

***Weighing your options....***  
**The Joint Enrollment Honors Program vs. AP Courses**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: How do Joint Enrollment and AP differ?**

- **Joint enrollment is not a test-based program.** Your ability to earn college credits is not based on a single, high-stakes test, but rather on the entirety of work completed over the course of a semester.
- **Joint enrollment typically allows students to accumulate more college credit than AP.** Students who attend JEHP full-time will complete their entire freshman year of college before graduating from high school. Students who begin JEHP as juniors may complete a year and a half of college coursework.
- **Joint enrollment allows students to experience college life and academics by spending time on a college campus.** JEHP eases the transition to college, allowing students to experience college while still living at home with the support system of family and friends.
- **AP courses are *like* a college course; JEHP courses *are* college courses.**

**Q: Are Joint Enrollment and AP courses mutually exclusive?**

- No! Many JEHP part-time JEHP students take AP courses at their high schools as well. Taking an AP course at your high school and college courses at KSU that aren't available through the AP program demonstrates to admissions offices that you are choosing a rigorous path to college. Some students come to JEHP already having completed AP courses at their high schools, and have scored a 3 or higher to exempt an introductory college course. These students can continue their progression to more advanced courses through JEHP. Students without AP experience can demonstrate that they are ready for college-level work through JEHP. Both AP and JEHP help students build a track record of advanced aptitude and ability.

**Q: What can I expect a college honors class to be like, compared to a high school honors or AP course?**

- JEHP students have the option of taking regular college courses or Honors college courses. The Honors Program at Kennesaw State is built around small class-size environments of JEHP and undergraduate honors students who are similarly motivated and academically focused. Honors classes are taught by Honors Faculty members who are hand-selected for their outstanding teaching evaluations and expertise in their disciplines. Honors classes emphasize in-depth classroom discussion following the Socratic method. Students tell us they find the pace of college honors courses more relaxed than AP courses, with fewer, but more heavily weighted assignments and tests spread throughout the semester, rather than daily in-class work, homework, and frequent quizzes. Increased expectations for quality work are balanced by pacing that allows more time to complete major assignments and prepare for tests. A typical college course grading formula might be based on three to four tests and two major papers,

projects or presentations. Honors English courses require four major papers. There are no “daily work” grades in college.

### **Q: What kind of student is a good fit for JEHP?**

There are many different reasons why students choose JEHP. JEHP is a great option for:

- Highly advanced students who have exhausted the curriculum in a particular subject at their high schools or home school programs. Students can continue in more advanced coursework at KSU.
- Students wishing to study a subject not available in the high school, such as Arabic, Japanese, Russian, philosophy, anthropology or public speaking
- Students wishing to get a head start in the courses they’ll need for college rather than taking non-academic high school electives
- Students wishing to shorten their amount of time in college before med school, law school, or other graduate programs.
- Students who feel overwhelmed by the nightly workload of advanced high school courses.
- Solid “B” students looking to distinguish their academic profiles.
- Students who would like to get a fresh start in an academically-focused environment free of cliques and high school drama
- Students planning to attend an out-of-state or private college who want to save money by shaving a year or semester off of college tuition and room and board expenses.
- Students who want to “dip their toes” in the college environment and just take a course or two to see what college is like.

### **Q: What kind of student might be better off sticking with AP?**

- Students planning to attend a college that will not accept college courses taken while in high school. While the vast majority of public colleges and universities (and all public institutions in Georgia) accept joint enrollment credits, some private colleges do not. Some private colleges also do not accept AP credits. It is each student’s responsibility to contact their schools of choice to ascertain their policy on joint enrollment and AP credits.
- Students without reliable transportation to campus
- Students without the maturity to attend class and complete assignments without the close level of supervision provided by the high school environment. Because grades earned in JEHP are factored into HOPE eligibility, students who lack the maturity to handle the freedoms of the college environment may jeopardize their future HOPE funding if they earn poor grades.

### **Q: What do college admissions offices prefer – AP or Joint Enrollment?**

- It is always best for students to ask this question directly of their colleges of choice, because there is no “blanket” answer adopted by all colleges. In general, admissions offices weigh grades and the level of rigor of courses most heavily. Students seeking admission to highly selective colleges and universities should have transcripts that

demonstrate that they have pursued a rigorous path to college. As the only non-residential *honors* joint enrollment program in the state, and one of few in the nation, KSU's JEHP provides students with opportunities to demonstrate success in challenging academic coursework by selecting honors classes, completing courses more advanced than what is available in the high school, taking college courses rather than P.E. or other non-academic electives at the high school, and earning superior grades in college classes.

**Q: How do colleges transfer in AP and JEHP credits?**

- In the case of AP, colleges award students college credit for AP exams which meet their minimum score requirements, which may vary between institutions. The grade earned in high school AP courses is not transferred; just the credits are awarded. In the case of JEHP, most colleges transfer the grade earned in the college course. Some colleges, including UGA and Georgia Tech, treat JEHP like AP courses and transfer the credit, but not the grade. Students should contact their school of choice if they have questions about its policy.

**Q: Why haven't I heard more about JEHP?**

- KSU's JEHP program enjoys long-standing relationships with many high schools and their counseling staffs in Cobb, Cherokee, Paulding and Bartow counties. We find that those high schools that have the most students in JEHP are also the most active in promoting it, because they have come to know the quality of KSU's program and the positive outcomes for their students. Each year, JEHP provides informational handouts to every high school and offers to send a representative to their campus to speak to students and counselors. Many high schools are now posting this information on their guidance websites. JEHP is a partnership between the high school and KSU, and we encourage you to contact both KSU's Joint Enrollment program and your counselor if you have questions.