




How to Earn College Credit in High School

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November 2021



How to Earn College Credit as a High School Student

- 1. Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)**
- 2. Concurrent Enrollment**
- 3. Advanced Placement**
- 4. International Baccalaureate**

Potential Benefits of these Opportunities

- Topics and ideas that are not covered in the regular classroom: more in-depth or at a faster pace.
- Introduce students to a wide-range of subjects: explore interests and develop new passions.
- Save money.
- Prepare for college and/or career: develop stronger writing skills, problem-solving abilities, time-management skills, good study habits.
- Admissions offices look for these courses on college applications.
- Potential to qualify for college credit or advanced standing in college.

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)

PSEO courses:

- College courses taught by a college professor – on a college campus (or online)
- High school credits earned must be counted towards graduation requirements
- Offered by **Minnesota** eligible postsecondary institutions; outside of high school offerings
- Allow students to earn both college credit and high school credit simultaneously

PSEO: Student Eligibility

- Attend a Minnesota postsecondary institution. Students must meet admission criteria of campus. Students must apply to participate.
- 11th and 12th grade students
- 10th graders: Career & Technical Education course. Must pass 8th grade MCA reading test.
- Students must drop one course during the core school day in order to access PSEO part-time or full-time.
- Students earn high school and college credit by successfully passing the course.

High School Graduation Requirements:

Students should meet with their high school guidance counselor and review the courses needed to graduate. Enrollment in an incorrect PSEO class could result in delayed high school graduation, so careful planning and communication with the high school is very important.

Academic Ability:

Is the student ready for college-level course work? Students generate a permanent college transcript.

Maturity + Self-Initiative:

Is the student mature, responsible and self-disciplined enough to be successful in a college setting (school does not contact parents)?

Scheduling and Transportation:

Will the student be able to manage schedules and have the transportation means to get to each location? Transportation funding is available for qualified students.

PSEO: How to Participate

- Talk to high school counselor.
- Research PSEO admissions requirements and deadlines (vary by system and campus). [Access the list of participating eligible institutions.](#)
- Decide which courses to take.
- Complete the PSEO Notice of Student Registration (on PSEO page of MDE website)
- Apply for PSEO admission at the postsecondary institution.

Concurrent Enrollment (CE)

Concurrent Enrollment courses are:

- College courses taught by a high school teacher – at the high school
- Sometimes referred to by other branded names like “College in the School” or “College Now”.
- Offerings vary by high school
- Allow students to earn both college credit and high school credit simultaneously

Concurrent Enrollment: Student Eligibility

- Available to 11th and 12th grade students.
- Sometimes, available to 9th and 10th graders if: the course is a world language course available to 11th and 12th graders.
- Students must meet admission criteria of postsecondary institution (varies by system and campus).

Concurrent Enrollment: How to Participate

- Check with your school to see what is offered.
- Students can choose these courses during registration, if they meet the admission/eligibility criteria defined by the postsecondary institution.

Concurrent Enrollment: Considerations

Academic Ability:

Is the student ready for college-level course work? Students generate a permanent college transcript.

Advanced Placement (AP)

- Program of college-level courses in 30 subject areas – from Chinese to Chemistry.
- AP teachers are trained by the College Board.
- 9th – 12th graders, must meet GPA and certain prerequisites (determined by school).
- Students take AP at the end of the course.
- Colleges may award credit or advanced standing based on AP exam score of 3+. Each college is different.
- AP courses are free; exams are free for low-income students.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme

- Your school must be an authorized IB school to offer these courses.
- Program of college-level courses in six subject areas that teaches content from an international perspective.
- Diploma program for 11th and 12th graders, must meet GPA and certain prerequisites (determined by school).
- Student takes IB exam in subject area at the end of the course,
- Colleges may award credit or scholarship based on IB exam score. Each college is different.
- IB courses are free; exams are free for low-income students.

AP and IB: How to Participate

- Check with your school to see what is offered.
- Students can usually choose these courses during registration.
- Exams: Dates are pre-determined by the College Board and IB. High schools offer exams in certain subject areas.
- Exam reimbursements are available.

Resources for PSEO and Concurrent Enrollment

Earn College Credit in High School: [Visit the MDE page for overview of dual credit programs.](#)

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO): [Visit the MDE PSEO page.](#) Make sure to download the PSEO Reference Guide!

Resources for AP and IB

Advanced Placement:

[View the 2021 exam calendar and information.](#)

[Visit the College Board website for a list of colleges and universities that offer credit for AP scores.](#)

International Baccalaureate:

[Visit the IBO page for general program information.](#)

[Access a searchable list of Minnesota colleges and universities that offer credit for IB scores.](#)

Check with individual out-of-state institutions for AP + IB score acceptance policies.