

Comparing College in the Schools, AP, and PSEO Courses

Prepared by U of MN – TC CIS staff in consultation with U of M PSEO staff, MN Dept. of Ed staff, and experienced AP teachers. November 2004 (Updated March 2011)

| | College in the Schools U of MN – TC | Advanced Placement College Board | PSEO U of MN – Twin Cities |
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| Type of Course | University of Minnesota catalogued course (i.e., one that appears in U of M undergrad catalogue & is open to all U of M undergrads); With few exceptions, textbooks used on campus are used in CIS courses; exceptions must be approved by faculty coordinator. Syllabi required to be same as or comparable to campus syllabi | Curriculum suggested List of recommended texts provided No specific syllabus required, however an annual online course authorization is required | University of Minnesota catalogued course (i.e., one that appears in U of M undergrad catalogue and is open to all U of M undergrads) |
| Teacher Qualifications and Initial Training | Interviewed and selected by U of M faculty Workshops/directed study with U of M faculty and staff are required; No charge to school or teacher; workshops held on U of M campus. | No educational or professional background requirements Participation in workshops & conferences strongly encouraged but not required; AP-approved workshops (in some disciplines) available in Minnesota at Carleton College & Augsburg. | <i>Not applicable</i> High school teachers are not involved. High school counselors are main liaisons between high school and U of M. |
| Ongoing Support for Teachers | 3 – 7 days (annually) of discipline-specific workshops with U of M faculty are required –no expense to teacher or school; workshops held on U of M campus Regular classroom visits from CIS program faculty coordinator/assistant (every 1-3 years) Password protected web pedagogical resources for many CIS disciplines | Participation in workshops & conferences encouraged, not required; AP-approved workshops (in some disciplines) are available in Minnesota at Carleton College & Augsburg. Online training, consultants, textbook reviews, and other resources | <i>Not applicable</i> |
| Credit Earned | Students earn high school and college credit immediately upon the successful completion of the course. Grades appear on official U of M transcript. All courses are approved for degree credit. In 2009-10, 97% of students who completed a CIS class earned U of M credit. | Score of 3, 4, or 5 must be earned on AP exam in order to be <i>eligible</i> for receipt of college credit or course exemption at colleges which accept AP scores; Some colleges accept only 4s and 5s. College Board Web site reports that 64% of AP tests taken in MN in 2010 earned scores of 3, 4, or 5. 38% of all AP tests taken in MN in 2010 earned scores of 4 and 5. | Students earn high school and college credit immediately upon the successful completion of the course. Grades appear on official U of M transcript. All courses are approved for degree credit. |
| Transfer of Credit | Credit is recognized by most postsecondary institutions in the U.S. In a 2009 survey of former CIS students, 93% of survey respondents reported that their U of M credit earned through CIS had been recognized by institutions other than the U of M (credit, exemption from required courses, or adv. placement). | More than 90 % of U.S. colleges have a policy granting incoming students, credit and/or placement. Students are eligible to request credit and/or exemption on the basis of AP scores. Some schools do not accept any AP scores, e.g., U of M world language departments do not grant credit automatically on the basis of <i>any</i> AP score. | Credit is transferable to most postsecondary institutions in the U.S. |

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| Cost to Student | None | AP exam rate (subsidized by the state) | None |
| Cost to Teacher | None | AP workshop fee (subsidized by the state) | NA |
| Cost to School | \$145.00 per student per course, regardless of # of credits (2011-12). The cost per student is partially subsidized by the state. Textbooks and required course materials Substitute teacher pay for 2-4 days (to cover classes during CIS workshops and student field days) Transportation for students to CIS student field days. NOTE: Participation in CIS field days is optional unless the field day is used to complete required labs. | None, unless school elects to pay for teacher AP workshops. Substitute teacher pay when teachers attend AP workshops. | Schools lose percentage of their per-pupil state allotment; proportional to number of courses student is enrolled in at high school. State of MN compensates institutions \$179.57 per credit in 2010-11. |
| Student assessment and college grade | College grading follows U of M standards and/or rubrics Grading reviewed by U of M faculty Multiple and varied assessments are used to evaluate student learning over the entire term of the course. College grades determined by above assessments. | The AP score (1-5) is determined by student's performance on a single test administered in the spring. | Multiple and varied assessments are used to evaluate student learning over the entire term of the course. College grades determined by above assessments. |
| Student Eligibility | Top 20%-30% of graduating class for most courses; exceptions allowed Top 50% for several courses Unique requirements for some courses Entry Point Project courses (3) for students in the academic middle, between the top 20% and top 50% of their class | No AP policy; high school policies vary | No minimum criteria; each application individually reviewed. For Fall 2010: Average High School GPA in UMTC program: 3.89 |
| Student Support | Full privileges to U of M libraries U of M email accounts Student handbooks Academic advising provided by CIS teachers and school counselors who are supported by CIS | Web site with information about AP courses, AP exams, study skills and test-taking tips | Full privileges to U of M libraries, public computer labs U of M email accounts Academic advising services Comprehensive student handbook, orientation, and support workshops |
| Program Validation | Courses approved through regular U of M processes. U of M academic dept. oversee courses administered by CIS Accreditation by National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships | Courses developed by national committees of college and high school faculty. Grading is nationally normed. Exams are developed by national committees of college and high school faculty, with support from AP staff. | Courses approved through regular U of M processes. |