

FACT SHEET

SINGLETON CREDIT-BASED TRANSITION PROGRAMS¹

Singleton programs typically offer high school students the opportunity to take one or more college-level classes that may allow them to earn college credit. The primary goal of singleton programs is to expose students to college-level academics. They are often only a small part of a student's high school experience.

Usually, the goal of singleton programs is not to recreate the college experience but rather to enrich the high school curriculum by offering students an opportunity to take a college-level class. A secondary goal of singleton programs is to provide students with the opportunity to earn college credit so they may begin their postsecondary education with a “head start” towards graduation. The Advanced Placement (AP)² program is one of the most common singleton programs, and many dual credit programs³ and some models of Tech Prep⁴ can also be classified as singleton programs.

Other aspects of the secondary to postsecondary transition, such as preparing applications or obtaining financial aid, do not necessarily accompany singleton programs. Singleton programs are generally offered through the high school, but sometimes high school students take regular college courses on the college campus. Singleton programs are frequently taught by high school teachers who have been specially certified to teach college and college-level courses.

AT-A-GLANCE

Singleton programs focus on exposing students to college-level academics, and providing them with the option of taking one or more college-level classes that may allow them to earn college credit.

Curricular content in singleton programs varies among programs. Some singleton programs use a specially-designed curriculum for high school students, while others use the same syllabus, books, and exams as regular college courses. While singleton programs can meet the needs of a wide variety of students, the majority of students in these programs are typically already highly motivated and academically proficient before enrolling in the program.

Singleton credit-based transition programs generally allow highly motivated and academically proficient students the opportunity to challenge themselves and further prepare for college-level work. Singleton programs sometimes offer students the opportunity to learn behaviors and attitudes necessary for college success, but they do not usually recreate the college experience for high school students beyond offering them the chance to take and earn college credit for college-level classes.

¹This fact sheet on singleton credit-based transition programs was prepared under contract for the U.S. Department of Education by DTI Associates, Inc. (DTI) and the Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University (CCRC). The purpose of this fact sheet, and others related to this project, is to give a broad overview and description of the types of programs that the *Accelerating Student Success* project is studying. For more information on the *Accelerating Student Success* study, please see the study's webpage on the U.S. Department of Education's website at: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/cclo/cbtrans/index.html>.

²For more information on Advanced Placement, please go to: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html>.

³Dual credit programs allow high school students to earn high school and college class credit for taking one or more college-level classes.

⁴For more information on Tech Prep programs, please go to: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/cte/tpreptopic.html>.