

Building A High School Transcript

Home education parents can build a transcript that will provide a college or university a clear picture of what a student has accomplished during the high school years. Not all colleges require a transcript and if your child earns his AA degree in a Florida community college, a high school transcript will not be necessary. However a parent need not be intimidated creating a transcript if the college your child wishes to attend requires a transcript. It would be much easier if you build the transcript as your child finished the courses instead of waiting until the senior year to do so.

Understand that colleges generally want an **official** transcript for students who have graduated from a public or private school. Official transcripts are sent sealed from one school administrator to another on the school's letter head sometimes with the school's embossing seal. Colleges may or may not accept a home educated student's transcript designed by a parent. The college may require a student to take several tests to determine his/her competency level in various subjects. Generally, those are SAT II subject level tests. Some colleges will accept certain test scores, i.e. CLEP, DSST, and AP for college credit. Some will accept dual enrollment credit. Check with the colleges that your child may want to attend to see if one of the tests which would earn college credit could be used in place of the SAT II. You will need to check this out before planning your child's high school path and begin preparation early on.

Regardless of whether a transcript is required or not, it is a good idea to put together a record of your child's high school experiences. You never know whether it may be required for a scholarship, or the NCAA or something else. Creating these records simultaneous with instruction and experience is a lot easier than trying to reconstruct it at the end. A transcript is only one part of the picture. You will definitely want to include any community service, awards, honors, work experience and extracurricular experience your child has. This will give the college insight into the kind of person and experiences your child has.

Transcripts are just a list of courses taken and grades earned in each grade level and school where the course was taken. You can create one that will have a content similar to those issued from the public or private school in Florida. There are many examples of transcripts online if you check the internet. A form and a diploma can be purchased at:
<http://www.boxfreeconcepts.com/edserv/index.html>

Florida has a common course numbering system. Course numbers and content for each course can be found on the DOE website:
http://www.firn.edu/doe/curriculum/ccd2/0708/GradRequ07_08.pdf
<http://data.fldoe.org/crsCode/default.cfm?level=912>

Creating a transcript is easier if you are using a standard curriculum or if your child is taking courses through the FLVS or dual enrollment or earn credit by examination. There are equivalency lists established up by FDOE for these courses. These links will be helpful to you in determining what courses are required for public school students for high school graduation (although the law does not require any specific courses for home education students because the state does not issue a diploma to a home educated student.)

List of courses required for High School graduation:

s.1003.43 F.S.

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=Ch1003/SEC43.HTM&Title=->2006->Ch1003->Section%2043#1003.43

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Dual Enrollment Course Equivalency List

Effective Date: August 2007

<http://facts23.facts.org/Advising%20Manuals/pdf/Dual%20Enrollment%20List%20for%20Mar%2007%20SBE%20Approval.pdf>

Credit-by-Exam Equivalencies for Florida Post-Secondary Institutions

<http://facts23.facts.org/Advising%20Manuals/pdf/ACC%20CREDIT%20BY%20EXAM%20EQUIVALENCIES%202007.pdf>

MEMORANDUM Credit-by-Exam Guidelines

http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/pdf/Memo_CreditByExam.pdf

You child can earn credit by taking certain recognized standardized tests. These exams are not easy and if your child is not a good test taker it might be better to go a different route, such as dual enrollment or the Florida Virtual School. Some students do well with self-study; others need more instruction. Some students do not do well on multiple choice exams and SAT or ACT are difficult for them. You need to determine this early on, so that you do not wait until the senior year to take these exams if you are hoping your child will qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship. You may want to enroll the child in a private school, where the school keeps the records, provides the documentation required for a lower test score for the Bright Futures scholarship.

Credit by Exam options open to home educated students are: DSST, AP and CLEP subject area exams.

AP EXAMS (Advanced Placement)

<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/Controller.jsp>

AP are the most difficult of the exams and are, therefore, most commonly accepted by colleges. AP courses are more rigorous and it is more difficult for a student to pass one of these exams by studying alone without help. There is a certain style of writing required for the essay portion of the test and without that test taking knowledge it will be hard for you to develop it on your own.

There are a couple of ways you can prepare for an AP exam.

1. The Florida Virtual School (FLVS) offers AP courses free of charge to home educated students.

A list of AP courses offered by FLVS can be found at:

http://www.flvs.net/students_parents/honors_ap_course_info.php

You can register for these courses at: <http://www.flvs.net/>

2. Pennsylvania Homeschooling offers AP classes online for a fee. Information about the AP program can be located at:

<http://www.pahomeschoolers.com/courses/index.html>

At the very bottom of the page [Click here to download a flyer you can share with your friends](#) provides a complete list of courses and cost of the class.

3. You may find a tutor who will help your child in your local area.

You might want to ask what the success rate of students taking the AP Courses the school has in order to make your decision about where to take the courses.

The actual exam cost \$80, is given once a year in May and a student must register by early March

CLEP College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP®)

<http://www.collegeboard.com/highered/clep/>

The College-Level Examination Program gives students the opportunity to receive college credit for what they already know by earning qualifying scores on any of the 34 examinations. CLEP helps students save time and money. There are 2,900 colleges and universities that grant credit for CLEP exams. The *CLEP Official Study Guide*, 18th Edition is the only study guide that contains sample questions and answers for all 34 exams. It also includes information on earning credit sample questions and answers for all 34 exams. It also includes information on earning credit through CLEP and exam-taking tips.

These exams are not as universally accepted as the AP exams, but are not as rigorous and a student may be able to prepare for the test by studying the material alone. There is a list of colleges which accept CLEP credit on the website.

These tests are computerized, multiple choice exams and test for mastery of subject material. Exams are available year-round and cost \$65 per test and the testing center may cost an additional \$15. If a student does not pass he/she can re-take the test in 6 months.

DSSTs (Dantes Subject Standardized Tests)

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/examinations/DSST.htm

http://www.getcollegecredit.com/04learners_a.html#factsheets

The DSST program is an extensive series of 37 examinations in college subject areas that are comparable to the final or end-of-course examinations in undergraduate courses. ACE recommends 3 semester hours of credit per test. DANTEs funds paper-based DSST testing for eligible Service members and civilian examinees at DANTEs Test Centers and at national test centers (colleges and universities) offering the Internet-based (iBT) DSSTs.

You need to know the college whether the college accepts credit for DSST exams and what the passing score requirements are.

Computerized exams provide instant score results and quicker score reporting services to college and universities.

ECE (Excelsior College Exams)

Nearly 1000 colleges and universities use one or more Excelsior College Exams to award college credit, to waive requirements, or for student placement. Excelsior College is regionally accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

Learn more at:

https://www.excelsior.edu/portal/page?_pageid=57,35974&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL