

## **St. Luke's Episcopal School / University of Alabama Early College Program**

The University of Alabama Early College program is an opportunity for high school students to take online college courses offered through the University of Alabama. These courses are available to any second semester sophomore in the United States who meets the University of Alabama Early College criteria. These specific criteria are listed on the website <http://uaearlycollege.ua.edu/>. In general, students who are eligible for University of Alabama Early College are second semester sophomores who are in good standing with their local high school and maintain a 3.0 high school GPA. Currently students may take up to 30 semester hours in the Early College program. Students must apply through the University of Alabama, attend an orientation meeting, take an orientation to on-line college courses, and assume all financial expectations from the University of Alabama to be enrolled in the program.

Dual credit is an additional opportunity that is being offered through a partnership with St. Luke's and the University of Alabama Early College. Dual credit is the concept of taking college level courses, in this case through the University of Alabama Early College program, and allowing them to count as a high school credit as well. Under the dual credit component, St. Luke's students would simultaneously receive high school credit at St. Luke's and college credit at the University of Alabama.

St. Luke's students will be able to receive a maximum of 2 yearly credits under the dual credit concept for approved courses. Each Early College course taken through the University of Alabama is a semester course that would translate into a half credit at St. Luke's. Therefore, in order to receive one year of credit at St. Luke's a student must enroll in 2 University of Alabama Early College courses. All dual credit courses must be taken during the regular school day in a classroom setting called a 'Student On-line Support Class'. Students would have to sign up for this class just as they would for any other St. Luke's class as well as enroll in the program through the University's channels. No core-courses will be eligible for dual credit except the 4<sup>th</sup> year of science. All other dual credit courses will only count toward the five elective credits needed for graduation from St. Luke's. Only courses that are not offered at St. Luke's are eligible for dual credit.

We believe deeply in our college/life preparatory experience here at SLES. This is the reason our core classes will remain ours. Our graduation requirements will remain intact with minimal exceptions. We will require students to be accountable in a classroom even when enrolled in dual credit college coursework. We also agree this is high school but we want to acknowledge that many of our courses are at the college level already, not just AP coursework, and an opportunity to have college credit may be a good option for some families. While there is an expense to this program, depending on where one plans to matriculate in college, significant savings could be obtained for some families with a child earning college credit prior to attending college. It needs to also be noted that many of our students will not qualify for this program and the school may not recommend some who do qualify participate. Each family must be informed and make the decision that is best suited for both current needs and potential future academic considerations as well.

This opportunity is not for all students; it is challenging and requires a major commitment. However, if you believe that your child is up for this challenge and meets the requirements, please call Student Services to schedule an appointment to find out all the details and go to the Early College website [www.uaearlycollege.ua.edu](http://www.uaearlycollege.ua.edu) . Please discuss this opportunity with your child and see if it is right for your family at this time.