

COLORADO CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES

What is Concurrent Enrollment (CE)?

CE programs in your school district may allow you to take college, career or technical courses that earn both high school and college credit while you are still in high school.

Why is CE important to me?

Participating in CE can help you both academically and financially because:

- You may take more challenging or specialized courses in topics of particular interest;
- You may get a head start on accumulating college credits that will save you tuition costs later;
- You may finish your college program or degree more quickly because you will already have some college credits.

What kinds of CE programs are there?

Your school district may have any number of CE programs for which you can apply. They may have agreements with a local community college, technical or vocational school, four-year college or university to offer various college, career or technical courses that apply to general college requirements or specific degree programs. The college courses you take may require you go to the college campus or they may be offered right at your high school.

Through a type of CE program called “ASCENT,” you may be able to take an entire year of college courses after your senior year in high school without paying tuition. This program permits students to earn both a high school diploma and college certificate or associates degree over a five year extended high school experience.

Your first step is to ask your guidance counselor or career/technical educator about program options available in your district that may be appropriate for you.

What do I need to do to participate?

- You must create an academic plan that describes the courses you want to take and is approved by your school counselor/administrator;
- You must meet the prerequisite requirements for the college classes you wish to take;
- You must apply to take the classes at least sixty days before the end of the semester before classes begin. So, during March you would apply for classes you plan to take in the upcoming fall, and during October apply for classes you would take during the spring semester beginning in January;
- Complete an application for the college at which you will take classes;
- And, meet other specific requirements – talk to your school counselor or administrator!

After you talk with your counselor, print out and use this handy checklist to ensure you have completed each step necessary.

If your school district is participating in the ASCENT program, other requirements apply.

Paying for these programs

Since high schools and colleges are funded from a variety of sources funding for concurrent enrollment and other programs can be very complicated. However, there are many experts prepared to help you!

Make sure to ask your guidance counselor/administrator whether you will have to pay any costs for these programs.

Please note: While Colorado has a guaranteed transfer of credit system that requires public four-year colleges to honor some credits earned through CE and extended studies programs, **students should double-check** that credit for the courses they take will transfer to the four-year college of their choice.

Other dual-credit, advanced or remedial coursework programs

Your district may offer these other alternatives for dual credit or advance coursework options. Be sure to ask your counselor about these too!

Early and Middle Colleges

Early and Middle Colleges are a type of alternative high school which, through partnerships with institutions of higher education, enable students to earn technical certificates or associates degrees (or a specified number of college credits) while working toward their high school diploma. Some programs take 5 years. An example of this type of school is [Southwest Early College](#).

Advanced Credit Pathways (ACP)

Advanced Credit Pathways (ACP) is a process that allows students to transfer approved career and technical education (CTE) credits and competencies to the related courses at Colorado's community colleges. The credits are not transferable to four-year institutions. Advanced Credit Pathway courses will only be accepted from CCCS approved secondary CTE programs. More information can be found at:

<http://www.coloradostateplan.com/acp.htm>

Institutional Extended Studies

Institutional extended studies programs, such as the University of Colorado [CU Succeeds Program](#), are offered exclusively through four-year colleges. Also see <http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/Academics/ExtendedStudies>.

Many, though not all, of the courses taken through these programs qualify toward an associates or bachelor's degree. While Colorado has a guaranteed transfer of credit system that requires public four-year colleges to honor some credits earned through concurrent enrollment and extended studies programs, **students should double-check** that credit for the courses taken will transfer to the four-year college of their choice.

Accelerated / Rigorous Coursework

- **Advanced Placement (AP)** – While the [College Board](#) provides oversight for this program of study, courses are offered by high schools and taught by high school teachers. The courses offered are standardized and testing is administered in May of each year. Students attaining grades of 3.0 or better (on a 5.0 scale) may earn college-level course credit at the college where they enroll.
- **International Baccalaureate (IB)** – The [IB Diploma Programme](#) is a comprehensive two-year curriculum offered at some high schools in Colorado. Students who earn an IB diploma may receive college credit.

Students taking AP or IB courses should double-check the credit-granting policies of colleges where they wish to attend. From the College Planning tab on CollegelInColorado.org, click on Explore Postsecondary Schools. Find your college and view the Academics tab to learn about AP and IB course credit, or visit the Website of the college in which you wish to enroll.

Basic Skills or Remediation

Many students each year graduate from high school but enter college unprepared for college-level coursework. These students, generally those who score below the 17-19 range on the ACT, will be required to take basic skills or remedial coursework (frequently referred to as 030, 060, 090 courses).

Waiting until college to take these courses can be costly because you must pay for the course even though you will not receive credit toward your college degree. Therefore it is highly advisable to take all necessary remedial coursework while still in high school. Check with your school guidance counselor on these opportunities.

The new concurrent enrollment rules provide for taking college remedial courses while in 12th grade.

Current CE programs being phased out by 2012

Several CE programs that are offered currently are being phased out in favor of the CE programs described above. Programs that will no longer be offered after 2012 include:

- **College Now** – Several school districts have created concurrent enrollment programs with names such as College Now; these are typically school-based programs equivalent to early college or middle college;
- **Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), Fast Tracks (FT) or Fast College/Fast Jobs (FC/FJ)** – These Colorado programs allow students to earn college credit by completing community college courses while still in high school. PSEO and FT are open to juniors and seniors in participating high schools; FC/FJ is limited to certain qualifying schools and requires students to commit to rigorous coursework throughout their high school career. Participating students are required to demonstrate ability to take college level courses.