

The background of the slide is a photograph of a wooden pedestrian bridge with a curved metal railing, spanning a small stream. Two people are walking on the bridge. The scene is framed by autumn foliage in the foreground and a blue sky with white clouds in the background. A dark blue horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title text.

Finding Balance and Managing Expectations

2025 OpInform



Finding Balance and Managing Expectations

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Paths and Opportunities



OVERVIEW OF PATHS

Factor	CTE (Career & Technical Ed)	AP (Advanced Placement)	IB (International Baccalaureate)	Dual Enrollment (SUNY)
Credit Potential	Certifications, some credits	College credit (exam-dependent)	College credit (varies by university)	Guaranteed SUNY college credit, also accepted by most schools
Cost	Often district-funded	Exam fees	Program fees (varies)	Reduced tuition/fees (sometimes free)
Rigor	Moderate-High (hands-on)	High (exam-focused)	Very high (holistic, writing-intensive)	High (college-level work)
Best Suited For	Hands-on learners, career-focused	Strong test takers, subject-focused	Global-minded, strong writers	Students seeking affordable early credits



"Which option is best for me?"



In New York State, over 90,000 high school students participate in Career and Technical Education annually.

Based on 2018-19 data



Vocational and Career Tech Benefits

- Hands on learning
- Develop deep understanding
- Build connections in field
- Potential entry into field



Over 50,000 students in New York State scored a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam in 2023.

Source: The College Board



AP & IB Benefits

- Develop deeper understanding of subject matter
- Demonstrate academic rigor
- Earn college credit



In the 2022-23 academic year, almost 2.5 million high school students took at least one dual enrollment course.

Source: IPEDS

Forty-nine SUNY campuses offer dual or concurrent enrollment, serving more than 90,000 K-12 students.

Source: SUNY Report on Enrollment and Financial Sustainability, 2024



College Credit and Dual Enrollment Benefits

- Preview of college level work
- Explore interests
- Earn college credit



Dual Enrollment Examples



SUNY Canton Dual Enrollment: Inspiring In-Person College Experiences

Over 570 high school students, from 12 schools, engage in hands-on, no-cost dual enrollment courses and visit SUNY Canton's campus.

Activities like drone programming, cybersecurity labs, and fitness demos help students envision themselves succeeding in college.

Counselors report increased academic confidence and college readiness among participants.



Dutchess Community College P-TECH: A First-in-NYS Model

4-Year Pathway: Earn HS Diploma + AAS in Electrical Technology (at no cost)

Unique in NYS: First 4-year P-TECH (most take 6 years)

Support: Full tuition, fees, textbooks, student services covered

Industry Partners: Council of Industry, OnSemi, local manufacturers

Career Outcomes: Entry-level wages ~\$25/hour, strong upward mobility

Enrollment: ~50 students admitted annually



Factors to Consider



Vocational and Career Tech

- Alternate locations/away from school
- Limited curriculum/breadth of coursework
- Potential limited transferability of credits



AP & IB

- Demand of schedule/overload
- Cost of exams
- Not a guarantee of credit



College Credit and Dual Enrollment

- If not prepared could negatively impact GPA
- Increase workload, burn-out, stress
- Credit may not be applicable to degree



Recommendations



Key Factors for Consideration

- Student Interests and Strengths
- Post-High Schools Plans
- Academic Readiness
- Time Commitment
- Cost and Accessibility
- Support Systems



Guiding Decisions



Why Choosing the Right Path is Important

- Aligns with future college or career goals
- Prepares for real-world skills or college-level academics
- Builds confidence and motivation



How can you check to see if classes count toward college?

Course equivalencies are tables of courses that are transferable among institutions. To receive credit at a SUNY campus for a course completed at another institution, that course must first be determined to be "equivalent" to a course offered at your SUNY campus. Final determination of credit acceptance is ultimately made by the campus registrar. You must submit official transcripts of all completed coursework before a final determination can be made.

www.suny.edu/transfer
select Course Equivalencies

If college is not listed, contact individual campuses with questions.



Final Thoughts



Takeaways

- Reframe "best" versus "best fit"
- Encourage students to explore and reassess each year
- Support and guidance make a difference
- Empower students to take ownership of their journeys
- Credits transfer, grades do not
- Colleges require direct transcripts from The College Board or IB for credit awarding

