

Introduction

The goals of this summary are to illustrate the estimated effect on Bachelors degree earning rates within four years between three different groups of students: those that took Dual Credit in high school, those that took Advanced Placement courses in high school, and those that took neither. For the purposes of this study, if a student took both AP and Dual Credit in high school, they were removed from consideration.

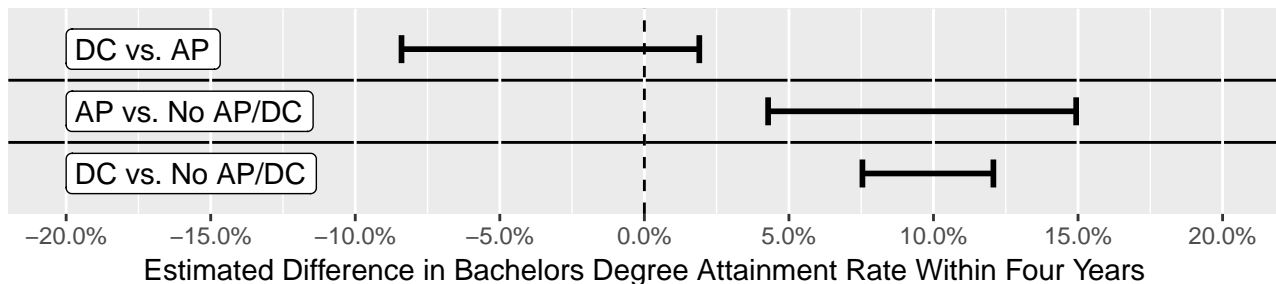
Methodology

To control for academic and demographic differences that may exist between groups when comparing their degree rates, students were paired one-to-one across groups on the following criteria:

ACT Composite Score	High School GPA	ELL
Free/Reduced Lunch	Gender	IEP

After conducting matching of students, the two groups whose degree completion rates were being compared now consisted of academically and demographically similar students, thus making the comparison of their degree completion rates more valid. Students were included in this study who graduated from a North Dakota high school between 2011 and 2014 (inclusive) and enrolled in an NDUS institution the fall immediately following their high school graduation.

Summary Results



Dual Credit vs. Advanced Placement

The estimated difference of degree completion rates for students taking Dual Credit versus students taking Advanced Placement was -8.4 to +1.9 percentage points. Therefore, on the basis of this data, no conclusion can be reached on which (if either) is more associated with Bachelors degree completion within four years.

Advanced Placement vs. No Advanced Placement or Dual Credit

The estimated difference of degree completion rates between students taking Advanced Placement versus students not taking any Dual Credit or Advanced Placement was +4.3 to +14.9 percentage points. This indicates Advanced Placement to be associated with a higher rate of students who complete Bachelors degrees within four years. ¹

Dual Credit vs. No Advanced Placement or Dual Credit

The estimated difference of degree completion rates between students taking Dual Credit versus students not taking any Dual Credit or Advanced Placement was +7.5 to +12.1 percentage points. This indicates Dual Credit to be associated with a higher rate of students who complete Bachelors degrees within four years. ¹

¹Bear in mind, this does not guarantee that taking Dual Credit or Advanced Placement **causes** students to have a higher likelihood of degree attainment. The fact that a student **chose** to take the class cannot be controlled for, so this study is merely associative, not causal.