

Earn College Credit while in High School with the ATC Program

Part 1: Introduction

Are you a high school student? Are you interested in majoring in one of the following areas at a community or junior college?

- Business
- Marketing
- Health Sciences
- Child Development
- Culinary Arts
- Welding
- Automotive
- Drafting
- Computers/Electronics
- Criminal Justice
- Other technical areas

The Advanced Technical Credit (ATC) Program can help you earn college credit for these majors while still in high school.

Students can earn college credit by taking ATC courses while in high school. An ATC course is an enhanced version of a normal high school course, taught by a teacher who has had special training.

Part 2: How to Get Started

To get started, ask your counselor if your high school offers ATC courses. If they do, select ATC courses that will apply towards the college major you are interested in as part of your high school graduation plan. If you take the ATC course as a junior or senior and earn a grade of 80 (3.0) or better, the ATC course may also be counted as an advanced measure for the Distinguished Achievement graduation plan (DAP).

To qualify for college credit through the ATC Program, you will need to do the following while in high school:

- Enroll in an ATC course in high school.
 - Courses on your high school transcript should be noted with the letter A.
- Complete the course as a junior or senior with a minimum grade of 80 (B or better).
- Freshmen and sophomores must take additional ATC courses as a junior or senior to qualify for college credit.
- If there are prerequisites for the ATC course, you must make a minimum grade of 80 in each required course.

Part 3: How to Receive Your College Credit

To receive college credit for the ATC courses you took during high school you need to do the following:

- Enroll in a participating college within 15 months of graduation.
- Take a copy of your high school transcript to the college when you enroll and tell the college admissions staff that you took high school courses that may count for college credit. You should then complete a petition for credit form.
- Ask the college staff to help you identify the college courses that are equivalent to the ATC courses you took in high school. The college can only award you credit for courses that they offer.
- Select a college technical certificate or degree plan that includes one or more of those courses.
- Some colleges may delay the awarding of your credit until you have completed six hours of college credit – check with the college to see what is required. AP and/or CLEP tests may apply towards the six required hours.
- You will not be charged tuition and fees to receive this credit; however, the college may charge you a small administrative fee to post the credit to your transcript.
- Finally, check with the college registrar to make sure your credit is posted to your college transcript.

For more information about the Advanced Technical Credit Program, please visit our website at www.atctexas.org, or email us at atcstaff@lonestar.edu