate in this act?** Students in the eleventh or twelfth grade and those ninth and tenth grade students identified as gifted and talented who are prepared to pursue academic studies beyond curricular offerings of the Davenport Community Schools. Students approved to participate in this act are expected to have a well-documented academic history and a well defined career objective. A student who has already earned all the credits needed to graduate from our district (including specific subject area requirements) is **not** eligible for the Postsecondary Enrollment Option. Any college-level courses taken by such a student prior to his/her formal high school graduation are at his/her own expense. Students who have not yet earned all the credits required for graduation are eligible for the Postsecondary Enrollment Option only if they have successfully completed the highest level course our district offers in the area of study they want to pursue or if students want to pursue an academic area not included in our district's curricular offerings.
- 2. What postsecondary educational institutions may a student enroll in under this act?** Most accredited Iowa institutions, either public or private. Please check with your guidance counselor to be sure the school you are considering participates in the PSEO option.