



Policy on Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Dual Credit Courses

Atlanta Classical Academy's high school follows a rigorous, coherent, classical curriculum in the liberal arts, mathematics, sciences, and fine arts that prepares students for demanding college and university academic programs throughout the nation. Indeed, side-by-side comparisons of our curriculum to that of selective liberal-arts colleges will reveal that our high school students are already studying at a level of college freshmen and sophomores. Atlanta Classical is not the only school using this curriculum. There are at the moment sixteen schools as a part of the Barney Charter School Initiative of Hillsdale College that use our same curriculum. Further, many classical charter schools have a comparable curriculum albeit not exactly the same. Classical schooling is one of the foremost approaches to school reform in this country and many would argue the most successful.

Since our school is driven by a mission, our curriculum reflects that mission. In the humanities, the mission of developing knowledgeable, virtuous citizens is manifested in the unfolding of the Western and American tradition in both literature and history, with an emphasis on past efforts to achieve truth, beauty, liberty, happiness, and other noble ends. As such, the school does not tailor its curriculum to outside testing that may not align with our mission and with that story. In the sciences our curriculum deliberately lays the foundation in a thorough knowledge of the essential content of each science prior to supposed original inquiry. To the extent that college-level examinations exist that align with our curriculum, or that our students would perform well on even when there is not close alignment, we shall encourage students to take those examinations. Our approach to college-level exams is, then, one of choosing deliberately and prudently.

With regard to the most common forms of collegiate-level work at the high school, Atlanta Classical adheres to the following guidelines:

SAT Subject Exams:

One often-overlooked mastery examination is the SAT Subject examination in each content area. Selective colleges often require these examinations for admissions. When students have finished an advanced course, such as second-year biology, they should also take the SAT Subject exam in that area.

Advanced Placement:

We expect several AP exams, particularly in mathematics and the sciences, will align with our curriculum. Among those exams are chemistry, physics, Calculus I (called AB), Calculus II (called BC), and Latin. Our students will also initially take the AP Biology exam, with the caveat that the exam changed a few years ago to an “inquiry-based” rather than a content-heavy, foundational model. Thus, we shall look at students’ results and evaluate our participation. The history and literature exams do not align with our curriculum.

International Baccalaureate:

The IB framework and approach do not align with our mission and philosophy.

Dual Credit Courses:

Atlanta Classical does not award credit for “dual-credit” courses taken at colleges or online. We have no ability to monitor the content or quality of those courses, and they are usually selected from a broad array of “offerings” that are not meant to fit into a clear, defined curriculum.