

Taking AP Calculus BC for College Credit

1) Deciding if getting college credit is right for you

You can choose to take AP Calculus BC for college credit by dual-enrolling in the Rio Salado courses MAT221 Calculus with Analytic Geometry I (4 credits) and MAT231 Calculus with Analytic Geometry I (4 credits). This is optional and only if you want college credit in addition to high school credit for this course. While I think it is always advantageous to take honors level classes (to get exposure and practice to college-level courses before entering college) each student's situation is different as to whether earning college credit will help. Here are some things to consider:

- Will taking this college course benefit me in college? There are two main reasons why you might want to take this course for college credit:
 - My college major includes Calc 1 or Calc 2: You can try searching your college's website to locate majors you are considering. Usually, you can find a 'course listing' or 'major map' that lists courses required, and you can see what math courses are required. If you need these courses for your major, there is a potential that taking them through Rio Salado and transferring the credits may be accepted in your degree program, which opens a spot in your schedule to take other classes or possibly finish early if you've earned enough college credit during high school. Calculus 1 and 2 are required for many majors including mathematics, engineering, all of the sciences, economics, and business. If you didn't take honors finite math/brief calculus for college credit but need brief calculus or calculus 1 for your major, you can start earning college credit with AP Calculus BC (Calculus 1/Calculus 2).
 - To possibly avoid a math placement test in college: Many colleges won't allow students to register for a math class until they take the college's math placement exam. If you happen to score low, you may be required to take a course earlier math courses before they let you take math courses required for your major. But if you have a C or better college credit on your Rio Salado transcript for this course, the college may allow you to register for degree-required math courses without needing to pass their math placement test first.
 - Will my college accept the credit? For both Rio Salado Dual-Enrollment credit and credit from the AP Calculus BC exam, credit will be granted depending upon the college where you will be attending, as well as your major. To check whether a particular college will accept the AP Calculus BC exam (most do) you can use this website: www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy to see what score is required for credit. All of the in-state universities accept Rio Salado credit and for most majors it can be used directly to meet degree requirements, out-of-state, the situation varies from college to college and major to major. It is always best to contact your college directly for the most correct and current credit acceptance policy.
- Are you not a senior and planning to take Honors Calc 3 / Differential Equations for college credit? Next year's math class, Honors Calculus III/DiffEq does not have an AP exam, so the only way to take it for college credit is through Rio Salado, and they won't let you enroll in it without college credit in Calc 1 and Calc 2 (AP Calculus BC). Rio may allow enrollment based upon AP Calc BC exam, but they usually require a score of 5 (which is quite difficult to achieve).
- Cost: MAT221 and MAT231 are each 4-credit, single semester courses so for Rio Salado credit you would need to pay tuition for 8 credit hours. This is usually around \$750-\$800. The AP exam costs around \$95 to take. Payment plans are available and tuition assistance is available for students with financial need situations.

Are you eligible to take this class for Rio Salado credit?

In order to take AP Calculus BC for college credit, you have to be eligible to enroll in the course. None of this applies if you only wish to take this course for high school credit or if you want to take the AP Calculus BC Exam (all student can earn high school credit and can take the AP exam), but if you want to take AP Calculus BC for Rio Salado dual-enrollment credit, you have to meet Rio Salado's current prerequisite requirement (which sometimes change from year to year).

This year, Rio Salado states that you can enroll in MAT221 and MAT231 (the Rio course numbers for each semester) if you meet the following qualifications:

1) You have college credit for a prerequisite math course:

You have a grade of C or better in MAT187 Precalculus or MAT212/MAT217 Finite Math/Brief Calculus (taken for college credit from Rio Salado, not just high school credit)

2) You have a passing score on one of Rio Salado's placement tests:

Accuplacer NextGen AFF test = 263+ (if you happen to have taken their older placement test)

- OR – EdReady College Algebra Placement Test = 80+ AND ACT Math=28+

- OR – EdReady College Algebra Placement Test = 80+ AND SAT Math=640+

- OR – EdReady College Algebra Placement Test = 80+ AND 2nd year High-school Algebra or Precalculus with B or better

If you need to take the EdReady Placement Test...

Rio Salado's placement test system is now completely online. You have to first enroll as a student (if you've never taken any Rio classes before) so that you have a Rio Student ID number and MEID (their online student login system). Then, use a web browser to browse to this page on Rio's website which has instructions:

<https://www.maricopa.edu/students/assessment-placement/edready>

All students may take the AP Calculus BC Exam (this is completely separate from Rio Salado dual-enrollment)

All students are eligible to take the AP Calculus BC Exam, you'll just need to register at the appropriate time and pay the fee.

Can I take AP Calculus BC for Rio Salado credit and also take the AP Calculus BC Exam?

Yes. These are completely separate ways to earn college credit. Some students do both, some only take the AP exam, some only do Rio Salado, and some do neither and only take the course for high school credit.

2) Pros and Cons of Rio Salado vs. AP for college credit

Rio

Pros:

- Guaranteed community college credit for MAT221 (Calculus 1) and MAT231 (Calculus 2) as long as you earn a “C” or better in the class.
- No need to take the AP exam in May (the AP Calculus BC Exam is quite difficult and you need to score a 4 or 5 to get both semesters of credit).
- As long as you get a C or better in both semesters, you’ll be able to enroll in next year’s Honors Calculus III / Differential Equations course with Rio for college credit (there is no AP exam for next year’s math course).

Cons:

- Higher cost: ~\$750-\$800 for 8 credits (+\$15 registration fee).
- You must meet be eligible according to Rio to take the course.
- Some out of state colleges are more reluctant to accept community college transfer credit as *math* course credit (accepting the credit as elective credit). But this varies by college, so you should check your college’s policies.

AP

Pros:

- Anyone can take the AP test (no need to meet Rio enrollment eligibility requirements).
- Studying for the AP test helps solidify learning of the course material.
- A “4” or “5” on an AP exam looks good on a college application.
- Lower cost ~\$95.
- Some out of state college are more likely to accept AP scores for *math* course credit than Rio Salado community college transfer credit.

Cons:

- Must get a “4” or better on the AP exam to get college credit for both Calc1 and Calc2. A score of “3” will usually give credit for Calc 1 only. The AP Calculus BC Exam is very challenging, and there is a lot of pressure to perform well on a single, high-stakes test, late in your senior year of high school (but it is doable – every year we have many students who earn both semesters of credit from the AP exam).
- May not be able to take Honors Calc III/DiffEq next year for college credit - Rio required college credit in AP Calc BC (Calc1 and Calc2) and will sometimes allow your AP Calc BC score to determine enrollment, but they usually require a 5.

For both Rio and AP, credit will be granted depending upon the college where the student will be attending, as well as their major. It is always best to contact your college directly for the most correct and current credit acceptance policy.

3) Procedures for Enrolling

AP Calculus BC Exam	Rio Salado MAT221/MAT231
<p>Registration is done in October, and each student registers through their online college board account login. But first, we require <u>all</u> students (whether taking the AP exam or not) need to join the course on the College Board website.</p> <p>Even if you are not planning to take the AP Calculus BC Exam, all students must register with College Board online and ‘join’ our class (there is no fee for joining the class). This unlocks resources for you, even if you are not planning to take the AP Calculus BC Exam.</p> <p><u>To join our class section online:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create an account with College Board online (if you have not done so previously). 2. Use the course ‘join code’ below for your class to join our class following the steps in the AP handout. Period 1: 9VG2R2 Period 6: 6M2Y9W <p><u>To register for the AP Calculus BC Exam:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Registration to take the AP Calculus BC Exam is done through your College Board online account, and payment will be through the DV bookstore. <p>This will take place in October – more details will be provided then.</p>	<p>Full instructions are included on the Rio Salado Enrollment Flyer(s) which can be found on my Schoology website. <i>This process can take as long as two weeks to complete if you’ve never taken classes from Rio Salado before, so it is important to start as soon as possible.</i></p> <p><u>Please use the Registration Flyer to enroll in the course</u> You may not need to complete all steps (fewer steps are required for students who’ve taken Rio Salado before). Refer to the Registration Flyer for details.</p> <p>You can also find this information on Rio’s Dual Enrollment website: www.riosalado.edu/dual.</p> <p>When you enroll, you will need a course ID number for each semester course...</p> <p><u>Fall semester:</u> MAT221 Calculus w/Analytical Geometry I (4 credits): section: <u>23391</u></p> <p><u>Spring semester:</u> MAT231 Calculus w/Analytical Geometry II (4 credits): section: <u>10153</u></p> <p>At the beginning of the year, you are usually able to register for both semester courses, although it is also possible to register for just the 1st semester course now and then add in the 2nd semester course later in the year.</p> <p>If you have questions, please call Dual Enrollment 480-517-8080</p>

Problems or questions? Please email or call our DV or Rio Salado Dual-Enrollment Contacts:

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Rio Salado Dual Enrollment office: (480) 517-8080
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