

## Grand Canyon University Dual Enrollment FAQs

1. What are the overall program benefits? CCA is a college preparatory school, providing students the ability to take university courses as early as their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year! There are many benefits to this program, including saving time and money. This is an elite academic program, positioning students well for potential scholarships, university acceptance, and internships. If your student is academically strong, they can bypass AP classes and dive straight into completing university courses that are transferrable to any college or university of their choice.

Qualifying students can graduate CCA with a high school diploma plus multiple completed university credits. CCA absorbs the financial cost for up to 36 university credits...that's approximately 1/3 of the way towards completing a bachelor's degree. (A bachelor's degree at GCU typically consists of 120 credits). Students at this academic level are often accepted to honors colleges and eligible for academic scholarships they may not otherwise qualify for.

Students may choose to complete more than 36 university credits and pay the difference, which is minimal (details below). This allows them to graduate college early and save money on university fees. CCA students typically complete university general education requirements, freeing them up to focus on university classes related to their areas interest once they graduate from high school. University course completion is an excellent point of pride to add to a resume – demonstrating perseverance, intelligence, and dedication.

GCU is our partner school for our dual enrollment program, but students are encouraged to transfer completed university credits to any college or university of their choice. "Ivy league" universities and others with stringent entrance requirements look favorably on students who demonstrate academic excellence by completing university courses as a high school student.

1. Is this indeed a possibility for my child? Yes! It all depends on their motivation, time management ability, and academic standing. See the GCU Student Requirements and Privileges Agreement document to see if your son/daughter might be a good fit.

2. What is needed from us? Your input and preferences. We will not move forward without parent/guardian approval. If despite what we see on our end you feel strongly your student is not yet ready for this program, we will respect that. This is a benefit, not a mandatory program.

3. What are the requirements / preparation? Students should maintain strong academics and behavior both on and off campus, as well as practice excellent time management skills. Electives courses offered at CCA, including our College Prep and Study Skills class, can assist students in strengthening these specific skills.

Our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade English courses also focus on helping students develop college level essay writing skills. Students learn and practice the APA 7 writing style format. Multiple essays are reviewed by our English instructors as well as our Principal prior to a student being approved for this program. Our goal is to ensure students have a positive experience as they start taking university courses, and that their writing ability meets or exceeds university standards.

We also host a 2-day mini workshop that walks students through program expectations, pros/cons, how we support students, what their responsibilities are, and more. Parents are welcome to attend - we typically host this workshop July prior to the beginning of the new school year.

4. How does taking GCU classes impact a student's regular class schedule (10th grade)? Students typically begin by taking GCU's English Composition I class (ENG-105), and they will focus on this course on campus during their "normal" 10th grade English class timeslot. Students taking GCU classes work in our GCU Lab room, which is teacher/administrator monitored. Starting in 10th grade is challenging time management-wise as 10th grade is typically a student's final year to complete language courses and is academically rigorous in other areas as well. Starting in 10th grade will absolutely entail homework – students will not have enough time to finish their weekly coursework on campus during a 55 minute class period. GCU estimates that 12 – 15 hours of work are needed weekly to complete each course. Students who remain focused during class time can expect approximately 8 to 11 hours of homework for their GCU courses each week, for 7 weeks.

GCU courses run for 7 weeks. Once a qualified student successfully completes a class, they have the option to complete another college course. Additional courses in 10<sup>th</sup> grade are billed at our current discounted rate (currently \$400 per class, which covers all fees including electronic books etc.). This represents approximately an 80% savings on GCU's "normal" course fee schedule – saving parents and students approximately \$1,800 per course.

5. What is the long-term plan for moving forward with the dual-enrollment track? GCU course completion plans are customized and different for each student. Some never travel this path, some start right away in 10th grade, and some start in future years and take various number of courses. Previous students have completed as few as 1 GCU course (4 university credits) and as many as 12 courses (48 university credits). There is no minimum and no cap. Students may also choose to complete the entrance exams but decline to register for courses. There is no penalty if students don't participate in this program - it depends on student readiness and learning preferences. Some students do not thrive in an online learning environment while others do. Student plans and paths are assessed regularly throughout each school year, and students may adjust their participation levels at any time, with support and advice from CCA's administrative team.

6. What are the potential options for the dual-enrollment track? See above - there are many! Qualified students may start the process at any time during or after their 10th grade year. Students beginning the GCU dual enrollment program take a single course but if qualified they can later double up and take 2 courses at a time. Because courses are only 7 weeks long, the opportunity to take a high volume of courses prior to high school graduation exists. However, student progress is monitored weekly and students are encouraged not to rush through courses nor to place an unhealthy amount of pressure on themselves to complete a high volume of courses. It is better to complete courses with a strong final grade and a healthy life and schedule balance than to take on an unrealistic workload.

7. What are the restrictions? See above. A student may be exited from the program if they are not completing it successfully or if it becomes too overwhelming for them. This may be their choice or at the discretion of CCA - with parent involvement of course.

8. What happens if my child fails to complete the course(s) once enrolled? GCU is more lenient on high school students for failed courses than on high school graduates. Students may re-take a failed course and GCU will replace the failed course with the new grade (instead of blending the old and new grade). We have a process in place to help students avoid this scenario, but the reality is that all major assignments are due Sunday evening when teachers are not there to monitor. We encourage students to turn assignments in early (by the previous Friday) but they are ultimately responsible for completing and submitting their work. If a student fails a GCU course that was paid for by CCA, then that financial burden gets passed along to their family (approximately \$400 per class). We try to build a safety net for students while also allowing them to experience the consequences of their choices. We have seen students fail a GCU course, learn a valuable lesson from the experience, and bounce back strong!

9. Why two dates for registration / orientation? The first workshop is to discuss the program overview and expectations, and complete the GCU application online. GCU requires 24+ hours to process the initial application. Students must first be accepted into GCU and granted access into the high school dual enrollment process and GCU's student portal to complete the second workshop activities. The second workshop is to complete the enrollment process, including but not limited to the entrance exams and registering for a student's first course.

For additional information, please see our GCU Student Requirements and Privileges Agreement. You may also contact us at 480-553-0856 or [info@carefreechristianacademy.com](mailto:info@carefreechristianacademy.com).