



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
CORPUS CHRISTI

The Elite Islander Program *Dual Credit Student Handbook*

“Begin your future now.”

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
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The Elite Islander Program is Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (A&M-CC)'s **dual credit** program. A **dual credit** course is a class that awards both high school and college credit upon completion, through a partnership between A&M-CC and your school district. Dual credit is a great opportunity for qualified high school juniors and seniors to earn college credit by attending a college level class on the A&M-CC campus.

The Elite Islander Program offers many benefits:

- Gives students the experience of taking real college courses on the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi campus.
- Expands academic options for college-bound high school students.
- Minimizes the duplication of courses taken in both high school and college.
- Decreases the amount of time needed to earn a degree.
- Drastically reduces the cost of college, by discounting the cost of dual credit courses more than 50%.
- Elite Islander Program dual credit courses are fully transferable to public colleges and universities in Texas and are generally transferable to colleges and universities throughout the country.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who qualifies to enroll in the Elite Islander Program?

- You must be either a junior or senior in high school.
- You must have the approval of your parent, your high school counselor and your high school principal.
- The course you plan to enroll in must be on your high school's list of approved dual credit courses for A&M-CC.
- You must be prepared to function in an adult learning environment.
- You must meet the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative, which requires that students be assessed in reading, writing and math skills prior to enrolling. You are assessed by passing either the ASSET, COMPASS, ACCUPLACER or the THEA test. A&M-CC administers the THEA, but any of these are acceptable.

- You must have taken the ACT or SAT and meet the class rank/test score combinations listed below:

<u>Class Rank</u>	<u>Test Score (ACT/SAT)</u>
Top 10%	no minimum
Next 15%	19/900
50% - 26%	21/1000
75% - 51%	23/1100
76% or higher	27/1200

How do I join the Elite Islander Program?

- If you are interested in taking a dual credit course, you should first discuss it with your high school counselor to make sure the program is right for you and to decide which course is acceptable for high school credit. Some things to consider prior to applying are:
 - 1) Is the course you want to take offered at a time appropriate for your schedule? (Most dual credit students will find that courses offered in the late afternoon or early evening work best for them.)
 - 2) Do you have a reliable way of getting to class consistently on time? (All dual credit courses offered by A&M-CC are held on the University campus.)
- Once you have made the decision to apply, you can get the applications from your high school counselor. All of the following are required:
 - 1) A completed Dual Credit Program Application with all of the necessary signatures.
 - 2) An official copy of your high school transcript.
 - 3) A completed Texas A&M University Application for Admission packet (on-line applications are not allowed for dual credit students).
 - 4) Entrance exam test scores as described in the Application for Admission packet.
- The suggested deadlines for submission of your complete application are as follows:

Fall Semester	-	July 1
Spring Semester	-	November 1

What challenges will I face as an Elite Islander?

- Dual credit courses are real university courses – class material and grading expectations are not modified for high school students. You can expect that these courses will be more challenging than the classes you take in high school. Also, the grade that you earn in a dual credit course is on both your high school and college transcript. If you make a low grade it can adversely affect both your high school and college grade point average.
- Dual credit courses take place in an adult environment. This means that professors will expect that you can manage your time and workload responsibly. It also means that class discussion themes often will reflect a diversity of perspectives and may sometimes be more controversial than what you are accustomed to.
- In high school, your teachers may take steps to inform you (and your parents) of your class performance if you are experiencing difficulty. They may even schedule parent/teacher conferences to help you stay on track. However, as previously stated, dual credit courses take place in an adult learning environment. Instructors do make themselves available to students during office hours to discuss your grades, but they will expect that you will take the initiative, keep up with the workload, and stay apprised of class expectations and standards. University faculty typically will not meet with parents.

What resources are available on campus to help me succeed?

- The Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC) is designed to help students develop the skills necessary to be successful learners. Their goal is to help unprepared students to prepare, prepared students to advance, and advanced students to excel. They can help with note-taking, test strategies, time management and stress management. For more information, contact them at 825-5933.
- The Office of Disability Services is designed to meet the unique educational needs of enrolled students with documented permanent or temporary disabilities. Disability Services

provides intake and consultation services to students seeking to register with that office. They review individual's documentation of disability, assess eligibility for services and determine reasonable accommodations. For more information, contact them at 825-5816.

As a dual credit student, will I have access to all of the services available to regular university students?

No. Due to liability issues, dual credit students may not utilize the services provided by the following:

- University Health Services
- University Counseling Services
- Recreational Sports and Wellness Center

How much does it cost?

Tuition and fees for three semester hour dual credit course are \$249. That's less than half of what the same class will cost a regular A&M-CC student. Dual credit students are responsible for the following expenses:

- There is a \$25 application fee which is to be paid when you submit your application.
- If you will be driving on campus, you will need a parking permit, which costs \$45 per semester.
- You are responsible for the purchase of any textbooks or course materials required by the instructor, and these costs vary depending on the course.

Other questions? Contact the dual credit program manager:

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Other Important A&M-CC Phone Numbers:

University Police Department	-	825-4444
Office of Admissions and Records	-	825-2624
Business Office	-	825-2600
Office of Academic Testing	-	825-2334
Tutoring and Learning Center	-	825-5933
Office of Disability Services	-	825-5816
Academic Advising Transition Center	-	825-5931
Mary & Jeff Bell Library	-	825-2643
Sanddollar ID Card Office	-	825-5978
Office of Student Affairs	-	825-2612
Office of Financial Assistance	-	825-2338