HISD | UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS (UT) OnRAMPS
DUAL ENROLLMENT
STUDENT HANDBOOK • 2021–2022

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS CREDIT
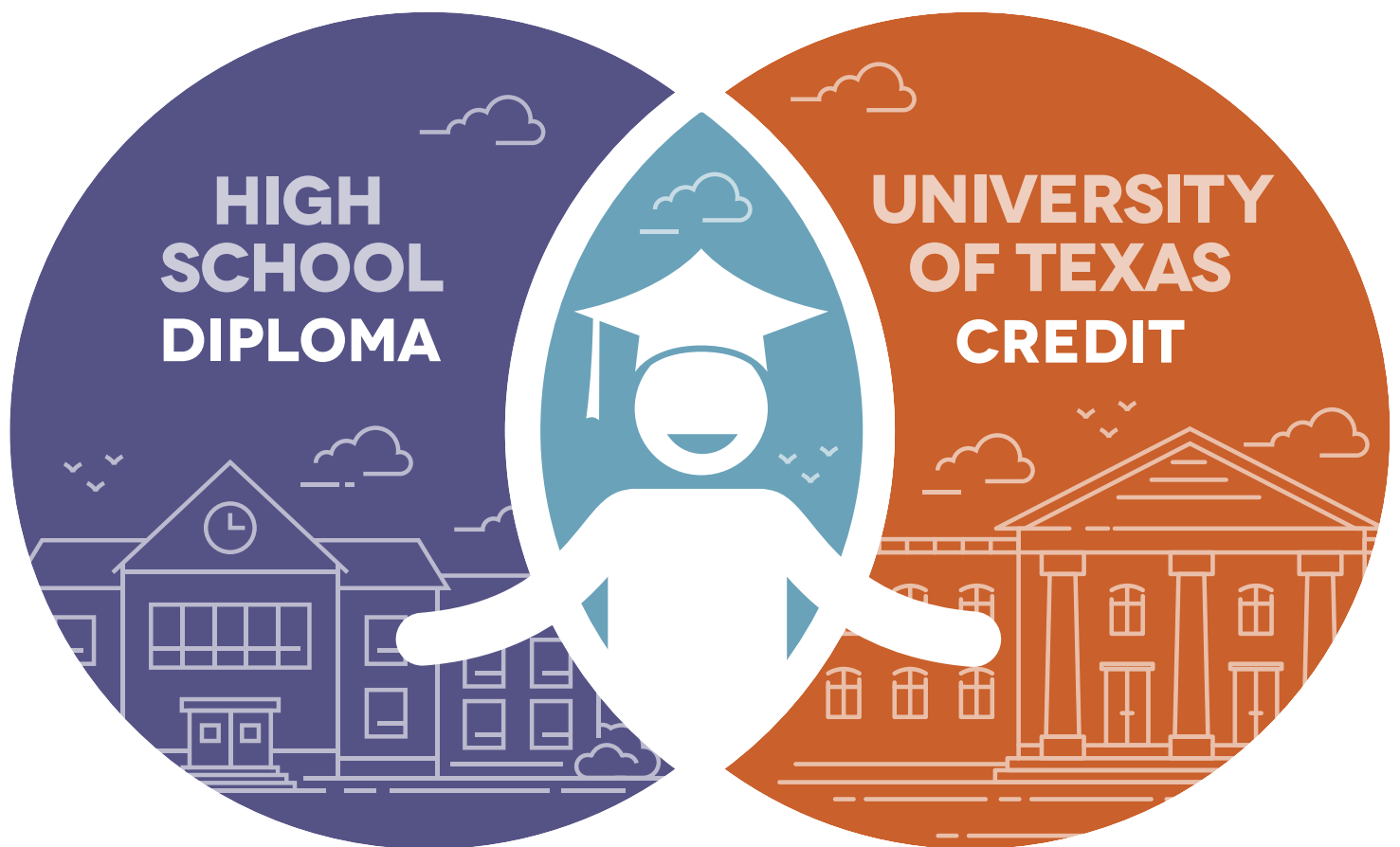
HISD | Innovation & Postsecondary Programming

OnRamps

HISD UT OnRamps Handbook (2021-2022)

Houston Independent School District (ISD) is excited to provide high school students the opportunity to obtain college credit through its University of Texas (UT) OnRamps program. This unique dual enrollment collaboration between Houston ISD and UT-Austin offers many benefits that include:

- Access: Provides UT-Austin experience on your local high school campus.
- Transferability: Guaranteed transfer to public colleges and universities in Texas and beyond.
- Flexibility: Students are exempt from TSI requirements.
- Saves money: Provides UT-core courses at 75% off the cost for the same course taken on campus.
- Preparation: Students gain early exposure to college expectations, easing the transition from high school to college.

The Basics of OnRamps

How does it work?
OnRamps represents a dual enrollment course model, meaning students receive a college letter grade and high school letter grade that are independent of each other. The hybrid approach to these OnRamps courses means Houston ISD students will be provided face-to-face instruction from the Houston ISD teacher associated with this course. This Houston ISD faculty member will be responsible for the final letter grade that appears on the high school transcript. OnRamps students will be limited to interacting virtually with a UT faculty member who awards the college letter grade.

Who can participate in dual enrollment?
Houston ISD students can start taking UT OnRamps classes upon entering high school, but most of these dual enrollment classes are offered during 11th and 12th grade. All students are encouraged to meet with a high school counselor or administrator to discuss their high school grades and any other commitments (e.g., job, family support, extracurricular activities) to determine if they should enroll in a dual enrollment class. Students interested in enrolling into a dual enrollment class must first complete an ApplyTexas application while also submitting the appropriate enrollment paperwork by the appropriate UT OnRamps deadline(s).

What does it cost?
The UT OnRamps program is **free** for students, as Houston ISD administration will incur the student tuition costs for all OnRamps courses completed during the 2021-2022 school year. Textbooks and classroom materials are included within this expense. OnRamps is a 1:1 program; therefore, students will need to have access to a technology device to be enrolled in an OnRamps course. Students will need a desktop computer or laptop for the development and programming that is associated with the Computer Science course.

What can students take?
A complete list of the UT OnRamps courses available to be offered at Houston ISD campuses can be found in Appendix A. Most OnRamps credits earned for a letter grade of C- or above fulfill the UT Austin core curriculum requirements and are guaranteed to transfer as core curriculum credit to any public university in Texas. The *Foundations of Arts & Entertainment Technologies* and *Computer Science (Thriving in Our Digital World)* courses only are available to campuses with a Career & Technology Education (CTE) pathway aligned with these classes. All OnRamps classes include the weighted GPA point that is associated with other postsecondary program options within Houston ISD (e.g., Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, International Baccalaureate).

Eligibility

Houston ISD students do <u>not</u> need to meet a reading, writing, and/or mathematics score requirements to enroll in a UT OnRamps class at the start of the school year. However, they will be required to demonstrate college readiness at the end of the fall semester if they are not passing the college portion of the dual enrollment course at that time. Students must create a UT EID to enroll in an OnRamps course.

Grades

Houston ISD students enrolled in a UT OnRamps class will receive high school grades for their dual enrollment course(s) in the same manner that they would receive grades for any other Houston ISD course. Aside from English and History, in which the college grade is posted at the end of each semester, the final college letter grade for [UT OnRamps courses](#) are awarded at the end of the school year. At that time, students will have the option of accepting or declining the college credit. Unlike dual credit courses, students potentially can receive two different high school and college letter grades.

Students should meet with campus administrators if they have any concerns about their ability to be successful in the dual enrollment classroom. Students should notify campus administrators at the <u>start of the semester</u> if their UT OnRamps courses do not appear on their high school or college schedules. Failure to provide campus personnel this notification can result in the student not receiving course credit.

FERPA

Students create educational records as part of their participation in the OnRamps program. The records are protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), which applies to all personally identifiable information in the educational records.

In accordance with FERPA, OnRamps releases educational records to departments and programs within UT Austin or Texas Tech for reporting purposes and for providing students with information about educational opportunities that may be available to them. In accordance with FERPA, OnRamps does not release identifying information or educational records of any student to a third party outside of the university except in situations permitted by law.

OnRamps high school teachers must complete an annual FERPA module online to indicate their understanding of the policies, procedures, and guidelines for disclosing and sharing any student information. If a violation of FERPA or other breach of student data or confidentiality is suspected, OnRamps teachers should immediately report the incident using the secure form in the Policies and Protocols tile in Instructor HQ.

Academic Dishonesty

According to UT personnel, academic dishonesty consists of plagiarism, or collusion of any kind with respect to college course assignments and/or examinations, including helping another student cheat, will be subject to the penalties aligned with the University, including potentially resulting in a disciplinary record.

Student Accommodations

Students participating in distance education programs who receive high school accommodations related to a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act may also receive certain accommodations in their dual enrollment course. Accommodations in an OnRamps course must follow accommodations in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Individual

Accommodation Plan that have been provided by the high school and be allowable under the university assessment practices. Accommodations are individualized and based on the student's need and disability.

Students who require accommodations as part of an IEP or 504 plan may request accommodations from a list of pre-approved college-level accommodations during course registration. OnRamps teachers must review the request and verify that the accommodations are in accordance with the student's IEP or 504 plan. Students who have an accommodation that does not appear on the preapproved list during course registration will have an opportunity to enter specific information for review and validation

Final Thoughts and Best Practices

Taking an OnRamps class for the first time can be intimidating, but our district has observed numerous success stories when Houston ISD students adopt the following practices when completing these college-level courses.

- Read, read, read your course syllabus. It should include the important details related to your class (e.g., grade breakdown, book details, instructor email, etc.).
- Understand how to use all facets of the college's online student system. These virtual platforms not only include accessing the instructor's online course, but they also enable students to review their academic progress or send their UT transcript to another college or university.
- OnRamps assignment deadlines are firm, so manage your time wisely to prevent any situation that will jeopardize your ability to earn credit for an assignment. OnRamps courses minimally require two to three hours of homework or study each week.
- Constantly communicate in a professional manner with your OnRamps professors – this includes requesting test/assignment results if that information has yet to be provided. Always advocate for yourself and do not wait until it is too late to ask a question.
- Remember your UT EID username and password! In some instances, forgetting a password may lead to you not accessing course content for more than two weeks. This disconnect from the classroom can be the difference between an "A" and a "C".

It also is important to remember:

- Students do not have to pick between dual enrollment, dual credit, advanced placement, or IB classes. If your schedule allows for it and the classes are available at your high school, you potentially can complete classes associated with all four postsecondary programs.
- Certain 4-year colleges may only take a "A" or "B" letter grade, so do not overload yourself with too many OnRamps classes. Our team wants to see students thrive, not survive, in the dual enrollment classroom.
- Withdrawing from an OnRamps class avoids a failing/poor grade, but it may have future financial aid implications. In addition to the impact on your high school transcript, a withdrawal (i.e., "W") from a dual enrollment course may impact you years later when it comes to financial aid. Therefore, always try your best to finish out the semester.
- Have fun being a college student! You are part of a unique group of students in HISD who get a head start on college by completing dual enrollment coursework. Be proud of the work that has allowed you to get to this point and will allow you to be a successful college student going forward.

Appendix A: OnRamps Courses

The University of Texas at Austin
OnRamps

COURSES

Course	OnRamps College Course Title	The University of Texas Course Code	Texas Tech University Course Code	Texas Core Curriculum Code	TCCN
Chemistry	Principles of Chemistry I (Lecture)	CH 301	_	030	CHEM 1311
Chemistry	Introduction to Chemical Practices I (Lab)	CH 104M	–	–	CHEM 1111
Computer Science	Thriving in our Digital World	CS 302	EDIT 2318	093	–
English Language Arts (ELA)	Introduction to Rhetoric: Reading, Writing, and Research	RHE 306	–	010	ENGL 1301
English Language Arts (ELA)	Reading and Writing the Rhetoric of American Identity	RHE 309K	–	–	ENGL 1302
Geoscience	Earth, Wind, and Fire: Introduction to Geoscience	GEO 302E	GEOG 1401	030	–
History	The United States, 1492-1865	HIS 315K	–	060	HIST 1301

Course	OnRamps College Course Title	The University of Texas Course Code	Texas Tech University Course Code	Texas Core Curriculum Code	TCCN
History	The United States Since 1865	HIS 315L	–	060	HIST 1302
Math	College Algebra	M 301	–	–	MATH 1314
Math	Discovery Precalculus	M 305G	MATH 1550	020	MATH 2312
Math	Statistics	SDS 302	MATH 2300	020	–
Physics	Mechanics, Heat, and Sound: General Physics Technical Course I	PHY 302K	PHYS 1403	030	PHYS 1301
Physics	Electromagnetism, Optics, and Nuclear Physics: General Physics Technical Course II	PHY 302L	PHYS 1404	030	PHYS 1302
Visual Arts	Foundations of Arts & Entertainment Technologies	AET 304	–	050	–