

ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR IDAHO STUDENTS

Student Guidebook

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WHAT IS ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES?

Advanced Opportunities is a program that provides funding for Idaho student to use toward educational and career pathways. The program provides **\$4,125** for each student in grades 7-12 attending an Idaho public school. Funds can be utilized toward particular costs that students may incur listed below:

- ▶ **Overload Courses:** Overload courses are high school courses that are taken in excess of a student's full course load and outside the regular school day. Students can use funds up to **\$225** per eligible course.
- ▶ **Dual Credit Courses:** A dual credit course is a college course taken for both high school and college credit. Students can request funding for up to **\$75** per credit.
- ▶ **Exams:** Students can use funds to pay for the full cost of many exams (including proctoring fees). Exams can include: college entrance exams, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), and professional certifications.
- ▶ **Workforce Training Courses:** Students can use funds for approved courses that directly relate to workforce needs. Students can request up to \$500 per course and \$1,000 per year.
- ▶ **Early Graduation Scholarship:** This scholarship can be awarded for a student's early graduation, that must be at least one year early.

STUDENT CAREER PATHWAY PLANNING

By the end of eighth grade, all students will develop a four-year career plan for their high school journey. Eighth grade is the perfect time for students to begin thinking about their plans after high school and map out the types of advanced coursework they can leverage while in high school. This document is adaptable and may change over time. Talk with a school counselor.

COURSE CHOICE

The Advanced Opportunities program can complement the goal of a student's learning plan by removing costs. Idaho's Advanced Opportunities program is nationally recognized as a model for course choice. Students are provided numerous choices to find their path. As students participate in Advanced Opportunities, they are not limited to only the courses offered at their local high school. Students are able to choose from various options that could include: dual enrollment in more than one high school, direct experience in the work environment, accessing online coursework, or even taking courses on a college campus.



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Advanced Opportunities program is an opportunity for students to participate in challenging and rigorous coursework. As students navigate the program, it is their responsibility to meet with their advisor or counselor to create a plan, work hard to successfully complete all courses, and pay attention to important deadlines and registration processes. Students who fail to earn credit for a course paid for by Advanced Opportunities, must then pay for and successfully earn credit or complete one (1) like course before future reimbursement can be made by the Idaho State Department of Education.

ADVISING

Proper advising is key to navigating the Advanced Opportunities program. Making connections with the school counselor, a college and career advocate, and/or a college advisor will be critical. Students who use Advanced Opportunities funds to earn more than 15 dual credits must receive advising on how the credits will translate into their post-high school aspirations and fit into their program of study.

COURSE AND CREDIT TRANSFERABILITY

As is the case for all college students, course transferability can be complex to navigate. How a course is transferred or accepted is determined by the receiving school/college. If students are receiving college credit from more than one college, it is important to plan ahead and consider how courses will transfer, and which courses will count toward the degree program. Each college has a **transfer guide** that provides information on how credits will be accepted.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

SIGN UP FOR AN ACCOUNT

Students should create an Advanced Opportunities account at advancedops.sde.idaho.gov. Creating an account will allow students to request funds and track their account balance. Once an account is created it must be approved by school staff. In some cases, school districts handle the request funding process internally. Please follow local policies and procedures as they can vary. Contact the Advanced Opportunities staff at the student's school district for details.

PARTICIPATION FORM

Students and parents must fill out an Advanced Opportunities participation form that outlines program risks and regulations prior to using funds. This form needs to be turned in at the school and will be kept on file with other student records. The participation form can be found online in the student's account at advancedops.sde.idaho.gov or at the student's school.

HOMESCHOOL AND PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS

According to Idaho code 33-4602, the Advanced Opportunities program is available to all students who attend an Idaho public school. A School district attendance policies vary. Home-school students can choose to attend a public school that will allow them access to Advanced Opportunities funding. Students should talk with their local district for more information.

OVERLOAD COURSES

Secondary courses taught by an Idaho certified teacher, taken in excess of a full credit load and outside of the regular school day can be considered overload courses. Overload courses can help students accelerate to their goals. A student may want to graduate early or have flexibility in their schedule later in their high school experience for more rigorous course work such as college courses, apprenticeships or a job. There are various providers for these courses, so students should talk with their school about opportunities and goals and how this fits into their learning plan.

IDAHO DIGITAL LEARNING ALLIANCE

To help provide course choices, the State of Idaho provides the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA) as an online course provider that offers courses in partnership with all Idaho public middle and high schools. If certain courses are not available through the student's local school, students can sign up for the course online through IDLA. In addition to typical course offerings for secondary credit, IDLA also offers dual credit, Advanced Placement, and flex options. More information can be found at idahodigitalllearning.org



DUAL CREDIT

Across the State of Idaho, numerous colleges and universities offer dual credit receiving both high school and college credit. Generally, courses are offered through the student's high school from highly certified Idaho teachers, but students can attend courses on college campuses or online (fees may vary).

When maximized, the Advanced Opportunities program enables Idaho families to save thousands of dollars on college tuition.

SCENARIO	TYPICAL COST FOR IN-STATE UNIVERSITY*	TYPICAL COST FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE**	COST TO IDAHO FROM A.O. FUNDING	COST TO FAMILY AFTER USING A.O.
Student earns 60 college credits (associates degree)	\$16,194	\$8,408	\$4,125	\$375
Student earns 30 college credits (1 year of college)	\$8,086	\$4,203	\$2,250	\$0
Student earns 15 college credits (1 semester of college)	\$4,168	\$2,101	\$1,125	\$0

Please note Advanced Opportunities only pays for tuition costs, additional costs such as books and lab fees are not provided, talk to the provider if assistance is needed. Possible savings are listed below.

*Average In-State University costs per semester based on Boise State University (\$4,391), Idaho State University (\$4,178), Lewis-Clark State College (\$3,694) and University of Idaho (\$4,408)

**Average Community college costs per credit based on North Idaho College (\$141.50), College of Western Idaho (\$139), College of Southern Idaho (\$140), and College of Eastern Idaho (\$140)

DUAL CREDIT ENROLLMENT

Processes vary by each college, students should contact the college and the school's Advanced Opportunities staff for more information before enrolling in a dual credit course.

1. **Submit** a Dual Credit Application
2. **Register** for the college course
3. Create an **Advanced Opportunities Account**
4. Request **Advanced Opportunities** funding to pay for course

It is important to keep track of the college(s) from which students receive dual credit. Upon enrolling in a college after high school, students will be required to provide official transcripts in order for course credits to be applied to a student's degree program.

IDAHO COLLEGE	WEBSITE	PHONE
Boise State University	boisestate.edu/concurrentenrollment	(208) 426-3750
Brigham Young University-Idaho	byui.edu/concurrent-enrollment	(208) 496-1300
College of Eastern Idaho	cei.edu/early-college	(208) 535-5330
College of Southern Idaho	csi.edu/dual-credit	(208) 933-2320
College of Western Idaho	cwi.edu/programs-degrees/dual-credit	(208) 562-3371
Idaho State University	isu.edu/ecp	(208) 282-6067
Lewis-Clark State College	lcsc.edu/dual-credit	(208) 792-2280
North Idaho College	nic.edu/dualcredit	(208) 769-3321
Northwest Nazarene University	nnu.edu/students/undergraduate/more-information/concurrent-credit	(208) 467-8373
University of Idaho	dualcredit.uidaho.edu	(208) 885-4074

EXAMS

COLLEGE CREDIT BY EXAM

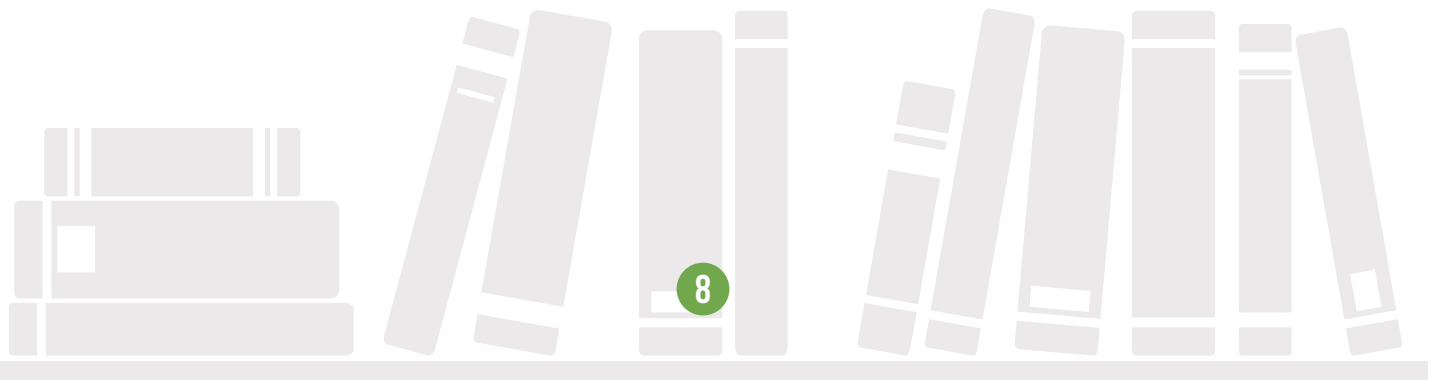
- ▶ **AP/IB:** Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses are college-level courses that prepare students through advanced and rigorous curriculum. Students take an AP or IB exam and receive a score. Depending on the score, a college/university may waive a requirement or grant credit for a parallel course. Requirements may vary by college.
- ▶ **CLEP:** The College Level Examination Program allows students to challenge a course by taking an exam. By doing this, a student may receive both high school and/or college credit. Local school district policies may vary.

CHALLENGE EXAMS

Many school districts provide options for students to challenge courses for credit. If the student meets the level of mastery set by the local school board for a given set of standards, the school can grant the student a high school credit without requiring the student to take the course. Contact the local school district for more details.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

College entrance exams are available for funding such as ACT, SAT and others.



CAREER & TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Advanced Opportunities program provides opportunities for students who want to pursue a career and technical education (CTE) program. CTE goes beyond the traditional path of academia and tends to be both hands-on and have applied learning concepts, connected to industry needs. For information on CTE visit cte.idaho.gov/students.

- ▶ **CTE Certifications:** The Advanced Opportunities program provides a list of eligible exams that career-technical students can receive funding, that lead to industry-recognized certificates, licenses, or degrees.
- ▶ **Workforce Training :** Workforce training programs such as apprenticeships and in-the-field experiences, are courses that are not offered for college credit, but have a clear path that leads to careers. From an approved list of course offerings, Idaho technical colleges provide learning opportunities beyond the semester system that are designed to meet the needs of industry.

EARLY GRADUATION

Some students choose to advance in their high school journey by graduating early. Student who plan to graduate early, should talk to their counselor to make a plan. Early Graduation Scholarships are available to students who graduate from high school at least one year early. This scholarship is estimated at **\$2,000** for every year skipped and can be used at any Idaho public post-secondary institution. The student must apply for the scholarship within two years of graduating through the student's Advanced Opportunities account.

ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES



The Advanced Opportunities staff at the student's local school will be the best point of contact to navigate the Advanced Opportunities program.

For additional assistance, contact us at (208) 332-6944.
www.sde.idaho.gov/student-engagement/advanced-ops/



IDAHO
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
