

COLLEGE

LIFE AS A HIGH SCHOOLER

STEM and its college courses are a whole world apart from high school (and very stressful).

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What's harder than passing a class? Making sure you're taking the classes to graduate! At STEM, we have a variety of courses students can choose to partake in, and that includes courses offered by Arapahoe Community College (ACC) and other colleges. STEM has partnered with ACC in order to introduce high school students to college level classes that are much more difficult, specifically catered to certain interests, and just generally different from the average high school course.

College classes STEM students can take range from CE Architectural Design all the way to CE Entrepreneurship. A benefit these classes have is that they are worth more credits, and can be transferred as a college credit when students go to college. Plus, the early exposure to bigger work loads and harder topics is beneficial to everyone, getting them ready for the future at a younger age.

More than 70 percent of students at STEM are currently enrolled in a CE class, leaving only 26 percent of them not in one. While the majority of students are taking one course, there are several others who are full-time off-campus students taking almost six classes. The data shows that STEM students are heavily invested in experiencing new classes and are on track to graduate.

Though college level classes aren't for everyone, those who choose to take CE classes have quite a process to go through in order to enroll. Concurrent enrollment policy states that in order to qualify for CE courses, you must first complete an application. On top of that, you need to have a good GPA and a history of strong ACT, SAT or accuplacer test scores. There is also a social aspect to the courses, as students need the maturity to excel in a college environment.

CE classes can be fun as long as the student knows how to handle the workload and meet all the standards. It can be an interesting and helpful experience, providing students with both a college education and the ability to still graduate high school.

Even though taking a college course as a high school student can be stressful and, often times, very challenging because of the age gap, in the end, it always proves itself worthy. Despite those worries and fears, new incoming students should consider taking at least one college course. It is definitely worth the effort in the end.